



7th Epsom (Methodist) Scout Group

ANNUAL REPORT

2016 – 2017

Trustees' Annual Report

Public Private Benefit

The objectives of the Group are as a unit of the Scout Association. The aim of the Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The method of achieving the aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Laws and guided by adult leadership.

Subscriptions are charged for membership to cover immediate running costs of the Group and these do not unduly restrict membership. The Group follows the principle that no one should be excluded because of their inability to pay membership subscriptions.

Two key principles demonstrate that Scouting's aims are for the public benefit are that through the Scout method young people develop towards their full potential and that there is a clear link between the benefits for young people and the purpose of Scouting. The safety of young people is taken very seriously and the benefits Scouting activities provide far outweigh the risks. Any private benefits from Scouting are incidental, other than to those as a beneficiary.

Chairman's Report – 2016/7

The year ending April 2017 saw some significant changes in leadership. However, a strong Scouting programme continued to be delivered and the Group remains in good overall health.

In December 2016, following a search activity, David Shickle was appointed to the role of Group Scout Leader, replacing Neil Dallen who had been in post for 26 years. Neil left the Group with a strong legacy and we thank him for his many years of passionate service to the Group. At the same time, Jonathan Dart stood down as Chairman, and I was invited by David to replace him. Again, our thanks go to Jonathan for his work for the Group over the years.

The individual sections have continued their rich offering of activities, badges and camps. The annual Water Weekend is a highlight of the calendar and enjoyed by all. Throughout the year other camps have been enjoyed by the different sections.

It was a quiet year on the international front, but at home the events and activities for the year continued. We participate in a full range of competitions and challenges and feature highly in the results. This includes District bowling, cross country and football tournaments, and the Challenge Hike that was won by two Explorers. Our shooting club attended the National Championships and was successful in winning 13 medals across 7 disciplines.

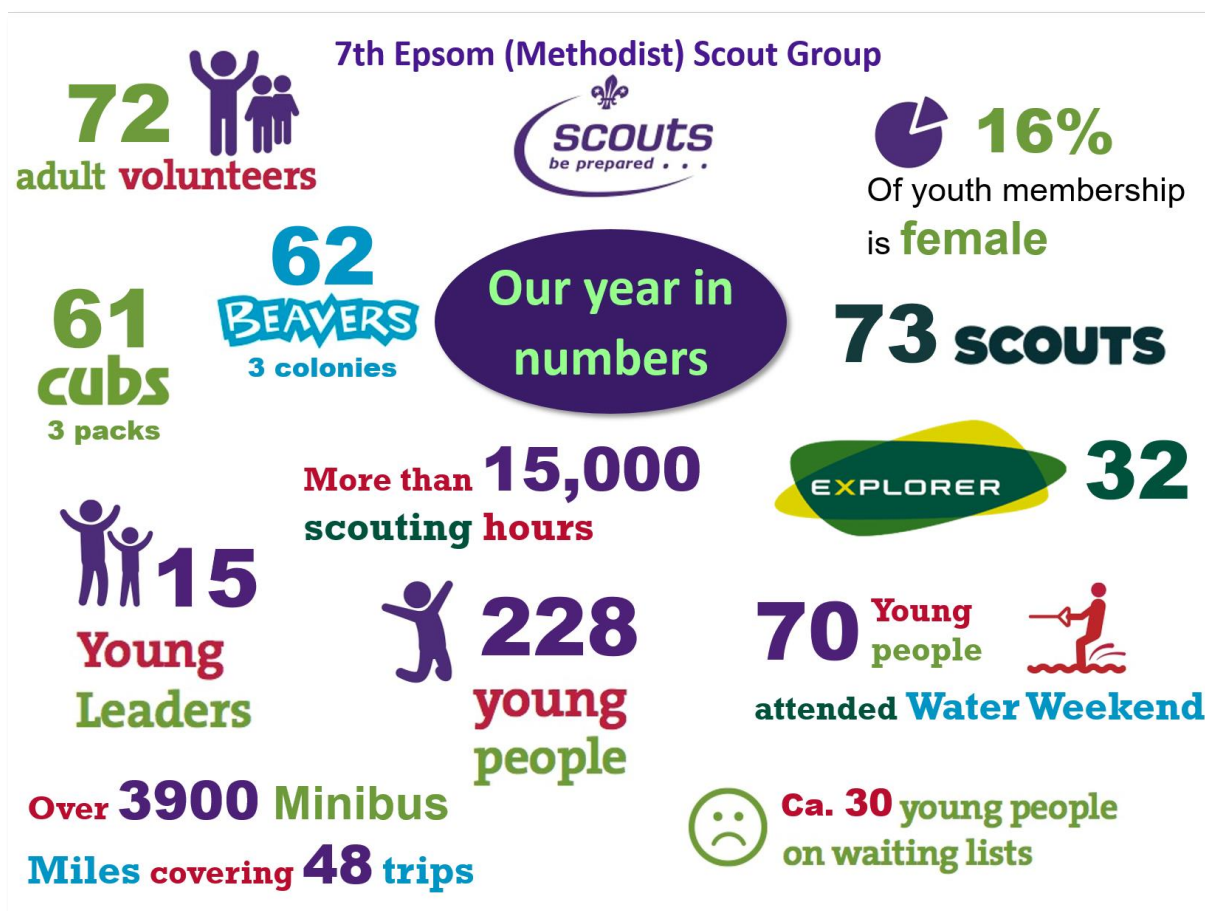
The Group's finances remain on a sound basis, underpinned by the many fund raising activities that take place. These include Jumble Sales, Christmas Post, support to the EMC Book Fair, and our largest event, the Firework Display at Hook Road Arena. We continue to enjoy the benefit of our fantastic HQ building and our fleet of 2 minibuses, one of which was replaced during the year.

