

2nd Sight

AGM Special

Summer 2024

Welcome...

GSL Group Lead Volunteer report 2024

I would like to start by saying thank you to our unsung heroes. These are all of the section volunteers, all of the volunteers that are in the trustee board and Phil our QM. I must also thank you the members and parents/guardians for your help and enthusiasm over the last year.

This year has been a year of growth. We have opened a second Scout Troop, The Bisons on Wednesday night. Our membership numbers have also grown. Since the census in January 2nd Orpington has continued to grow in numbers.

We currently have 150 members, and this is down to the excellent work from our section volunteers and the fantastic reputation that 2nd Orpington has within the area. In fact, we receive many requests to join through the Scout Association website however we just don't have space. If we had more volunteers, then we could offer spaces.

It is great to see the opportunities that our members have from various camps to District events and a week on a narrow boat. Let's not forget the group trips where we visited Dover Castle and next week Duxford.

Following Duxford our Scouts and Explorers are going to the Essex Jamboree where they kindly offered to host some Scouts from Taiwan.

As a group we have worked hard on lead volunteer training this year too with lead volunteers completing their training and earning their Wood Beads, Narrow Boat permit and nights away permits. It's not only our young members that learn Skills for Life

You will have seen some of the photos of the year playing on the screen in the hall.

For all of the life skills and memories that 2nd Orpington gives to our young members we are still exposed.

We have 2 Beaver Colonies which both have a need for another volunteer. Bisons Scouts also require 2 volunteers as does our Explorer unit. The problem is we simply don't have enough volunteers.

If you can volunteer only a couple of times a term or think you can offer more then please speak to our child's lead volunteers. We can offer some free training; dare I say uniform and lots of fun.

We have a Quartermaster's store, which Phil Wheeler has been dedicated to run for over 40 years. Phil also requires a volunteer or two so they can start learning about what the QM's does.

Volunteering can be so rewarding and looks good on your CV.

We have given out Awards to the following members in the past year.

Adult volunteers

Becca Brooklyn – Leader /Volunteer Training Wood Beads

George Hudson – Leader/Volunteer Training Wood Beads

Damian Hudson – Leader/Volunteer Training

Nicki Greene - Leader/Volunteer Training

Nathan Pearce – Award for Merit

James Polson – Award for Merit



Adrain Clarke – 20 years as a leader/Volunteer

Jason Price – 15 years as a leader/Volunteer

Nathan Pearce – 15 years as a leader/Volunteer

Mark Hudson – 15 years as a leader/Volunteer

Karen Smurthwaite – 15 years a leader/Volunteer and then Trustee member



George Hudson – Nights Away Permit

Martin Howell – Nights Away Permit



Damian Hudson – Narrow Boat Permit



Young People

Chief Scout Bronze Award

Ollie Miller



Chief Scout Silver Award

Tabetha Collins

Samuel McCann

Haydn Kenny

Roslyn Bowen

Alex Miller

Heyls Peter

Alexandru Dinu

Charlotte Buckridan

Madison Stevens

Freddie Joyce



Chief Scout Gold award

Connor Richardson

Emily Whitney

Anna Ming

Bethan Bowen

Freddie Rolt

Sophie Keen



Mark Hudson GLV

Section Reports

Disney Beavers

Disney Beavers is a diverse and vibrant group of active young members. It currently consists of 14 children: 12 boys and 2 girls, one lead volunteer, one volunteer team member. The group has been full during the whole year (15 members, max), despite two losses-one girl dropped off to other commitments, and another boy was transferred to 7th Orpington. A couple of members moved to Cubs during the year with one more moving this term as well. There are two more members moving to Cubs in the next term.

The group was busy with various activities this year to earn 108 badges, as of 2 June.

The last summer term is packed with various activities outside to maximise use of good weather, including kite running, walks, games outside, iSpy nature edition.

All activities have been carefully selected using Programme / Activities section on OSM, which the team members find very helpful.

The group has also participated in St George's day activities at Frylands recently and will go on a trip to Duxford together with 2nd Orpington on 6th July.

Kiwi Beavers

Over this past year we have awarded a total of 168 badges of which 1 has been the Bronze award.

We enjoyed another night away under canvas where 8 Kiwi & Disney Beavers joined Panthers & Wolves for their Summer Camp last September. We have another 5 beavers attending this

We have learnt about Emergency Aid, how to make a sandwich. We have had a few joint nights with Disney Beavers - learning about science, Indoor Archery and planting flowers.

