

**7<sup>th</sup> Epsom (Methodist) Scout Group**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019 – 2020**

## **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**

The year ending April 2020 saw a strong Scouting programme continue to be delivered and the Group remains in good overall health. Unfortunately, the year was brought to an abrupt halt by the COVID-19 lock down in March and activities for 2020-2021 will be significantly impacted as a result.

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.

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.

Work continued in building the team of leaders and young people for the summer 2020 Madagascar expedition and associated fund-raising activities. Sadly, the expedition was not able to take place due to the impact of COVID.

During the year we built the planned extension to our Stores facility at EMC. This has allowed us to consolidate all our equipment in one location and remove the dependency on additional storage facilities.

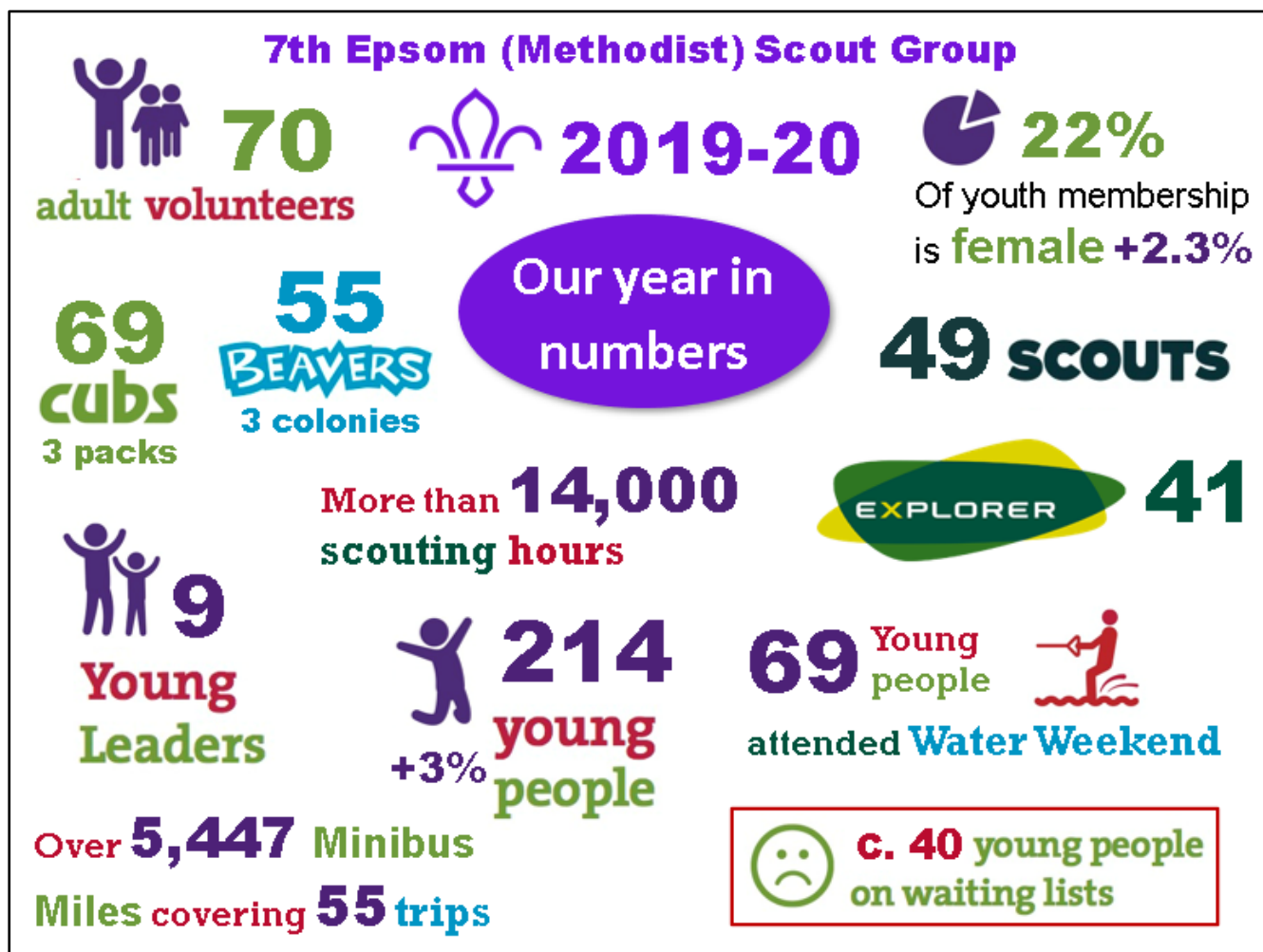
The Group's finances remain on a sound basis, underpinned by the many fund-raising activities that take place. These have included Jumble Sales, Christmas Post, and support to the EMC Book Fair. We continue to enjoy the benefit of our purpose-built HQ building and our 2 minibuses. Our robust finances will allow us to ride through the COVID generated pressures of the 2020 to 2021 financial 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 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



## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31 March 2020, which are set out on pages 7 and 8.

### 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          

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:   31 Pound Lane, Epsom. KT19 8SB  

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **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 £570,993 (2019: £521,709)). 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. During the year a new stores was constructed and this will also be added as an asset for the Group.

The overall assets include receipts for the Madagascar trip. Since the end of the financial year the trip has had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds will be refunded to the individual participants.

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.

### **Related Party Transaction**

During the financial year the Group employed the services of Phoenix Plumbing Ltd to project manage the construction of the new stores. The Director of Phoenix Plumbing Ltd is a uniformed member of the Group. The transaction was conducted on an arm's length basis and was on a commercial basis.

Approved by the trustees on the 7th October 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

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**Dr Kevin Mead – Chairman**

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**Anthony S Williams - Treasurer**

**Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020**

	2019/20			Total £	2018/19 £
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	New Stores		
	£	£	£		
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Annual Subscriptions	30,599			30,599	27,545
Income from Fundraising	14,671			14,671	70,489
Income from Camps & Activities	20,636	81,924		102,560	26,808
Minibus Hire	685			685	408
Group Clothing	486			486	0
Donations	10			10	
Grants & Donations	0		29,810	29,810	3,570
Interest Received	70			70	69
Section Income	764			764	0
Other Income	246			246	136
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>76,435</b>	<b>81,924</b>	<b>29,810</b>	<b>188,169</b>	<b>134,041</b>
<b>Outgoing Resources</b>					
Capitation Fees	9,349			9,349	9,635
Expenditure from Camps & Activities	17,555	58,872		76,427	24,796
HQ Rental, Insurance and Equipment Costs	7,203			7,203	11,008
Costs of Fundraising	526			526	43,204
Section Costs	5,467			5,467	4,863
Minibus Costs	8,875			8,875	5,833
Scout Shop	1,052			1,052	2,000
New Stores	0		92,255	92,255	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>50,027</b>	<b>58,872</b>	<b>92,255</b>	<b>201,154</b>	<b>101,339</b>
<b>Net Incoming/Outgoing resources before transfers</b>	<b>26,409</b>	<b>23,052</b>	<b>(62,445)</b>	<b>(12,984)</b>	<b>32,702</b>
<b>Opening Funds</b>				<b>156,810</b>	<b>124,108</b>
Net Incoming/Outgoing resources before transfers				(12,984)	32,702
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>				<b>143,826</b>	<b>156,810</b>

**Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

<b>7TH EPSOM (METHODIST)SCOUT GROUP</b>			
<b>Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020</b>			
<b>2019</b>		<b>2020</b>	
<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
350,000	Headquarters		350,000
0	New Stores		62,445
12,222	Minibus		9,722
<b>362,222</b>			<b>422,167</b>
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
144,340	Cash at Bank	117,692	
15,520	Debtors	95,644	
(2,873)	Creditors falling due within one year	(59,511)	
<b>156,987</b>	Net Current Assets		<b>153,825</b>
<b>519,209</b>	Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<b>575,992</b>
364,722	Restricted Income Funds		432,167
154,487	Unrestricted Income Funds		143,826
<b>519,209</b>			<b>575,993</b>



## **Group Scout Leader's Report**

The last scouting year for 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom was once again a full year of activities for all our Sections until it was brought to a premature halt in March as a result of COVID-19.