All of the above is only possible as a result of the volunteers who give up their time either to act as leaders/supporters of sections/activities or in support of administration, finance, fundraising etc.. I would like to thank them all and to remind you that we are constantly in need of support from parents: if anybody would like to lend a hand we have a full range of activities you can help us with.

Kevin Mead

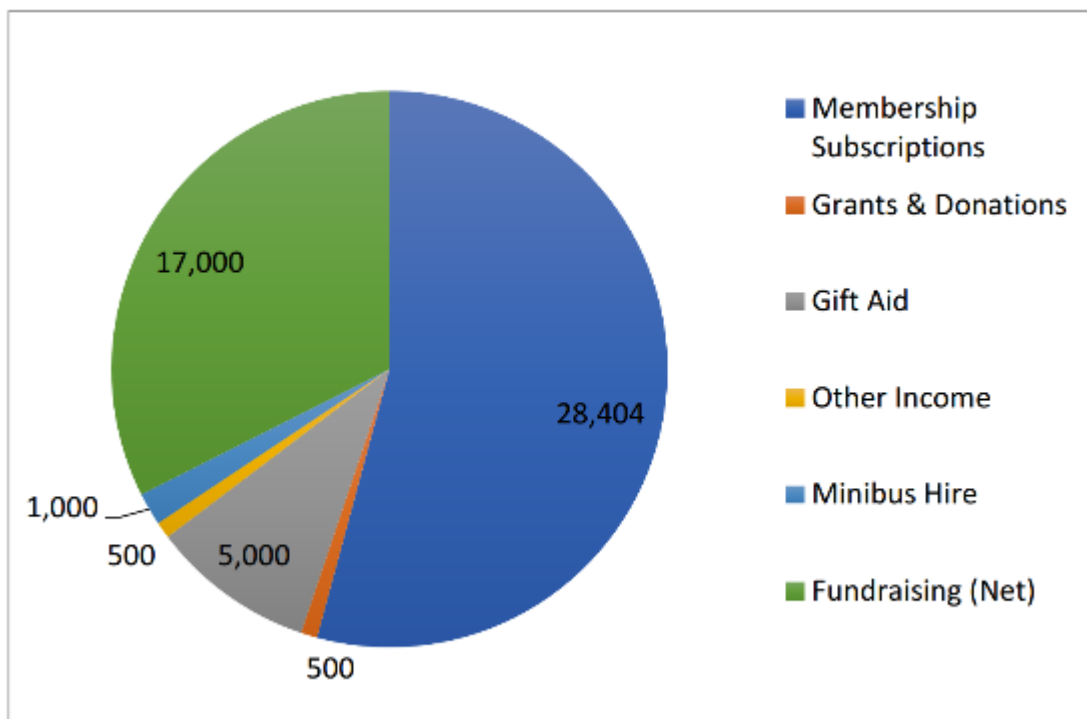
Chairman of the Group Executive

Our Year in Numbers

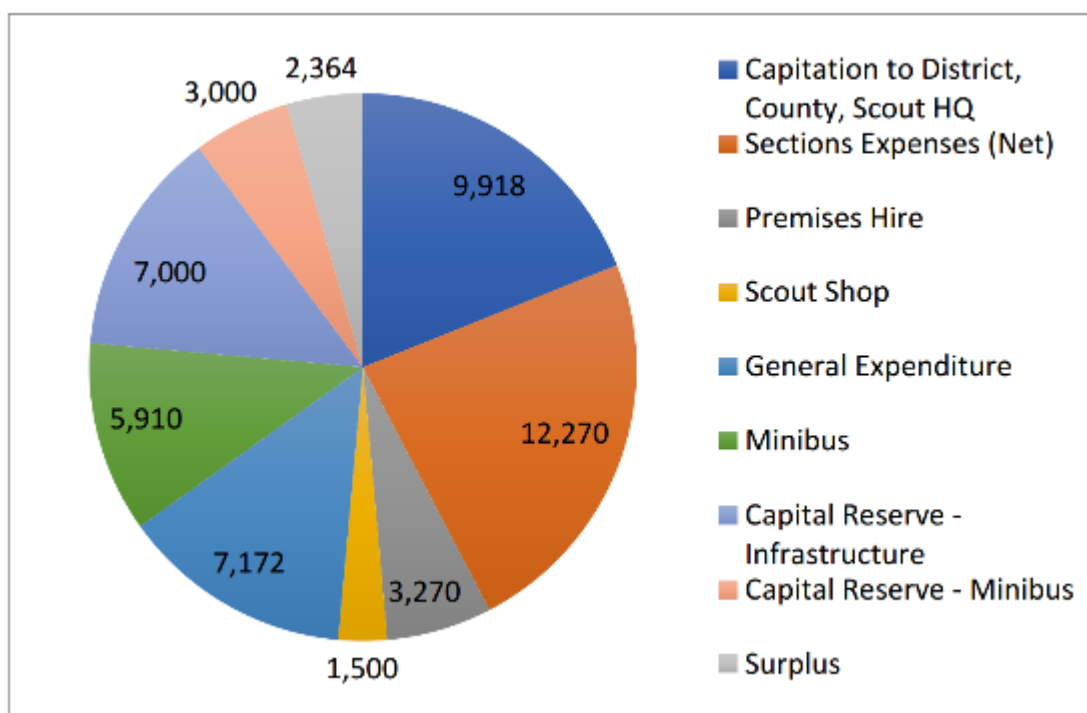


2017 Group Budget Income and Expenditure

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



NOTE: Excludes Camps which nett out at zero

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31 March 2017, which are set out on pages 8 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Group's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993, and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 43 (3)(a) of the 1993 act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43 (7)(b) of the 1993 act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Group and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given in the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my explanation, no matter has come to my attention;

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 act and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Andrew McDonald

Qualification: Actuary

Address: 31 Pound Lane, Epsom. KT19 8SB

Date: 10th September 2017

Major Activities and Achievements in the year

The annual review presented to all parents and interested parties prior to the AGM highlights the activities and achievements during the year. This is a comprehensive document that details numbers of young people in each section, a report from each section, abbreviated accounts and a review of the year.