We also had some guests visit, one guest taught us about Yoga and how to look after our bodies and the other guests taught us about music and to play some pieces of music with an Ocarina.

Sophie Keen (Swift) has joined the team members team as a young team member this Term and has been an instant hit with the Beaver's.

I would also like to thank Damian (Flash) for his continued support over the last year.

Wolves Cubs

Over the past year we have handed out an estimated 300 badges across the whole range of activities and have awarded 5 Chief Scout Silver awards.

We have maintained a healthy number of cubs, averaging at 25 children, with a nice mixture of boys and girls.

We have had many evenings away from the hut including rifle shooting, backwoods cooking, orienteering, church visit and many wide games.

The wolves and the panthers shared another successful cub camp in September and were joined by beavers and explorers.

The wolves are blessed to have a great volunteering team, and I would personally like to thank James, Adrian, Tuna and our young team members Anna and Briana for their input and support in running the section.

Panthers Cubs

We have grown not only in young members but also as a volunteer team. We have 25 Cubs, 1 of which are due to go into Scouts in September.

Again, we had a Summer Camp in September with the Wolves and Beavers. We have covered various badge work during the last year and have issued 230 badges of which 5 are the Chief Scout Silver Award.

We been air rifle shooting, tunnelling, made a movie poster with the Cub being the main star.

We have had a Diwali night and been climbing at Frylands and Cubs have participated in yoga and also learned how to iron their scarf.

Panthers also give thanks to all the volunteers, Nathan (Squidgy), Chris (Dory), Chris (Crunchy) and Vic (Muttley) and the parents for their support especially when they have run a night for us.

Bears Scouts

The Bears currently have 24 Scouts on the register. Out of the 24, we have 6 Scouts who will be starting their link with the Scorpions ready to move up in the new year.

We are looking forward to participating in an international weeklong camp this summer. The scouts will be attending the Essex Jamboree from July 27th-August 3rd. We have had a huge success with numbers and have a total of 18 scouts attending and four volunteer team members

We have had the amazing opportunity to host an international group so we will be hosting scouts from Taiwan during Essex Jamboree. This will be an amazing opportunity for the scouts attending as they will be able to gain an insight into scouting in different countries.

The scouts have completed some amazing work over the past year and in total been awarded 231 badges. This included 6 Chief Scout's Gold badge which is the highest badge for Scouts.

Our programme is aimed to allow the scouts to have fun and fulfilling experience in a safe and controlled environment. We are very keen to hear what they would like to do in the upcoming terms. We are working exceptionally hard to ensure all scouts leave Bears with their Chief Scout's Gold badge.

Bisons Scouts

Bisons was opened as a 2nd scout section in February 2024 and has grown taking young people from the waiting list, cubs and word of mouth from others that have joined. The section is made up of:

17 male, 4 female (with 1 more female starting in September) with a mixture of religions, ethnicities and disabilities. It is a young section with most under the age of 12

Team members – we have 2 regular parent helpers; both will be applying as volunteer team members shortly and 1 cub volunteer member who provides support where needed and 1 additional parent helper.

Since starting in February, we have had Reptile Night with the Bears, St Georges Day district event, Volunteered at High Elms 10k manning a water station, Joint night with the Wolves (mini pioneering), Orienteering Bearings at Priory Gardens, Backwoods cooking at Wilberforce and a night hike with the Cubs in July

We are also attending the group trip next week to Duxford and 2 Bisons attending the Essex Jamboree. We are going Narrow boating in August, Scuba Diving Discovery session in September and have a weekend camp booked in October at Cudham Shaws.

Since February, we have issued 6 challenge badges (based on activities in Bears for 3 of the scouts that transferred), 30 activity badges and 3 staged badges.

Focus for the remainder of the term is final activities for Orienteering and Athletics badges.

Scorpions Explorers

We have 12 Explorers with an even split of Boys and girls

Scorpions had a joint canal boat trip, over 2 weeks with one of the weeks the Scouts came along.

Over the last year we have been working hard to get Explorers through the Platinum Chief Scout Award. We are nearly at the stage of awarding them the badges, but we are waiting for the Explorers to give details of the Duke of Edinburgh awards

The Scorpions have just completed a weekend camp where George and I was assessed for our Nights Away Permit

At the end of July into August we are going to the Essex Jamboree with the Scouts, and we are looking to go on another Canal Boat for the week later in the year.