At year end, the Group remains at capacity and in some Sections over capacity. We have closed our waiting list temporarily, accepting only Beaver age and younger on the waiting list.

We have run the majority of our usual selection of camps this past year, with Spring Camp, Summer Camp and Water Weekend in 2019. However, the 2020 Easter Expedition was unable to take place due to lockdown. All camps have been well attended, with everyone having fun, which is why we do this.

As always, we are trying to recruit more leaders, and we'd welcome any interest from parents willing to join the leader team; this is even more important at the current time due to COVID and the restrictions that it brings. Additionally, we're looking for people who would be willing to train to become activity leaders for activities such as archery, shooting and climbing.

Unfortunately, the trip to Madagascar was cancelled due to COVID restrictions – a real disappointment for the Leaders and young people who had planned to go and had worked so hard to prepare for it.

Our long-term plan to build a new stores on site has been realised and all equipment previously held on third party sites is now in the store at our HQ.

**David Shickle**

**GSL 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom Scouts**

## **BEAVERS** Leaders' Report

Clearwater, Willowlake and Windfall colonies had another busy year. Demand for places continues and we have a significant waiting list. The leadership is unchanged across all colonies and we are supported by a number of Young Leaders.

All three colonies followed the same programme and we have enjoyed a couple of joint colony evenings and outings including a trip to the pantomime at Epsom Methodist Church.

We were out and about as much as possible, going on various hikes, town trails and den building on Headley Heath. Other highlights of the year include pancake making, a cycle and scooter evening, water games, science evening, a visit to The Millennium Green and also to the organic food shop, 'Fetch'em from the Cupboard' in Ashted, where we learnt about recycling. The Rev. Mark Wakelin and his wife, Judith, also visited us so we could find out about Advent.



The Beavers have worked towards various badges such as the Cyclist badge and Global Issues badge during the year and 12 Beavers earned their Chief Scout Bronze Award.

7<sup>th</sup> Epsom Beavers have also had a good turnout at District events including the Football Tournament, Cross Country Competition, Swimming Gala and the pirate themed 'Beaveree' in July.

We joined with the rest of 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom at Spring Bank Camp.

Yet again we have had fantastic support from the Beavers' parents and are very grateful for this.

Although we had to stop face to face meetings before the end of the Spring Term due to Coronavirus we continued with meetings "at home" and will continue this until we can meet "normally" again.

**Kathy Castledine, Clearwater Beaver Leader**

**Clare DiPlacito, Willowlake Beaver Leader**

**Ashleigh Gonsall, Windfalls Beaver Leader**

## **cubs Leaders' Report**

This year the Apache, Sioux and Cherokee packs have built on the proposition, started the previous year, of having a clear and consistent program across the three groups of young people. This led to us being able to offer a wider range of evenings and drawing on external guests to help deliver new and exciting activities for our Cubs to enjoy.

Our aim in the summer term was to support the Cubs outdoor skills, including map and compass work, team events, shelter building, shooting and of course backwoods cooking at Boidierhurst – in the pouring rain!!! We also wanted the Cubs to consider their wider impact on the environment. This involved them taking over the running of Epsom & Ewell Council and on top of their day-to-day tasks, they had to work on their resident's environmental impact through introducing extra recycling, green energy plans and traffic reduction. We were all blown away by their ideas and we have no doubt that they will all have a positive impact in the future.