At the end of the year the income reserves amounted to £500,431 (2016: £468,250). The Group's policy on reserves is to hold an amount that will enable it to replace the motor vehicles. The New HQ has now been recorded as an asset within the accounts and will be depreciated over the length of the 'license to occupy' i.e. 25 years.

The trustees have identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed. They have reviewed these and established systems to mitigate them.

The objectives of the Group are to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Group is a trust established under its rules, which are common to all Groups.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association. They are well acquainted over a number of years in local scouting.

The accounts have been drawn up on the Receipts and Payments basis, which is consistent with the previous year.

Approved by the trustees on the 20th September 2017 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Kevin Mead – Chairman

Anthony S Williams - Treasurer

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended March 31st 2017

Year End 31.3.16 £		Year End 31 March 2017		
		Income £	Expenditure £	Net £
	INCOME			
	Fundraising			
8,402	Fireworks 2015	0	500	(500)
0	Fireworks 2016	56,607	43,843	12,764
3,207	Jumble Sales	902	0	902
2,885	Christmas Post	3,354	0	3,354
25	Climbing Wall	0	0	0
5,000	Book Fair	5,500	0	5,500
(25)	Peace Light	100	99	1
118	Recycling	68	0	68
0	Quiz Night	1,602	1,073	529
19,612	Total Fundraising	68,132	45,515	22,617
	Activities			
2,396	Camps	11,760	10,224	1,536
132	Jamboree 2015	0	0	0
2,528	Total Activities	11,760	10,224	1,536
	Subscriptions			
24,293	Subscriptions	27,670	40	27,630
(8,156)	Capitaion Fees	105	9,348	(9,244)
(504)	Subscription refunds	0	147	(147)
15,633	Total Subscriptions	27,775	9,535	18,240
	Other Income			
576	Grants and Donations	2,426	0	2,426
4	Interest Received	9	0	9
19	Other Income	461	0	461
599	Total Other Income	2,896	0	2,896
38,372	Total Income	110,563	65,274	45,288

