



7th Epsom (Methodist) Scout Group

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 – 2021

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 2021 saw a strong Scouting programme continue to be delivered despite the challenges of COVID-19. The first term established a means for delivering Scouting on-line and in the Autumn an outdoor programme was operated when possible before on-line activities once again were needed. All Leaders rose to the challenge of new ways of working and engaging the majority of the Young People in the Group. The Group remains in good overall health.

The individual sections have continued their rich offering of activities and badges despite the severe constraints.

Camps and competitions were sadly not an option and as previously noted, the summer 2020 Madagascar expedition was not able to take place.

The Group's finances remain on a sound basis despite our inability to fund-raise during the year. We reduced subscriptions but reduced costs where possible, for example by taking the minibuses off the road. We are hoping that in the coming year we will be able to operate Community Christmas Post again and support EMC should they run a Book Fair.

Group leadership has also spent some time in the last period looking at where we want the Group to be in five years from now; the 5-Year Plan is published on our website [here](#) and the associated Actions are on page 4.

As ever, all we achieved 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, etc and whom I thank. Many of our volunteers are well past the age where their children were in the Group and to sustain 7th Epsom henceforth, we are in need of support from current parents: if anybody would like to lend a hand in any way, please contact myself or David Shickle.

Kevin Mead

Chairman of the Group Executive

Our Year in Numbers



Our 5-Year Plan Actions

#	Description	Action	By when	Comment
1.	Secure Parent Reps for each Section, ensure role is understood and developed in line with need of Section.	Chair / Section Leaders	Sep21	Needed for: Windfall, Apache, Sioux and Explorers
2.	Secure Transport Manger(s) to run and maintain our vehicles.	Exec	Summer21	Could be split role
3.	Refurbish and add to our climbing wall	QM	Summer21	
4.	Continue Leader recruitment and ensure succession planning is sound. Ask all Section Leaders to identify successor.	All Section Leaders and GSL	Ongoing	
5.	Streamline Leader Training and Validation	GSL/AGSL,	Ongoing	
6.	Recruit/ Train instructors where we have few / none to ensure continuity of a widely varied programme.	All	Ongoing	For archery, shooting, sailing, etc.
7.	Attract more representative membership by better PR in relevant sections of the local community	Exec	Ongoing	
8.	Continue adult recruitment and ensure succession planning for all Group Executive and key Supporter positions.	Exec	Ongoing	

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 7 to 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 £542,165 (2020: £580,993). 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.

As a result of the Madagascar trip being cancelled the funds that were being held on the balance sheet were either refunded to the participants or donated to charities in Madagascar.

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 2019/20 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 6th October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Kevin Mead – Chairman

Anthony S Williams - Treasurer

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended March 31st 2021

	2020/21			Total	2019/20
	Unrestricted	Restricted	New		
	Funds	Funds	Stores		
£	£	£	£	£	
Incoming Resources					
Annual Subscriptions	16,640			16,640	30,599
Income from Fundraising	8			8	14,671
Income from Camps & Activities	317	42,401		42,718	102,560
Minibus Hire	336			336	685
Group Clothing	0			0	486
Donations	500			500	10
Gift Aid	5,022			5,022	8,272
Grants & Donations	0			0	29,810
Interest Received	13			13	70
Section Income	615			615	761
Other Income	0			0	246
Total Income	23,451	42,401	0	65,852	188,170
Outgoing Resources					
Capitation Fees and Subscription Refunds	9,196			9,196	9,349
Expenditure from Camps & Activities	2,922	81,704		84,626	76,427
HQ Rental, Insurance and Equipment Costs	3,435			3,435	6,740
Group Clothing	0			0	463
Costs of Fundraising	0			0	526
Section Costs	2,059			2,059	5,467
Minibus Costs	2,147			2,147	8,875
Scout Shop	1,000			1,000	1,052
New Stores	2,217			2,217	92,255
Total Expenditure	22,976	81,704	0	104,680	201,154
Net Incoming/Outgoing resources before transfers	475	(39,303)	0	(38,828)	(12,984)
Opening Funds				133,826	156,810
Net Incoming/Outgoing resources before transfers				(38,828)	(12,984)
Transfer to Restricted Funds				(10,000)	(10,000)
Total Funds Carried Forward				84,998	133,826

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021

2020		2021
£		£ £
	FIXED ASSETS	
350,000	Headquarters	350,000
62,445	New Stores	62,445
14,722	Minibus	14,722
427,167		427,166
	CURRENT ASSETS	
117,692	Cash at Bank	114,999
95,644	Debtors	-
(59,511)	Creditors falling due within one year	-
153,825	Net Current Assets	114,999
580,993	Total Assets less Current Liabilities	542,165
437,167	Restricted Income Funds	447,167
143,826	Unrestricted Income Funds	94,998
580,993		542,165

Group Scout Leader's Report

The last year was somewhat disrupted due to COVID-19, but the Group has worked hard to continue to deliver quality scouting for our young people.

