

7th Epsom (Methodist) Scout Group

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 – 2018

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 – 2017/18

The year ending April 2018 saw a strong Scouting programme continue to be delivered and the Group remains in good overall health.

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 various camps have been enjoyed by the different Sections of the Group.

In August, a group of 29 Scouts and Explorers accompanied by 9 adult leaders spent two weeks in Sweden, including a week at the International Jamboree in Kristianstad.

At home the events and activities for the year continued. The sections participate in a full range of competitions and challenges and feature highly in the results. This includes wins in District swimming, cross-country, football, bowling and the Challenge Hike as well as a good second in the cyclo-cross.

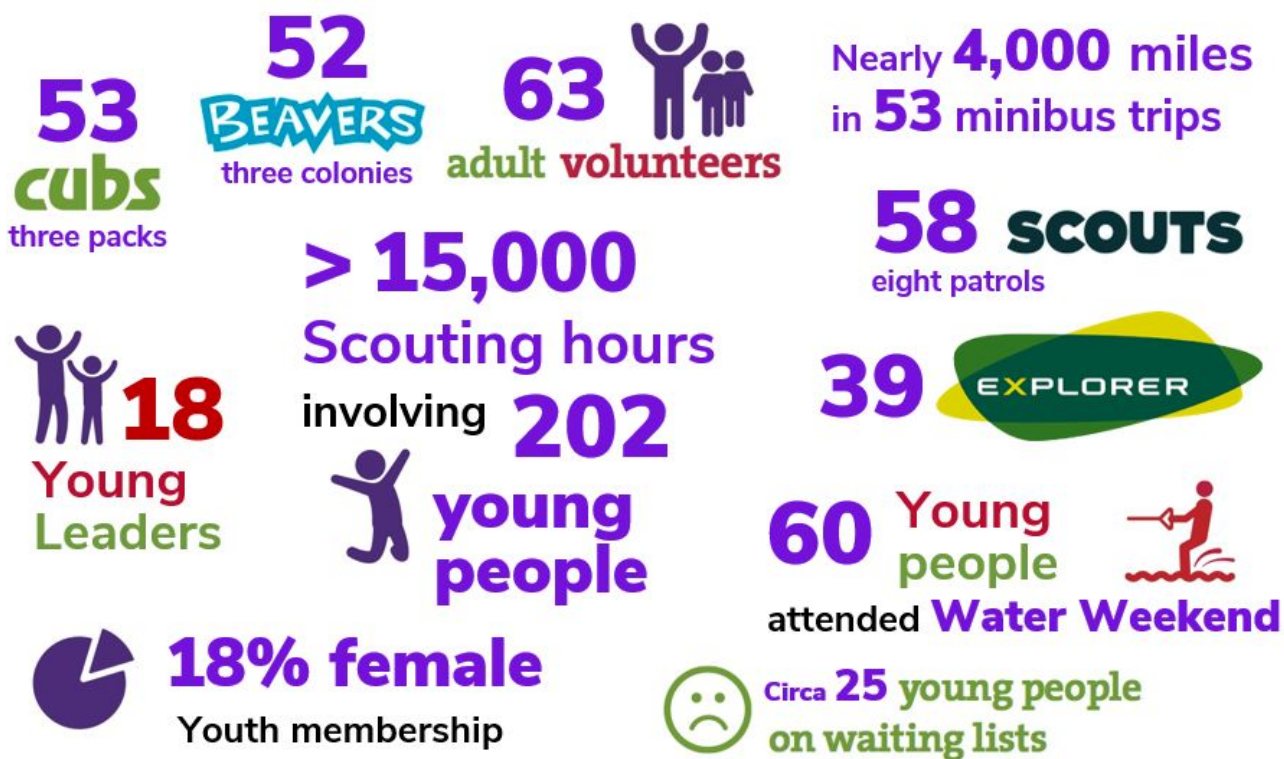
The Group's finances remain on a sound basis, underpinned by the many fund raising activities that take place. These include Jumble Sales, Christmas Post, support to the EMC Book Fair, and the Firework Display at Hook Road Arena. We continue to enjoy the benefit of our purpose built HQ building and our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

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 always 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.