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended March 31st 2017

Year End 31.3.16 £		Year End 31 March 2017		
		Income £	Expenditure £	Net £
	EXPENDITURE			
	General			
(4,034)	Accommodation (Rent & Maintenance)	0	3,538	(3,538)
(103)	Equipment	3,780	37	3,743
(2,220)	Training	0	559	(559)
(1,261)	Insurance	0	347	(347)
(688)	New HQ	0	416	(416)
(844)	Photocopier & Stationery	25	8	17
0	Printing	0	266	(266)
(68)	Bank Charges	0	312	(312)
(36)	Website Costs	0	72	(72)
(9,254)	Total General	3,805	5,554	(1,749)
2,900	Scout Shop	5	3,000	(2,995)
2,900	Total Scout Shop	5	3,000	(2,995)
	Sections			
(516)	Beavers	220	510	(290)
(197)	Cubs	260	1,337	(1,077)
(394)	Scouts	0	2,073	(2,073)
(540)	Explorers	25	1,324	(1,299)
(1,138)	GSL	159	1,706	(1,547)
(124)	Scout Network	0	0	0
(71)	D of E	0	67	(67)
340	Shooting Club	1,801	1,310	490
(2,640)	Total Sections	2,465	8,328	(5,863)
	Minibus			
(402)	Fuel	0	169	(169)
(1,686)	Maintenance	0	5,224	(5,224)
(1,979)	Tax & Licence	0	1,863	(1,863)
(300)	Driving Tests	0	104	(104)
941	Minibus Hire	687	44	644
0	Minibus Purchase	0	17,222	(17,222)
(3,426)	Total Minibus	687	24,626	(23,939)
(15,320)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	6,962	41,508	(34,546)
23,052		117,524	106,782	10,743
827	Camps 2017	10,550	1,534	9,016
(4,430)	Fireworks 2016	0	0	0
	Fireworks 2017	0	4,800	(4,800)
(3,603)		10,550	6,334	4,216
19,449	Excess of Income over Expenditure	128,074	113,116	14,959

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2017

2016 £		2017 £	£
350,000	Headquarters		350,000
0	Minibus		17,222
350,000	Total Fixed Assets		367,222
	Cash at Bank:		
	Current Accounts		
28,349	CAF - General	38,283	
2,043	CAF - Camps & Activities	15,572	
3,743	CAF - Uganda	0	
2,616	Lloyds TSB - Current A/C	2,616	
7,046	Metrobank - Fireworks	6,041	
19,020	Metrobank - Tanzania	19,428	
	Deposit Accounts		
28,000	CAF - New HQ Fund	35,000	
29,416	CAF - New Minibus Fund	20,051	
1,620	CAF - Gold Account	0	
121,853			136,993
	Current Assets:		
0	Receipts in Advance - 2014	0	
0	Receipts in Advance - 2015	0	
1,368	Receipts in Advance - 2016	10,550	
1,368			10,550
	Current Liabilities		
0	Payments in Advance - 2015	0	
	Accruals - Fireworks 2016	(4,000)	
(4,971)	Payments in Advance - 2016	(10,334)	
(4,971)			(14,334)
468,250			500,431
	REPRESENTED BY:		
140,354	Opening Balances	118,250	
(22,104)	Excess of Income over Expenditure	14,959	
118,250			133,209
350,000	Designated Reserves		367,222
468,250			500,431

Receipts for the year ended 31st March 2017

	This Year Year £	Previous Year £
Membership Subscriptions	27,670	24,293
Capitation Refund	105	100
	27,775	24,393
Bank Interest Received	9	4
Donations / Grants	2,426	576
	2,435	580
Activities (Gross):		
Camps	165	14,463
Spring Camp	3,480	0
SCRAM	185	0
Summer Camp	2,560	0
Cubs Summer Camp	350	0
Water Weekend	4,370	0
Explorer Xmas Meal	530	0
Beaver Bowling	120	0
Tanzania 2015	0	26,547
Jamboree 2015	0	132
	11,760	41,142
Section Accounts		
Shooting Club	1,801	1,752
Beavers	220	121
Cubs	260	180
Scouts	0	0
Explorers	25	660
Group GSL	159	348
Minibus	0	0
	2,465	3,061
Fund Raising (Gross):		
Fireworks 2015	0	51,948
Fireworks 2016	56,607	0
Jumble Sales	902	3,207
Christmas Post	3,354	2,885
Minibus Donations	687	941
Climbing Wall Donations	0	25
Book Fair	5,500	5,000
Recycling	68	118
Peace Light	100	50
Quiz Night	1,602	0
	68,819	64,174
Uniform	5	0
Equipment	3,780	0
Other Income	25	19
Sundry Receipts	461	0
	4,271	19
	117,524	133,369
Receipts in Advance		
Sweden 2017	10,250	1,050
Summer Camp 2016-Scouts	0	220
Explorer Easter Expedition	0	98
Spring Camp 2017	300	0
	10,550	1,368
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR	128,074	134,737