Chairs Report

This year has seen many changes, including the full implementation of the changeover to Trustee Board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the board for their commitment and time. 2nd Orpington relies upon the generous support of all its volunteers.

Without the time and effort of these individuals we would not have seen some of the exciting activities, such as Narrowboat trips, Scouts of steel or the upcoming Jamboree. Although our board and team members has grown this year, there is always room for more people. This will help us to sustain the group as a whole and continue our efforts towards recruitment of new members. It would be fantastic to have parents from each section on the board helping us make the decisions that make a difference to the facilities and upkeep of the hut etc.

I am optimistic about the future of 2nd Orpington as our numbers keep rising and our Volunteers keep improving the range of activities for the children

John Whitney

Treasurers Report

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements
for the year ending 31st March 2024

For

2nd Orpington Scout Group

And

Orpington Scorpion Explorer Scout Unit

2nd Orpington Scout Group Orpington Scorpion Explorer Scout Unit

Trustees Report 2023-2024

Contents

Introduction.....	11
Reference and Administration details	12
Structure, Governance and Management	12
Objectives and Activities	13
Achievements and Performance.....	14
Financial Review	15
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	15
Financial Statements	17
Notes to the Financial Statements	18
Approval	18
Independent examiner's report	19

Introduction

2nd Orpington Scout Group (“the Group”) is a Scout Group registered by the Scout Association Number 19073. The Group is not a registered charity, but in common with many Scout and Guide Groups is defined as an excepted charity by the Charity Commission. The Orpington Scorpion Explorer Scout Unit (“the Unit”) is part of Bromley District Scout Council. The Group and the Unit have entered into a partnership agreement for the provision of equipment, facilities and resources and the maintenance of links between the Group and the Unit. Within this agreement the Group provides some accounting and other administrative services to the Unit, although the Unit’s funds are kept distinct from those of the Group. The Group Trustee Board also acts as the management committee for the Unit.

As an excepted charity, members of the Group Trustee Board act as Charity Trustees for the Group as an educational charity. The Trustees have determined that in order to provide an appropriate level of clarity, they should report on both the activities of the Group and the Unit, and that the financial statements should include separately both Group and Unit funds.

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Group and the Unit for the year ending 31st March 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting & Audit Requirements for Group, Districts, Counties/Areas & Scottish Regions published by the Scout Association.

Reference and Administration details

Trustees

John Whitney	Group Chair
Alison Kavanagh	Group Secretary
Tim Birse	Group Treasurer
Mark Hudson	Group Lead Volunteer and Cub Section Lead (Panthers)
Martin Howell	Explorer Section Lead
Rebecca Brooklyn	Scout Section Lead (Bears)
Nicola Greene	Scout Section Lead (Bisons)
Jason Price	Cub Section Lead (Wolves)
Tara Mendez	Beaver Section Lead (Kiwi)
Olga Igolnikova	Beaver Section Lead (Disney)

Operational Address

Shaw Hall
50A Court Road
Orpington
BR6 0QA

Correspondence Address

c/o Mark Hudson
53 Quilter Road
Orpington
BR5 4PD

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
PO Box 1000
BX1 1LT

Independent Examiner

Sarah Wakefield
28 Woodlands Road
Orpington
BR6 6EB

Structure, Governance and Management

Governance

The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association ("POR").

The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board. The structure and methods of appointment of members for the Board is set out in POR. As an excepted charity, members of the Group Trustee Board act as Charity Trustees for the Group as an educational charity. As charity trustees Board members are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities, including the requirement to keep proper accounts.