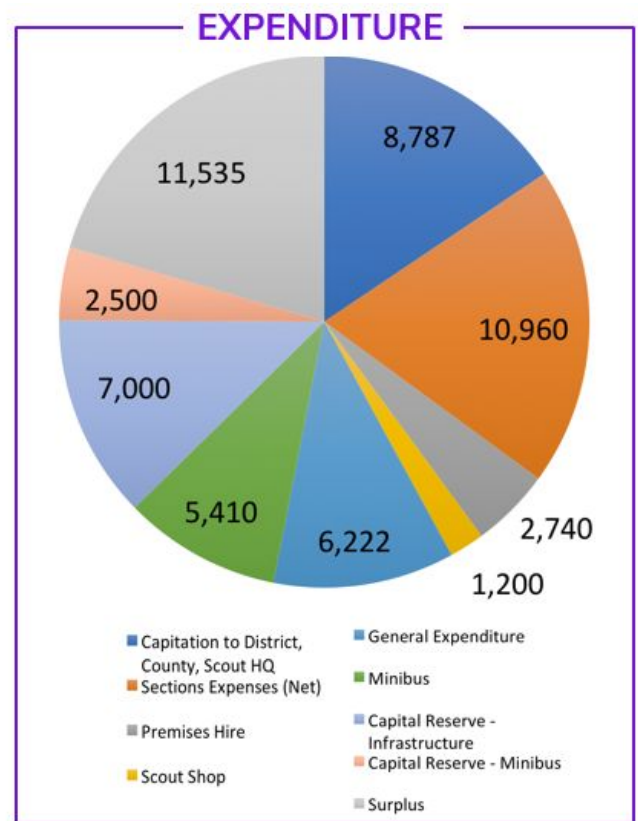
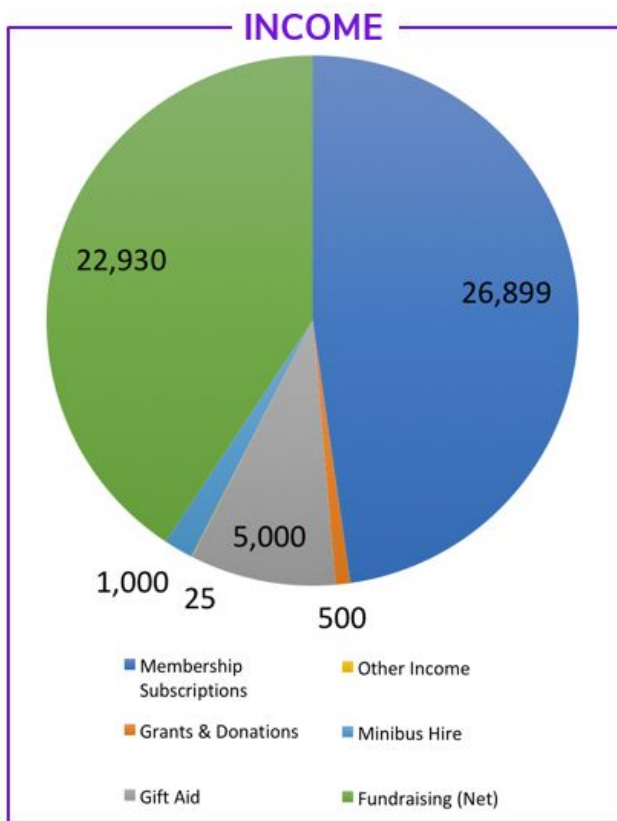
Kevin Mead

Chairman of the Group Executive

Our Year in Numbers



2018-19 Group Budget Income and 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 2018, 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: _____ **6th September 2018** _____

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 £489,001 (2017: £504,675). The Group's policy on reserves is to hold an amount that will enable it to replace the motor vehicles. The New HQ has been recorded as an asset within the accounts.