Payments for the year ended 31st March 2017

	This Year Year £	Previous Year £
Membership		
Capitalisation Fees Paid	9,348	8,256
Membership Subscriptions	40	0
Membership Subscription Refund	147	504
	9,535	8,760
Premises		
New HQ	416	688
Rent, Repairs & Renewals	3,538	4,034
	3,953	4,722
Activities		
Camps	1,428	12,067
Spring Camp	3,348	0
SCRAM	0	0
Summer Camp	686	0
Cubs Summer Camp	1,210	0
Water Weekend	3,553	0
Explorer Xmas Meal	0	0
Tanzania 2015	0	56,634
	10,224	68,701
Section Accounts		
Shooting Club	1,310	1,412
Beavers	510	637
Cubs	1,337	377
Scouts	2,073	394
Explorers	1,324	1,200
Scout Network	0	124
D of E	67	71
Group GSL	1,706	1,486
	8,328	5,701
Fundraising		
Fireworks 2014	0	450
Fireworks 2015	500	43,546
Fireworks 2016	43,843	0
Peace Light	99	75
Quiz Night	1,073	0
	45,515	44,071
Other Expenses		
Uniforms	3,000	2,900
Insurance	347	1,261
Training	559	2,220
Stationery	0	494
Photocopying	8	350
Printing	266	0
Website Costs	72	36
Quarter Master	37	103
Minibus Expenditure	24,626	5,278
Minibus Depreciation	0	0
Bank Charges	312	68
	29,227	12,710
Payments in Advance		
Water Weekend 2017	296	291
Spring Camp 2017	225	0
Sweden 2017	988	0
Fireworks 2017	4,800	4,430
Summer Camp Refunds	0	100
Summer Camp 2017	25	150
	6,334	4,971
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	113,116	149,636

Group Scout Leader's Report

7th Epsom had a successful year, with some great activities for all of the sections. The group has 8 sections covering the full age range provided by scouting.

- Beaver Sections
 - Clearwater on Mondays
 - Willowlake on Tuesdays
 - Windfalls on Thursdays

- Cub Sections
 - Apache on Mondays
 - Sioux on Tuesdays
 - Cherokee on Thursdays
- Scouts
- Explorers

Our membership has continued to be more or less stable at around the 220 young people, and we anticipate this will remain going forward into 2017-18.

As with any good year there have been the usual challenges largely around managing numbers and ensuring we have enough leaders and parent support.

Each section has had its fair share of leader changes and movements of leaders, we lose some and gain some. We are always in need of more leaders, so if you know of anyone or are willing please get in contact.

We have a healthy number of Young Leaders who are in the process of completing their Duke of Edinburgh awards. Many of the young leaders come from within the group, but we also have pupils from local schools helping as part of the service element. Young Leaders are an integral part of our younger sections, helping with program planning and running evening alongside the adult leaders. It makes the task of running a section smoother.

All of the sections have been taking part in activities ranging from games, cooking and archery through to learning how to use an axe safely. 7th Epsom Scouts is open to everyone providing a rounded experience to all who take part, it's not always adventurous and of course some activities are more exciting than others, which need to be tailored to the age groups. We wouldn't want beavers to be taking part in axe throwing!

Hopefully as parents you will have seen the programs that have been run and for the most part everyone has enjoyed the time they have spent in scouting.

The Shooting club has had a good year, with some great results in the National Scout Shooting competition held at Bisley. Colin O'Neill who has given up a huge

number of Sunday afternoons over the last few years, has decided to step down and is looking for someone to pick up the running and managing of the club. We need to thank Colin for his commitment and time with the club. Along with the other members who have made it a great success.

As you all know 7th Epsom Scouts is entirely volunteer lead, and without the support and commitment of all of the leaders and helpers we would not be the superb group that we are. Please join me in thanking everyone for their time.

My final thank you is to Neil Dallen who I replaced at the beginning of December 2016, who had huge energy for scouting. Enjoy your retirement!

David Shickle

GSL 7th Epsom Scouts

Clearwater Beaver Leader's Report

Clearwater colony has had another good year and the colony has grown to 20 Beavers. Kathy Castledine and Eileen Perren have continued to lead the colony and we have been well supported by some new young leaders.

We have continued with all three colonies following the same programme and have enjoyed a couple of joint colony evenings. Some of the highlights of the year have been receiving a thank you letter from the Queen for the 90th birthday cards we sent, learning about recycling, going on a night hike, sharing our hobbies and collections. The Beavers have also visited the ambulance station and been on a trip to Hobbledown. Some of the Beavers went on the Beaver Sleepover and had a great time.