Members of the Trustee Board complete 'Being a Scouts Trustee' learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

The Group Trustee Board exists to ensure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

Risk Management

The Group Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group and the Unit are exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

- Damage to equipment. The Group has insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss. The group has the benefit of a quartermaster who oversees maintains our equipment to a high standard.
- Injury to Volunteers, helpers, supporters and members. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities. Members are insured by the Scouts national personal accident insurance, and Volunteers are covered by indemnity insurance.
- Reduced income from fund raising. When operating its full programme, the Group relies on income from subscriptions and fund-raising. The absence of significant fund-raising income events means that subscriptions have to be raised to increase the income to the group.
- Shortage of Trustee Board members. The function of the Trustee Board is to support the team leads in running attractive activities for young people, and to relieve them of administrative tasks. Without this support, the increased pressure on Volunteers could lead them to decide that they no longer wish to continue to volunteer, resulting in the following risk materialising.
- Reduction or loss of Volunteers. The Group and the Unit are reliant on volunteers to run and administer the activities of the group. If there was a reduction in the number of Volunteers to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section or, in the worst-case scenario, the closure of the Group.
- Reduction or loss of members. The Group and the Unit provide activities for young people aged 6 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section or, in the worst-case scenario the closure of the Group. The loss of one age-group is likely to knock on into older sections as the natural source of recruits dries up.

Objectives and Activities

The Purpose of Scouting

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Values of Scouting

Scouts are guided by these values:

- Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.
- Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

Weekly meetings, camps and other activities for Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Explorer Scouts are planned to follow the Scout Method and the Values of Scouting.

The Group and the Unit meet the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Achievements and Performance

Youth membership numbers reported in the Scouts' national census at 31st January 2024 were 109 in the Group, and 14 in the Unit, compared to 114 and 10 respectively in the previous year, an overall reduction of just one. The membership figures mask a drop in membership between the census dates which was entirely due to the availability of adult leadership. With sufficient adult support there is no limit to the number of young people the Scouts can attract. The range of activities and the quality of leadership Scouts provide will bring in young people. With so much activity for young people moving indoors and on-line, it is clear that what young people really want is a return to the exciting, predominantly outdoor activities that Scouting can provide.

When we wrote this report last year we had planned a run-down of Beaver Scout numbers as it was looking likely that one of our two colonies would close for lack of leadership. Fortunately, after Easter 2023 potential new Volunteers came forward so the closure of a section became unnecessary.

Further up the age range, the Scout section was flourishing largely because of the good rapport between the youthful leadership team and the young people. They are planning to take a large contingent to the Essex International Jamboree in summer 2024, which will be a great international experience for all who are able to attend. Success brought its problems and with a full Scout Troop we were holding back Cub Scouts from moving up and not accepting others who wanted to join. We were delighted when Nicki Greene, a parent of a scout, who had been helping as a Volunteer offered to re-open our second Scout Troop, the Bisons.

Although we now have a full complement of sections and the hall is in use every evening, our continued success hangs but the thread of thinly spread leadership. While each section has a Lead Volunteer, only the Cubs have support in depth. Much as we would like to have succession plans, we have few volunteers to put on them.

For both the Group and the Unit, outdoor Scouting activities have been predominant throughout the year. The Cubs and Scouts, with Explorers helping out have been to various camps, and the

Beaver Scouts joined in the annual Cub Camp for one night. Both Scouts and Explorers have experienced the pleasure of cruising on the Bromley Youth Trust narrowboat "Rosanne".

We also still have weaknesses in numbers on our Group Trustee Board. This also involves volunteering to support the Group, but the involvement is less than helping with a section. It is most valuable in taking pressure off the volunteers who do work with young people, and giving them more time to perform that role.

Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The Group's policy is to maintain unrestricted general funds which cover at least six months unrestricted expenditure to ensure that the Group can fulfil its operational and management obligations. This figure excludes expenditure on activities that are directly financed by fees charged to participants. Reserves at 31st March 2024 were in excess of amounts required by the reserves policy for reasons discussed below.

Review of Transactions

The accounts on page 6 show the effect of continuing to grow our operations and our membership numbers. Events, meeting costs and badges all show the effect of a full activity programme. The turnover on events and activities more than doubled from the prior year, showing the range of activities we offer and that they are enthusiastically taken up by the young people.

We maintained subscriptions at £10 per month throughout the year, but it is likely that we will need an increase in September 2024 – the first since January 2023, despite the high rates of inflation. Our ability to maintain subscriptions has resulted from our increased membership numbers which has increased our income while at the same time the cost of running the scout headquarters and maintaining the grounds is largely independent of the numbers of young people in the group. We have also benefited from the increased number of families signed up to Gift Aid. This source of free money from the government only requires you to tick a box and enter your address on OSM.

We received a total of £32,000 Covid support grants during the pandemic, which has taken our reserves above our reserves policy. This is a welcome windfall. The Group Trustee Board has decided that these funds should be used for capital projects and not on routine expenditure.