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 15th September 2018 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Kevin Mead – Chairman

Anthony S Williams - Treasurer

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended March 31st 2018

Year End 31.3.17 £		Period ended 31 March 2018		
		Income £	Expenditure £	Net £
	INCOME			
	Fundraising			
(500)	Fireworks 2015			
12,764	Fireworks 2016	0	3,900	(3,900)
0	Fireworks 2017	53,445	52,878	567
902	Jumble Sales	1,977	478	1,499
3,354	Christmas Post	3,190	0	3,190
5,500	Book Fair	6,500	0	6,500
1	Peace Light	0	0	0
68	Recycling	104	0	104
529	Quiz Night	1,786	1,861	(75)
22,618	Total Fundraising	67,002	59,117	7,886
	Activities			
1,536	Camps	21,979	24,292	(2,313)
0	Jamboree 2019	0	267	(267)
1,536	Total Activities	21,979	24,558	(2,579)
	Subscriptions			
27,630	Subscriptions	29,827	10	29,817
(9,244)	Capital Fees	114	8,484	(8,370)
(147)	Subscription refunds	0	100	(100)
18,239	Total Subscriptions	29,941	8,594	21,347
	Other Income			
2,426	Grants and Donations	290	18,000	(17,710)
9	Interest Received	28	0	28
0	Gift Aid	7,192	0	7,192
461	Other Income	0	0	0
2,896	Total Other Income	7,510	18,000	(10,490)
45,289	Total Income	126,432	110,269	16,163

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended March 31st 2018

		Period ended 31 March 2018		
		Income	Expenditure	Net
		£	£	£
EXPENDITURE				
General				
(3,538)	Accommodation (Rent & Maintenance)	0	2,441	(2,441)
3,743	Equipment	0	3,111	(3,111)
(559)	Training	0	861	(861)
(347)	Insurance	0	1,399	(1,399)
(416)	New HQ	0	279	(279)
17	Photocopier & Stationery	0	0	0
(266)	Printing	0	140	(140)
(312)	Bank Charges	0	387	(387)
(72)	Website Costs	0	72	(72)
(1,750)	Total General	0	8,691	(8,691)
(2,995)	Scout Shop	0	1,105	(1,105)
(2,995)	Total Scout Shop	0	1,105	(1,105)
Sections				
(290)	Beavers	10	443	(433)
(1,077)	Cubs	64	1,550	(1,486)
(2,073)	Scouts	0	904	(904)
(1,299)	Explorers	0	1,923	(1,923)
(1,547)	GSL	240	1,867	(1,627)
(67)	D of E	0	0	0
490	Shooting Club	397	669	(272)
(5,863)	Total Sections	711	7,355	(6,644)
Minibus				
(169)	Fuel	0	610	(610)
(5,224)	Maintenance	0	2,684	(2,684)
(1,863)	Tax & Licence	0	2,321	(2,321)
(104)	Driving Tests	0	64	(64)
644	Minibus Hire	1,140	89	1,051
(17,222)	Minibus Purchase	0	0	0
(23,938)	Total Minibus	1,140	5,768	(4,629)
(34,546)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,850	22,919	(21,069)
10,743		128,282	133,188	(4,906)
9,016	Camps 2017			
0	Camps 2018	1,900	769	1,131
(4,800)	Fireworks 2017	0	0	0
0	Fireworks 2018	0	9,400	(9,400)
4,216		1,900	10,169	(8,269)
14,959	Excess of Income over Expenditure	130,182	143,357	(13,175)

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2018

2017		2018	
£		£	£
350,000	Headquarters		350,000
17,222	Minibus		14,722
<hr/>			<hr/>
367,222	Total Fixed Assets		364,722
	Cash at Bank:		
	Current Accounts		
42,283	CAF - General	40,277	
23,767	CAF - Camps & Activities	5,833	
2,616	Lloyds TSB - Current A/C	2,616	
6,042	Metrobank - Fireworks	6,649	
7,699	Metrobank - Tanzania	4,330	
	Deposit Accounts		
35,000	CAF - New HQ Fund	42,000	
20,045	CAF - New Minibus Fund	22,573	
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
137,453			124,279
<hr/>			<hr/>
504,675			489,001
	REPRESENTED BY:		
122,494	Opening Balances	137,453	
14,959	Excess of Income over Expenditure	(13,175)	
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
137,453			124,279
367,222	Designated Reserves		364,722
<hr/>			<hr/>
504,675			489,001