The Beavers have also had the opportunity to earn a variety of badges and we are hoping that some of the Beavers will achieve their Chief Scout Bronze Award.

The Beavers also took part in District events including the Football Tournament, Ten Pin Bowling and the District Cross Country race.

We have received very good support from our parents and I hope that this will continue.

Kathy Castledine
Clearwater Beaver Leader

Willowlake Beaver Leader's Report

It has been another great year for Willowlake Beavers. We follow the programme with Clearwater and Windfalls and have managed to have joint meetings with all 3 colonies at least once a term. John Wilson has added his experience to celebrate Christmas and Easter with the Beavers, which helped to continue to strengthen links with the Methodist Church.

Zoe Dallen, stepped down as leader in January and Clare DiPlacito took up the reins.

Highlights of each term have been:

Summer term- In April, the Beavers sent birthday cards to the Queen and even received a reply from the Palace. There was a sleepover in HQ, although not much sleep was had! May saw a visit to the Epsom Ambulance station, which was really informative.

Autumn term saw a joint colony visit to Hobbledown, with fantastic weather. In October the Beavers learnt about recycling thanks to a council representative. We said goodbye to one Beaver who managed to obtain his Bronze Chief Scout award just before he moved to Cubs.

The highlight of the Spring term was cooking pancakes, without burning them! We supported the Epsom and Ewell District Bowling competition and much fun was had.

Clare DiPlacito June 2017

Willowlake Beaver Leader

Windfalls Beaver Leader's Report

Windfalls started the year with a small and relatively young Colony and no Leaders! Despite this we have had a great time and fantastic programme!

Once again, all three colonies followed the same programme and largely because of this we have managed to run a good programme and have also enjoyed the joint meetings with the other colonies.

We have enjoyed a very active programme, largely outdoor, putting the 'out' into Scouting! These have included Night Hikes, Nature Trails, Pond Dipping, Climbing, building Shelters, a Camp Fire at Boidier Hurst, the now perennial Water Olympics in Court rec. and a visit to Hobbledown.

We have had a speaker visit us to talk about recycling, John Wilson came along to run an evening based on Christmas, we had the opportunity to gain a few badges including the Global Issues badge, had an International evening and learnt about St. Andrew.

We participated in the District Football competition along with other Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers!

Some of our Beavers attended the Group Beaver sleepover at Boidier Hurst Camp Site. This was a great success and epitomises what Scouting is all about! Hopefully there will be many more in the future.

I left at the end of December for a number of reasons, not least of which was a 4 month cruise starting in January!

Rebecca Carpenter has agreed to take over as Leader and there are a number of parents who have also volunteered to help on a regular basis.

Thank you to all the parents, and others, who have helped Windfalls over the last 9 months.

I wish the Colony every success for the future.

Neil Dallen

Acting Ahmeek

Windfalls Beaver Leader

Apache Cub Leader's Report

It's been another very successful year for Apache Cubs, with numbers continuing to rise and attendance consistently high. The boys have had the chance to learn many new skills and engage in activities most had never previously had the chance to. Climbing, archery, fire building, hiking and backwoods cooking seemed to be the favourites, but the suggestions were endless! They also enjoyed the opportunity to see very different things, such as the Metro Bank vault and the Wimbledon Buddhist temple. Combined with the huge participation in district events including football and bowling, the boys definitely made the most of the opportunities available to them this year.

In addition to these opportunities, we also had a Cub sleepover in December, which involved a whole day and night of running round town, playing games and keeping the leaders awake! Many of the boys who enjoyed this event also participated in Spring and Summer Camp in 2016, both of which were a great success and interest is very high for these events in 2017.

The pack has been very lucky to have had a very dedicated and enthusiastic leader team, with Matt, Alyssa and Katie all giving so much to the group even with A-Levels and other distractions happening at the same time. The leader team stepped down in Easter 2017, and I know the pack is in great shape to have even more fun and enjoyment under its new leaders.

Above all, however, our thanks should be extended to the amazing support received by parents, many of whom were especially kind and supportive during the leadership transition. And of course, the enthusiasm and smiles of the boys have been more evident than ever this year, making Apache Cubs an incredibly enjoyable and rewarding experience for all involved.

Many thanks to all involved.

Aaron Doherty

Apache Cub Leader

Cherokee Cub Leader's Report

The cubs had a great summer camp!

We were due to run a second camp this year but due to two members of the leadership team leaving we had to cancel. However, 2018's summer camp has been booked for Blacklands farm in East Grinstead.

So, running up to Christmas we were preparing for the Cubs 100 Promise renewal which was in December. We had a great Christmas party too.