Group funds made a surplus of £2,810 and the Explorer Scouts a surplus of £263 during the year – a satisfactory balanced result.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the members of the Group Trustee Board, acting as Charity Trustees, to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Financial Statements

Receipts and Payments account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2024 (2023)

	2nd Orpington £	Explorer Scouts £	Total 2024 £	2nd Orpington £	Explorer Scouts £	Total 2023 £
<u>Receipts</u>						
Subscriptions	12,298	230	12,528	10,839	552	11,391
Gift Aid tax relief	3,382	0	3,382	1,949	0	1,949
Grants and Donations	1,530	0	1,530	2,853	0	2,853
Events and activities	12,079	3,127	15,206	5,401	1,262	6,663
Hall lettings	5,610	0	5,610	4,530	0	4,530
Fund Raising	495	0	495	840	0	840
Equipment hire and sale	110	0	110	141	0	141
Interest and dividends	491	0	491	77	0	77
Total Receipts	35,995	3,357	39,352	26,630	1,814	28,444
<u>Payments</u>						
Membership fees paid on	5,449	0	5,449	5,220	0	5,220
Equipment purchased	262	0	262	5,588	29	5,617
Equipment maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Insurance	1,968	0	1,968	1,739	0	1,739
Fund raising costs	228	0	228	117	0	117
Charitable donations	0	0	0	103	0	103
Events and activities	11,923	2,885	14,808	5,607	1,455	7,062
Meeting costs	3,952	178	4,130	3,000	102	3,102
Badges and uniform	1,908	31	1,939	1,452	27	1,479
Administration expenses	249	0	249	88	15	103
Rates	114	0	114	251	0	251
Utilities	3,217	0	3,217	2,048	0	2,048
Hall & grounds maintenance	3,915	0	3,915	1,908	0	1,908
Total payments	33,185	3,094	36,279	27,121	1,628	28,749
Net Operating Income	2,810	263	3,073	-491	186	-305
Fund brought forward	53,534	8,213	61,747	54,025	8,027	62,052
Cash Funds at 31 March	56,344	8,476	64,820	53,534	8,213	61,747
<u>Represented by:</u>						
No.1 current account	4,028	0	4,028	12,434	0	12,434
Section/No. 2 Current accounts	1,077	8,476	9,553	352	8,174	8,526
Deposit account	51,222	0	51,222	40,731	0	40,731
Cash balances	17	0	17	17	39	56
	56,344	8,476	64,820	53,534	8,213	61,747

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Convention

The Financial Statement has been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the 2017 SORP.

2. Income and Expenditure

The financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis. All incoming resources and resources expended are included in the financial statements when funds are received or when payments are set up and approved for authorisation.

3. Land and Property

The land on which the Group's headquarters is built is held by the Scout Association Trust Corporation behalf of Bromley District Scout Council. The headquarters building is the Group's property but is not considered to have any value for the purpose of these accounts. Camping and other equipment is written off at the time of purchase.

4. Subscriptions

The Group collects subscriptions which include amounts passed on to national headquarters, Bromley District and Greater London South-East County. These amounts are shown as an expense. Under the partnership agreement between the Unit and the Group, explorer scouts' subscriptions are passed directly to the Group, after deduction of a termly allowance of £10 per member. The Group pays membership fees for explorer scouts to the District, and claims and retains Gift Aid tax relief on explorer subscriptions.

5. Taxation and Business Rates

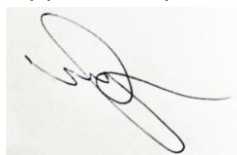
The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities. The Group pays business rates on its premises but is entitled to 80% mandatory charity relief.

6. Fund Accounting

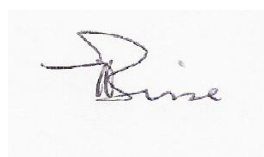
All the Group and the Unit funds are unrestricted.

Approval

Approved by the Group Trustee Board and signed on its behalf by:



Mark Hudson
Group Lead Volunteer
14th June 2024



Tim Birse
Trustee

Independent examiner's report

I report on the financial statements of the 2nd Orpington Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 6 and 7, in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the Group's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Sarah L Wakefield
28 Woodlands Road
Orpington
BR6 6EB

22nd June 2024