Receipts for the year ended 31st March 2018

	This Year Year £	Previous Year £
Membership Subscriptions	29,827	27,670
Capitation Refund	114	105
	29,941	27,775
Bank Interest Received	28	9
	28	9
Donations / Grants	290	2,426
Gift Aid	7,192	0
	7,482	2,426
Activities (Gross):		
Camps	1,735	165
Spring Camp	1,845	3,480
Spring Camp-Scouts	600	0
Spring Camp-Explorers	75	0
Cub Camp	585	0
SCRAM	0	185
Summer Camp	0	2,560
Cubs Summer Camp	0	350
Sweden	9,979	0
Easter	300	0
Water Weekend	4,130	4,370
Explorer Xmas Meal	0	530
Beaver Bowling	0	120
Scoutabout	1,455	0
Beaver Sleepover	880	0
Beaver Trip	395	0
Total Camps	21,979	11,760
Section Accounts		
Shooting Club	397	1,801
Beavers	10	220
Cubs	64	260
Scouts	0	0
Explorers	0	25
Group GSL	240	159
	711	2,465
Fund Raising (Gross):		
Fireworks 2016	0	56,607
Fireworks 2017	53,445	0
Jumble Sales	1,977	902
Christmas Post	3,190	3,354
Minibus Donations	1,140	687
Book Fair	6,500	5,500
Recycling	104	68
Peace Light	0	100
Quiz Night	1,786	1,602
	68,142	68,820
Uniform	0	5
Equipment	0	3,780
Other Income	0	25
Sundry Receipts	0	461
	0	4,271
	128,282	117,526
Receipts in Advance		
Sweden 2017	0	10,250
Spring Camp 2017	0	300
Easter 2018	1,900	0
	1,900	10,550
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR	130,182	128,076

Payments for the year ended 31st March 2018

	This Year Year £	Previous Year £
Membership		
Capitalisation Fees Paid	8,484	9,348
Membership Subscriptions	10	40
Membership Subscription Refunds	100	147
	<hr/> 8,594	<hr/> 9,535
Headquarters		
HQ Costs	279	416
	<hr/> 279	<hr/> 416
Premises		
Rent, Repairs & Renewals	2,441	3,538
	<hr/> 2,441	<hr/> 3,538
Activities		
Camps	393	1,428
Spring Camp	1,751	3,348
Summer Camp	0	686
Cubs Summer Camp	0	1,210
Water Weekend	3,761	3,553
Sweden	15,064	0
Scoutabout	1,242	0
Easter 2017	1,549	0
Beaver Camp	25	0
Beaver Trip	507	0
Jamboree 2019	267	0
	<hr/> 24,558	<hr/> 10,225
Section Accounts		
Shooting Club	669	1,310
Beavers	443	510
Cubs	1,550	1,337
Scouts	904	2,073
Explorers	1,923	1,324
D of E	0	67
Group GSL	1,867	1,706
	<hr/> 7,355	<hr/> 8,327
Fundraising		
Fireworks 2015	0	500
Fireworks 2016	3,900	43,843
Fireworks 2017	52,878	0
Jumble Sales	478	0
Peace Light	0	99
Quiz Night	1,861	1,073
	<hr/> 59,117	<hr/> 45,515
Other Expenses		
Uniforms	1,105	3,000
Insurance	1,399	347
Training	861	559
Photocopying	0	8
Printing	140	266
Website Costs	72	72
	<hr/> 3,577	<hr/> 4,252
Quarter Master	3,111	37
	<hr/> 3,111	<hr/> 37
Other Expenditure		
Badges	0	0
Minibus Expenditure	5,768	24,626
Minibus Depreciation	0	0
Bank Charges	387	312
Donations	18,000	0
	<hr/> 24,155	<hr/> 24,938
	<hr/> 133,188	<hr/> 106,783
Payments in Advance		
Water Weekend 2017	0	296
Spring Camp 2017	0	225
Sweden 2017	0	988
Fireworks 2017	0	4,800
Fireworks 2018	9,400	0
Summer Camp 2017	0	25
Summer Camp 2018	591	0
Summer Camp 2019	179	0
	<hr/> 10,169	<hr/> 6,334
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	<hr/> 143,357	<hr/> 113,117

Group Scout Leader's Report

This is my second AGM report and the end of my first full year as GSL, complete with a new exec team.