Summer term activities were on-line, and where possible, in the autumn and winter terms (given government restrictions and safety considerations) we ran an outdoor programme reverting to on-line meetings where necessary. The leadership teams in all sections rose to the challenge allowing us to engage the majority of the young people in the Group.

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 to the waiting list.

Sadly, we were not able to run any camps during the last year and as previously noted, the Madagascar trip was cancelled although we were pleased to be able to contribute the funds we raised to the various charities we planned to work with. On the positive side, we are planning to a nearly full programme of camps for the coming year, COVID restrictions permitting.

As always, we are trying to recruit more leaders, and we'd welcome any interest from parents willing to join the leader team. Additionally, we're looking for people who would be willing to do the various training courses to become activity leaders for activities such as archery, shooting and climbing.

David Shickle

GSL, 7th Epsom Scouts



Leaders' Report

In what has been one of the strangest years, 7th Epsom Beaver Colonies continued to deliver activities for the Beavers throughout the whole year.

Emma Kirk and Hannah de Bourcier joined as leaders for Windfall whilst Ashleigh was concentrating on Cherokee Cubs.

In the summer term, as we could not meet, we set weekly activities online for the Beavers to take part in. In the Autumn term we held our meetings outside in Rosebery Park and even managed a night hike before the second lockdown. We then met via Zoom until the end of the Spring term which was very successful; we did cooking, held a science evening and did various crafts.

Despite the challenges faced, we have held virtual sleepovers, worked towards various badges, still enjoyed being outside and have even awarded some Bronze Chief Scout Awards.

We have also joined in the District Christmas Party where we were entertained by a magician as well as national events such as the Great Indoors Weekend and the Scout Association's Round The World Challenge where we raised £300 for Scouts in the UK who have been severely affected by Covid.

Our Young Leaders have been adaptable, enthusiastic and regularly saved the day on the IT front!

We are always grateful to our parents/carers for their support but this year even more so. Parental involvement and enthusiasm particularly when we were online was amazing.

The Beavers have still managed to have fun despite all the challenges and in true Scouting spirit have really tried their best.

Kathy Castledine, Clearwater Beaver Leader

Clare DiPlacito, Willowlake Beaver Leader

Hannah De Bourcier, Windfall Beaver Leader

cubs Leaders' Report

Following a disrupted year, it was brilliant to finally be able to meet, face to face, in outdoor locations when we resumed in September, for some of our Cubs it was the first time we had seen their legs!!

We continued to offer a consistent program across the 3 packs with great content to get us back on track with challenge and activity badges. We did, unfortunately, see lower numbers of young people return to the face-to-face meetings due to the ongoing virus and took the decision to split the packs to have a week 1 & week 2 rota and then a full pack zoom meeting in week 3. We were able to complete a hike, some backwoods cooking, improve our understanding of disability and how Scouting is conducted in other parts of the world. We also were able to bring in special guests for our zoom meetings to talk to the Cubs, with the Air Ambulance session going down particularly well. During the Autumn term we were able to continue to work on badges outside of the meetings and thanks to the support of the parents we still awarded the same number of badges as we did in Autumn 2019 and were really pleased to award several Chief Scout Awards over this period. We went into the Christmas break with an air of positivity about what we could do in the Spring Term.

Spring Term arrived and we were straight back into Zoom meetings. We were keen that we continue to offer a great program whilst understanding that the Cubs were back in home schooling and the impact that this was having on their well-being. As a team, and with input from some of the parents we developed a program which would focus on things that the Cubs wouldn't be reviewing in school. This also meant looking at badges, such as Astronomy, which we hadn't had in any program to date. We had great fun, tackling a few subjects inc Air Activity 1&2, gardening, problem solving and a live cooking event which was fantastic. We also encouraged our Cubs to think of others and helped them to understand the role care homes had in our communities and asked them to think about some of the impacts the pandemic was having on those people who lived in them and their families. We were all really impressed with the mature and empathetic way the Cubs entered discussions. Outside of the packs we encouraged the cubs to take part in the various fund-raising programs the Scout Association ran to support Groups less fortunate than ours.

At last, the Summer Term arrived and once again we were back to outdoor face to face meetings, wow, we certainly needed to all let off steam at that point. Again,

our program was designed to get the brain and body going and help us achieve some well-deserved badges in the process. Despite the weather doing its best to interfere, all 3 packs were able to meet most weeks. We introduced the Cubs to the “what 3 words” app by directing them to different chip shops in Epsom, conducted a night hike around the Centenary Woods, got inspired for the Olympics by completing the Athletics badge & Water Olympics and built dens and rafts to really get them working as a team.