With loads of activities as start of the new year, which included archery and visiting a temple – all of which the Cubs loved. I have also extended the archery to Beavers now as we have new bows - and we have a few of them who are 'naturals'.

Holly Venables

Cherokee Akela

Sioux Cub Leader's Report

The Sioux pack has maintained a healthy number of cubs with a regular turn-out on Tuesday evenings of, on average, 18 cubs.

As well as the individual pack activities, the pack has actively participated in various joint activities with the other Cub packs and District events. Some of the highlights of the year have been the Promise Renewal and visit to Chessington World of Adventure as part of the 100 Years of Cubs celebration, tree planting at Langley Vale Wood as well as Water Weekend, Cub sleepover and the Mayday Cub camp.

I have continued officially as Akela and played a key role in organising the programme and pack administration, but due to work commitments I have often not been able to attend the meetings. Les Marrill (Baloo) has also not been able to attend regularly in the second half of the year due to personal commitments. As a result Jay Arnold took on the position as Acting Cub Scout Leader with the main responsibility for the running of Sioux pack meetings.

Without Jay's willingness to step up to the Akela position, the Sioux pack would have encountered difficulties - especially considering the size of the pack. Jay has received support in the first half of the year from Tom O'Leary and Jordan Massingham; and in the second half from Catherine Meech (young leader) and Clare DiPlacito (Leader from Willowlake Beaver Colony), when Tom and Jordan stepped down due to their new jobs.

Thank you to everyone who helped throughout the year.

Jonathan Parkinson

Sioux Akela

Maclean Scout Leader's Report

It's been another full and exiting year for the troop. The Scouts have experienced a wide variety of activities and have learnt some useful skills. In the summer term, we met outside at Boidier Hurst and Horton Country Park where they learnt camp skills and after half-term we offered a choice of activities during our 'Summer Choices'. These included caving, canoeing and archery, to bush craft, mountain biking and an evening at the beach.

The Group Spring camp was at Polyapes, Cobham where the 31 Scouts were rewarded with some good weather over the 4 days and enjoyed activities with the cubs and explorers – as well as sleeping the last night in a bivouac. Zoe led Summer camp which took place at Broadstone Warren, Sussex where the Scouts enjoyed their time for a full week at a great campsite; including an opportunity to visit the seaside and have ice cream!

The programme from the autumn term has been designed to give the Scouts the opportunity to work toward their Chief Scout Gold Award. This included learning about their personal health, self-defence, problem solving, making a knot display board (the best example is on display in HQ) and entertaining the rest of the troop as a patrol. There were some great performances! The spring term saw them cooking a meal, learning navigation techniques and making some camp gadgets. They had the opportunity to earn their Fire Safety activity badge, learnt about fire safety in the home and also earned their Athletics activity badge. Both these go towards the Chief Scout Award as well as giving them some useful life skills.

September 2016 saw Zoe step down as Scout leader. I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking Zoe for all her hard work and commitment which has provided great scouting experience for so many young people. Zoe remains within the group co-ordinating the beaver section.

We would not be able to offer such varied and relevant activities for the Scouts without the time and commitment of the leaders. We are fortunate to have a great deal of experience to call upon and I thank them for their efforts this year. I also thank the parents who come when rota'd and many of them have said how much they enjoyed the evenings.

The leader team are committed to continuing to provide a programme which gives all our Scouts the opportunity to achieve their potential and gain their Chief Scout Gold Award. We are all looking forward to another busy and exciting year's scouting and hope the Scouts enjoy the next year.

Paul Carpenter

Scout Leader

Explorer Leader's Report

The year is the first full year we have operated as one Explorer section, a change initiated due to both falling Explorer numbers and the loss of members of the leadership team. Having started the year with around 30 members we dropped to around 20 by Christmas, but since then we have had a large number of Scouts come up and we currently stand at 41 (with an expected membership of 50 by September). So we are at another 'bulge' and this brings both advantages and disadvantages. Large numbers generally bring more camaraderie, can cater for different interests and generate numbers for camps and competitions, but causes complications in premises, transport and splitting the group for activities.

The average age of the unit has probably dropped by a year, which again can bring challenges. We reintroduced the concept of an Explorers exec where the programme and some of the admin tasks are done by the young people, assisted by the leaders rather than the other way around. It is fair to say that this idea has suffered a bit as we lost the older ones but we intend to rebuild it with the new crop. I would like to say a special thank you to Jay who has been very loyal and worked hard to inspire and coordinate the other members.

The current leadership team of myself, Phili, Rich and Previn works well together and I would like to thank them for all their hard work. Kelly, having been let out of the Orang-utan sanctuary, now also supports us. We have also started a parents rota so we can rope in additional support when needed. We are however at the maximum numbers we can manage and could do we some additional permanent leaders.