As a Group we have a fantastic and committed Leader team who are dedicated to providing Scouting at its best. We are very lucky for their support as they get on with the day-to-day delivery of the Scouting adventure.

With over 200 children attending on a weekly basis spread across our four sections, the effort and planning that is needed from our volunteer leadership team to provide all of the amazing experiences is huge.

It's very important to mention the Young Leaders, these 14-18 year-old young people come regularly to support the Leader team particularly in Beavers and Cubs. Their support is important to the success of a Section meeting. Many come to volunteer as part of Duke of Edinburgh Award and some come because they enjoy it.

Every now and again we see Leader changes, and this year Holly Venables has decided to take a break from the leadership role. On behalf of the Group I would like to thank Holly for all her hard work and dedication, she has made a difference to the Group. Also, I want to mention Jay Arnold who changed jobs to work for the Surrey Scout campsite at Bentley Copse. Jay has been a member of the Group from his Beaver days, and it is great to see someone become part the movement and continue to part of Scouting. Jay is still involved with the Group and helps out with climbing and other activities.

This year has seen an added challenge and test of volunteering in the form of GDPR compliance. The Scout Association now requires all leaders to complete the GDPR training and 'pass' a GDPR check.

I won't repeat all that you can read in the Sections reports, other than to say as always, it's been a busy year, with every Section having a good time in both the evening and outside activities. We've had another great year in Scouting!

The Group going forward

Demand for Scouting is huge, we currently have over 40 children on the waiting list, with more requests to join weekly. We are getting regularly getting requests from parents with children as young as three months to join Beavers.

Our Group has now grown to around 240 young people starting this term, and we are bursting at the seams. Limiting any further growth will allow us to maintain a quality of Scouting.

Therefore, we will not be taking young people into the Cubs, Scout or Explorer Sections unless parents are able to make a real commitment to support the Group, either in a leadership role or through significant support in some part of the Group.

Our Goals for the coming year:

- Our main goal is to continue to provide the best Scouting possible;
- Continue with the program to enable all of our young people to achieve the highest award for scouting in their sections, the Chief Scout Award:
 - Bronze for Beavers
 - Silver for Cubs
 - Gold for Scouts
 - Platinum for Explorers;
- To continue to be recognised, both by the Scouting hierarchy and the general public, as a strong, well-run group;
- As far as possible, to check and ensure that the make-up of our Group in terms of ethnicity reflects that of our catchment area;
- To continue to recruit new leaders to support the existing team, and generally strengthen them;
- To promote our Group identity, for example through our Group T-shirts, yet continue to contribute fully to District and County-run events;
- Represent the Group at District events;
- Comply with GDPR.

I would like to welcome Leigh, Richard and Paul as Cubs Leaders for Apache, their first meeting as a Leader team was Monday this week. Supported by a couple of old hands who offered to come along to help get them up to speed.

As with every year we make the plea for new help, in whatever form you are able. If you think you could make a committed team to support one of the Sections, please contact any of the Leaders who will happily work with you to make a workable schedule.

As ever we have to thank the Executive Committee who have kept the Group running behind the scenes. All your efforts have been appreciated!

I must give the biggest thanks to the leaders who make the Group what it is. Without these people giving up a lot of their spare time your children would not be able to enjoy the activities they do. Most of our leaders have very busy working lives so it is all the more impressive the amount of time they freely give to the Group and your children.

Please take the time to thank them personally.

David Shickle

GSL 7th Epsom Scouts

Clearwater Beaver Leader's Report

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

We have continued with all three colonies following the same programme and have enjoyed a couple of joint colony evenings including a very enjoyable Water Olympics in the summer.

In the summer term 2017, the Beavers started a long term project with The Woodland Trust to grow trees that will be planted in the World War One Centenary Wood in Langley Vale. Other highlights of the year include our day out with the other colonies to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, archery and climbing sessions, a visit behind the scenes at Tesco, making pancakes, a science evening and various walks around Epsom and the local countryside.