Throughout the year we all were so humbled and impressed by the resilience of the Cubs and the enduring sense of fun they brought to both physical and virtual meetings.

Leigh Hogarty, Apache Akela

Clare DiPlacito, Sioux Akela

Ashleigh Gonsall, Cherokee Akela

SCOUTS Maclean Leader's Report

Wow!! What a year it's been – nothing like we expected it to be.

As we started the year, we went into the first lockdown and were prevented from meeting face-to-face. We had to cancel a few of the early meetings however by the end of April we were up and running virtual meetings with the troop. We aimed to provide a programme that was fun and accessible to all as well as containing elements of scouting.

During summer we ran a complete term of virtual meetings via Zoom and completed some badge work – towards the International and Creative badges. We even ran a virtual Spring Camp over several days where the scouts could dip in and out of a number of online activities and challenges. 28 scouts 'attended' during the weekend and had a great time chatting and completing the challenges.



As we moved into the autumn term we were permitted to meet face-to-face again and the patrols enjoyed a few weeks together on wide games, hiking, backwoods cooking and climbing. Unfortunately, by the end of October we were back into lockdown and we moved the programme back online continuing to offer as balanced and fun programme. This continued until throughout the spring term as well.

2020/2021 was a great challenge to the whole leader team but due to the time spent planning and adapting our usual scouting programme we managed to keep the scouts engaged, entertained and interested in scouting. We are immensely grateful for the many messages of support and encouragement from parents during the year.

The leader team are very aware of the effect on the scouts of losing the face-to-face contact not only during scouting but during their school lives as well. We provided the opportunity of social interaction where they could swap good news stories, share experiences and ideas and where they could maintain relationships with their scouting friends. We are grateful for the opportunity to be able to provide some degree of normality over these 12 months and look forward to a better 2021/22.

Paul Carpenter, Scout Leader

EXPLORERS **Leader's Report**

A year of two halves!

This year the Explorer section had between 30 and 40 members and we start this year ahead with 31 14-18 year olds. Last year we managed to run a full, and hopefully, reasonably exciting programme – it has certainly been varied. The year started face-to-face in September 2020 with the Scout Association deciding on an Amber alert level for meetings, allowing us to meet outside in smaller groups. So, we managed to run a successful chip survey (always a favourite), DIY crazy golf, backwoods cooking and a hike. But we quickly went back to Red and returned to Zoom for the second half of term. This brought about a big change in the Explorers – they completely embraced the online sessions with one parent thanking us as her son was at his most animated during these meetings – clearly enjoying the fun! We ran a Murder Mystery evening and raised £87.50 for Macmillan and the acting skills were fabulous, darling. Dav's paint night was a highlight with lots of creative energy, a cooking night was super tasty, and we finished the term off with an online party. Christmas jumpers abound!

Spring term remained online and we discussed advertising and how it has changed over the years – introducing the Explorers to the R White's and Tango ads. Mini camping again got creative minds buzzing and many amazing models were made. Attendance numbers remained high.

Summer term got the Amber light and we were face-to-face once more. We made the most of the outdoors with hikes, litter picking, pioneering, climbing, and a special highlight was the Round the Borough cycle ride. We finished the term and year off with a few goodbyes and a fantastic evening picnic and games in Oxshott Woods.

Sadly, Summer Camp was cancelled for us this year as we had to decide on its viability before the release of lockdown. Luckily, however, Water Weekend went ahead in September and, at the time of writing, many of the Explorers were looking forward to this camp. Hopefully, next year will bring many more opportunities for adventures.

The leadership team has grown with the addition of Aaron and his help has been invaluable. All the leaders: Rich, Dav, Dafydd and Tom, have worked extremely hard during this challenging year, dealing with sudden alterations to the programme to bring it in line with the Government's and Scout Association's fluctuating Covid rules, the trials of Zoom meetings and the many risk assessments that have been

required. Thanks so much for all your hard work – I couldn't do this, and we wouldn't have Explorers, without such a great team!

We were proud to see Alex Connor being presented with a Commissioners Commendation this year for all his hard work in helping the other sections during the initial lockdown. Well done Alex! A multi-media guru in the making!

We've said goodbye to a big group of the older Explorers as well this year as they left to concentrate on their studies. We wish them well on the next stage of their lives and we welcome the new, younger Explorers into the group. We have an exciting programme to deliver this Autumn term and, hopefully, we can steer clear of Zoom for the foreseeable future.

Phili Coley, Explorer Leader