Towards the end of term, we visited the Sri Raja Rajeswari Amman Hindu Temple in Stoneleigh where the Cubs had the opportunity to learn about this particular faith. Their questions and behaviour were something to be proud of.

Spring term was focused on completing some badges and getting our older Cubs towards achieving their Silver Chief Scout awards.

We were really lucky to get the cubs to experience authentic Chinese cooking as part of our Chinese New Year theme, as well as witnessing some fantastic dances with the Dragons which the Cubs made.

Science badges were flowing after a fantastic session organised by Harry Kirk's Mum. The Cubs really enjoyed the experiments and exploring new ideas.

Spring Term was cut short a week early due to lockdown.

**Leigh Hogarty, Apache Akela**

**Clare DiPlacito, Sioux Akela**

**Ashleigh Gonsall, Cherokee Akela**

## SCOUTS Maclean 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 Horton Country Park where they learnt camp skills and later offered a choice of activities during our 'Summer Activities'. These included kayaking, shooting, climbing and bowling.

The Group Spring camp was at Frylands Wood, Addington where the scouts were rewarded with some great weather over the 4 days and enjoyed activities with the beavers, cubs and explorers – as well as sleeping the last night in a bivouac! Summer camp was near Eastbourne where the sun shone all week. 19 Scouts enjoyed a great week including visits to the beach and lots of fun events.



The programme gives the scouts the opportunity to work toward their Chief Scout Gold Award. In the autumn term this included learning about amateur radio, phonetic alphabet and Morse Code. We were assisted by our very own



amateur radio club and the Scouts were able to talk to other Scouts on Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) weekend.



The spring term started with learning navigation techniques, building and racing chariots and preparing for camps. The highlight was, according to the patrols, the Chip Shop Challenge where they navigated between chip shops, sampled the chips and rated them!

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. Unfortunately, the year was cut short by the covid-19 pandemic and all face-to-face scouting was cancelled for the rest of the spring term. As I write this the Scout Association are starting to remove some of the restrictions and we are looking forward to getting back together later in 2020 when we can again offer another busy, safe and exciting year's scouting.

**Paul Carpenter, Scout Leader**



## **EXPLORERS Leader's Report**

Well, what a year this has been! Explorer numbers were static at 40 over the year and we, hopefully, gave them a great programme in 2019-2020. Included were well-loved sessions, such as the Chip Survey, night hikes and a film night with high-ticket evenings such as Ice Skating and Air Hop. We've tried some new and successful meetings: Sky Gazing with the Ewell Astronomy Club, a Ghost Walk with the curator of Bourne Hall and a fantastic TikTok night run by Louis – so entertaining and creative! We have also had more serious sessions looking at Global Issues, Making a Difference and Reusing & Recycling (although we combined this with helping at the Jumble sale to hilarious effect). Our rule is to try and balance activities from the traditional Scout programme with more general sessions, hoping to include fun alongside learning.

Explorers have taken part in District competitions with Isabelle Cantwell coming 3rd in the Cross Country, and Charlotte Roberts and James Goldsmith both winning their individual races in the Swimming Gala and coming 2nd in the relay. 8 Explorers also took part in the National Monopoly competition across London.

Camps this year included the Summer Camp in Bushy Wood in Eastbourne with Dav running the show, ably assisted by Tony Evans, Tom, me, and young leaders, Aaron and Alyssa. Thank you everyone for your efforts – it was great fun. Water Weekend took place at TYM and thank you to Tony Marshall, Greta Carpenter and the leadership team for this enjoyable camp that included sailing, kayaking, canoeing and paddleboarding as well as lots of eating al fresco.

The current leadership team of myself, Rich, Dav, Tom and Dafydd works very well and I would like to thank them for all their hard work this year – it's had its trials! Tony Evans has now moved to be nearer family and we will miss him and his organisational skills. Thank you so much Tony for everything you did for 7th Epsom.

It's been a year of challenges and we hope we have played a role in helping to further develop the young people.

**Phili Coley, Explorer Leader**