The Beavers have earned a variety of badges over the year. We had one Beaver achieve their Chief Scout Bronze Award.

Clearwater Beavers have also had a good turnout at District events including the Football Tournament, Ten Pin Bowling and the District Cross Country race.

We have had wonderful support from the Beavers' parents and are very thankful for this.

Kathy Castledine

Clearwater Beaver Leader

Willowlake Beaver Leader's Report

Willowlake and 7th Epsom Beavers have had a successful year. In total five Willowlake Beavers have successfully obtained the Bronze Chief Scout Award. In April we worked with the Woodland Trust's 'seed to trees' event to support the Centenary Woods projects. Cherry stone seeds were planted and we are pleased to see the trees are still growing well. We are due to plant them in the Centenary Woods with the Woodland Trust in November 2018. We are very grateful that the Church is allowing the trees to grow in the wooden cage in their garden.

In May, the Beavers won the district football competition. They also enjoyed the Spring Camp at Boidierhurst and loved the joint team games with the rest of the sections from 7th Epsom.

In November, the Beavers were lucky enough to complete the Farm to Fork Trail run by Tesco's. They got to touch fish, taste different cheeses and bread and best of all, walk into the freezer with a temperature of -23°C.

We also took 25 Beavers on a day trip to Portsmouth, in November, to see the HMS Victory. Despite occasional rain showers, the Beavers had a fantastic day and all leaders agreed this was a trip to be repeated in the future.

February saw the Beavers win the district bowling competition and Willowlake were lucky to have the highest scoring boy. We were grateful to have Judith Sitford ADC Beaver Scouts, present him with the trophy.

Clare DiPlacito

Willowlake Beaver Leader

Windfalls Beaver Leader's Report

Windfall have had a good year, we have been working hard towards badges and having fun in our sessions,

During the spring term of 2017 the beavers had fun doing many activities such as plating tree with the woodland trust which we have been trying to not forget about since, and on camp skills which went towards the outdoor challenge badge. In may the beavers got to join the rest of the group on spring camp and had fun doing the many actives that were set up for them to do.

In the Autumn term we got out and about on many activities such as the penny hike that helps us learn our green cross code and we also went Tesco to learn how our food get from starting point to our local shops and other supermarkets with the farm to fork program, we also went on a trip to Portsmouth to explore and learn more about the HMS Victory and Lord Nelson, which all the beavers had a brilliant time on.

In Spring of 2018 we learned about the many different traditions of others from around the world and here in England such as burns night to Chinese new year (and pancakes), we also worked on our disability badge and how we can help others with different disabilities.

For the activities we did with the district we won the bowling competition with seconds highest boy and the overall highest score, the beavers also won the district football competition.

We are looking forward to the many new skills we will learn and badges we will gain next year.

Also, a big thank you our Young Leaders and parents that have helped out during the year..

Ashleigh Gonsall

Windfalls Beaver Leader

Apache and Cherokee Cub Leader's Report

Apache had 13 Cubs when Jay Arnold left in January and I stepped in to lead the pack – ably assisted by Jill Venables and Emily Read with Young Leaders Charlotte Hawkey, Harriet Williams and Jack Gudge.

Cherokee had 18 Cubs and were supported by leaders Clare Rutter, Jill Venables, Charlotte Hawkey and Katie Bruce with Luke Watkinson being the Young Leader.

Amongst other things, the Cubs tried Haggis for Burns Night, sawed, hammered and painted book ends for the DIY badge and supported Atkins STEM projects by looking at aerodynamics and build rockets. They also completed archery and climbing, finishing the term with a sausage sizzle at Boidierhurst.

Events included the annual Water Weekend day in September, learning to canoe and kayak, and watching a fantastic ice hockey match at Guildford Spectrum.

Camp included a successful sixer and seconder camp at Boidierhurst in April where Benedict Pocock was awarded his silver Chief Scout Award. May brought superb weather to Berkshire and our annual 7th Epsom spring camp where the theme was First Nation people. Cubs had great fun making bow and arrows and building totem poles.