James Burton and Harry Smith won the Explorer challenge hike this year and the Explorers have participated in a number of camps, notably Spring Bank, Water Weekend at Thames Young Mariners and Easter Ex in the Brecon Beacons where 20 of us had a great weekend. Easter Ex is a tough weekend physically but good fun and we always stay in a bunkhouse with decent facilities so we can warm up, dry out and relax when the walking is done. Thanks to Paul Carpenter and Jo Chartres, Jill Evans and Pete Browning who help us out on the various camps. Around 10 Explorers assist with other sections, generally as part of their DofE, and a number of our group are off to Sweden later in the year.

We have a varied programme ranging through Town Trails, Wide Games, Gaffer Tape Challenge, Debates, Ice Skating, Lego making, First Aid, Archery, Escape Night, Incident Hikes, Sailing, Cooking etc etc and try to balance activities from the traditional Scout programme with more general activities, but all have elements of fun and learning. Part of our Citizenship programme has included an 'adopted charity for the year' and this year we have chosen Wateraid. A lady from the charity came to talk to us about its work and we hope to raise some money through a sponsored bath push and a quiz night. Last year we raised £1500 for the Meningitis Research Foundation.

Its been a year of growth and challenges but overall a lot of fun has been had and we hope we have played a role in developing the young people into useful and productive citizens.

Tony Evans

Explorer Leader

Shooting Club Report

7th Epsom Scouts Shooting Club



The year ending March 2017 was the most successful one yet in terms of both individual and club successes.

Club membership went through its usual cycle of mid-year drop-off and subsequent pick-up to close at 31. This is at the top end of our limit – less than 20 does not work from a financial perspective while much more than 30 introduces safety issues. Of the 31 members, 21 members are from 7th Epsom with 10 coming from groups (1st Ashtead, 8th/14th Air Cadets, 1st Tattenhams and 7th Epsom Guides).

We entered the National Championships as usual in October and had our most successful year, returning with 13 medals across 7 disciplines. The full list of winners is on the Results page of our website (www.7essc.com) but aside from those we had another 9 top ten finishes – indeed in the 25yd Small-bore class we had 4 of the top 6 places. The difficulty in securing a medal should not be underestimated – in most disciplines there are several hundred competitors. Away from the ranges, the weather was kind (mostly) and the camping was excellent.

Also in October, British Shooting arranges a National Schools Pistol competition each year. Usually about 20 schools enter, with all of them being well-funded public schools including Millfield, Winchester and Sherbourne. This year Glyn School entered a team in the Senior category. The competition has two qualifying rounds; one each for the North and South of England with the top 3 schools going through to the finals. Additionally, there was an individual competition with the top 8 individual scores also qualifying for an individual final. The Glyn team of 3 was made up of 3 members of our club; Kieran Gall, James Miller and Emma O'Neill. In the qualifying rounds Glyn came 2nd and both James and Emma qualified for the individual finals. The finals were held in Cardiff in January, and I'm delighted to report that Glyn won the team competition (by quite a margin) and James won the individual competition.

Surrey Scouts organised an inaugural "Air Rifle Challenge" in November for Scouts only (no explorers). Entrants had to shoot a number of cards which were then checked and submitted to the organisers. The best 20 from across the county were then invited to a Grand Finals at Bisley. We had 6 scouts enter the competition, of

whom 5 made it through to the Finals, and after some excellent shooting it was won by one of our members, James Goldsmith.

British Shooting have introduced a new “Target Sprint” event which will be featuring in future Olympic Games. They held a range of qualifying events through late 2016 in which a number of our members participated. Both Kieran and Josh Gall made it through to the final sessions, with Kieran being selected for the Team GB squad (squad size is just 8). In March of this year, Kieran represented Great Britain at the inaugural World Championships in Germany and finished a superb 8th in the U21 category (Kieran is 17). His extraordinary time of 5mins and 12secs shaved 33secs off his previous best and he is now the Official British Record Holder.

Separately, James Miller shoots pistol for England and represented them at the major pistol competition, Intershoot in Holland. Over 3 days he scored 3 new personal bests and made all three finals – the only England shooter to do so. In the Mens U21 Grand Finals he came 5th having shot with the world’s best 19 and 20-year olds (James is 16). This performance and his excellent scores means he is officially ranked and recognised as the No.1 U21 pistol shooter in England.

Aside from these key events and successes, the club continues to provide opportunities for other group activities. We provided shooting for scouts and explorers from 3rd Epsom and 1st Ashted in 2016, and for 7th Epsom Guides earlier in 2017. We also ran a number of sessions for 7th Epsom cubs and we provided shooting as an option for the “Summer choices” Friday meetings.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to get involved!

Colin O’Neill
Club Secretary