We have also supported District events, including the Challenge Weekend at Boidierhurst where two Cubs obtained their Personal Challenge Award for overcoming fears.

Holly Venables

Apache and Cherokee Akela

Sioux Cub Leader's Report

Since the May day camp, the leaders have also been grateful for the additional support of Phil Kirk.

During the autumn term, amongst many other activities, Sioux pack made kites and took them to Epsom Downs to fly them. Later, they went tracking in Horton Park for their Adventure Challenge badge. They also did activities for the Disability Awareness badge and made slime for their Scientist's badge. During the spring term, in addition to DIY badge and Burn's Night activities, Sioux cubs visited the STEMLab at Atkins, raced hand-made cotton reel tanks and practiced climbing and archery. In the final term, activities included Pioneering Badge on Headley Heath and activities for their Navigator and Fire safety badges.

As well as the individual pack activities, the pack has actively participated in various joint activities with the other Cub packs and at District events. Some of the highlights of the year have been the Cub Bowling Competition, the Swimming Gala and an exciting evening watching an ice hockey match at Guildford Spectrum as well as the annual May Camp, which this year was at Sunningdale near to Windsor Great Park, where cubs saw the 100ft totem pole and ate ice creams in the searing heat.

Thanking all those – leaders and parents – who have offered their time and energies to making this year such a resounding success for Sioux cubs.

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 Boidierhurst where they learnt camp skills and after half-term we offered a choice of activities during our 'Summer Choices'. These included kayaking and archery, to survival skills, mountain biking and an evening at the beach. At the end of the summer term a group of 30 scouts went to Scoutabout; Scoutabout is an extraordinary event that only happens once every three years – 5,000 Scouts and Guides aged between 10 and 14 from all over Surrey participating in a weekend of fun, learning and activities.



The Group Spring camp was at Boidierhurst where the Scouts were rewarded with some good weather over the four days and enjoyed activities with the Beavers, Cubs and Explorers – as well as sleeping the last night in a bivouac!

The programme gives the Scouts the opportunity to work toward their Chief Scout Gold Award. In the autumn term this included learning about disabilities, practicing their knots building a pioneering structure and learning some cooking skills. The troop also spent time on Epsom Common learning about the conservation work being undertaken there which they will have an opportunity to join in with in the next year.

The spring term saw them researching natural disasters and presenting their research to the troop, learning navigation techniques and preparing for camps. These activities go towards the Chief Scout Award as well as giving them some useful life skills.

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

This year has been both exciting and challenging. We started the year with around 40 Explorers and this rose to 50 by September. A combination of a small leadership team and a low average age of the Explorers made this a difficult time. For Explorers to run well we rely on the members contributing to the organisation and exercising a degree of self-discipline, self-regulation and understanding when the messing about stops and concentration is required. With a balance of ages through 14-18 this comes fairly easily, when 35 of the 50 are under 15 it is difficult. We persevered and towards the end of the year I think we are getting there. The current leadership team of myself, Phili, Rich and Dav works well together and I would like to thank them for all their hard work. We have also been greatly assisted by 5/6 parents who help out when needed and Nick Finegold and Tom Morgan who help out on a more regular basis.

In 2017 our charity of the year was Wateraid and through a bath push, collecting in the Ashley centre and a Quiz night we raised approx. £1500. This year we are supporting Love me, Love my mind a local mental health charity with a Raffle and a Casino night.

We have had a successful year in District Competitions with wins in the Swimming, Cross Country and Challenge Hike and a good second in the Cyclo cross. We also had 12 Explorers take part in a National real life Monopoly competition in London.

Explorers have participated in a number of camps, notably Spring Bank, Water Weekend at Thames Young Mariners, Easter Ex in the Peak District and this year a Swedish Jamboree. 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 we also have Charlotte Williams representing us at a Jamboree in America next year.

We have a varied programme ranging through Town Trails, Wide Games, Gaffer Tape Challenge, Debates, Ice Skating, Airhop, DofE, Lego making, First Aid, Archery, Escape Night, Incident Hikes, Bell Ringing, 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.

It's been a year of challenges but overall a lot of fun has been had and we hope we have played a role in helping to develop the young people.

Tony Evans

Explorer Leader