



1st/16th Scout Group  
Annual General Meeting 7:30 pm 15th September 2020

## Annual Report 2019 to 2020

### Introduction

*“Every bad situation is a blues song waiting to happen.”*

*Amy Winehouse*

I usually try to start any meeting of the Scout Executive Committee with a quote about Scouting from someone like the Chief Scout, Bear Grylls or our founder Lord Baden-Powell. But looking back at how the whole of society has been shaken by the COVID 19 pandemic I think this quote from the late Amy Winehouse is appropriate for this report.

Quoting BP -

“A Scout is Cheerful. A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy”.

You will read in this report how our section leaders have strived to maintain our members cheerfulness and enthusiasm in Scouting. I believe our leaders have done excellent work in maintaining our members wellbeing. I do not think we will get many of our members composing ‘Blues’ songs but I am expecting that when we return to normal we can expect to hear some really, really good campfire songs because of this extraordinary year.



# Group Executive Report

The troop is a registered Charity (Charity no. 303842). As such we have a board of trustees

John Banbury Perkins  
Peter James Randall  
Jeff Richards (Chair)  
Andrew William  
John Low  
Ann Low  
Robert William Low  
Sarah Jane King  
Chloe King  
Hanna Louise Randall

These are the people that make up the Executive Committee (ExCo) and are the people who share ultimate responsibility for governing the 1st/16th Scout Group and directing how it is managed and run.

We have together 3 main duties which are defined in law

- Act in the Scout Group's best interests,
- Manage the Scout Group's resources responsibly
- Act with reasonable care and skill

At the start of this year we have changed to our regular meeting agenda to ask for any declarations of interest and we have all worked hard in making sure that the group finances are controlled appropriately.

The group executive has met twice this year before lockdown. 17th October 2019 & 19th February 2020. Another year has passed without a note taker/secretary for meetings!

I hope that you have seen the new website <https://1st16thsuttonscouts.org.uk/> The website carries news of group activities including videos that we created to publicise the work of the group during the pandemic. The videos can also be seen directly on the group YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3sA7lfmQ83FxivSg-5x-qw>

I am especially pleased that Community Action Sutton highlighted the work of the group during Small Charity Week:

<https://www.suttoncvs.org.uk/news-events/small-charity-week/small-charity-week-2020/>

Jeff Richards (Chair)



# Group Treasurer's Report

## 1st/16th Sutton Scout Group

### Income and expenditure statement

1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019

<b>Income</b>	<b>2019</b>		<b>2018</b>	
	£	£	£	
Subscriptions Beavers	1,089.00		975.00	
Subscriptions Cubs	1,260.00		1,745.00	
Subscriptions Scouts	50.00		0.00	
Gift Aid	822.14		815.59	
Activities	0.00		91.50	
Camp and Activities	0.00		0.00	
Family Camp 2018	0.00		705.00	
CubJam 2019 (Bursary Income)	300.00		0.00	
Badges & Uniform	0.00		0.00	
COIF Transfer	10,000.00		5,000.00	
		13,221.14	9,332.09	
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Rent	5,144.88		4,842.24	
Jamboree 2019	400.00		750.00	
Water	0.00		0.00	
Insurance	369.58		363.93	
Training	80.00		60.00	
Admin Expenses	38.50		38.50	
Journal Transfer	0.00		0.00	
Equipment	277.14		317.54	
Activities	0.00		0.00	
Camp and Activities	0.00		0.00	
CubJam 2019	0.00		600.00	
BBQ & Raffle	0.00		0.00	
Family Camp 2018	0.00		1,597.63	
Scout Shop	61.50		800.00	
Website	27.57		0.00	
Computer Software	75.83		72.00	
Annual Subscriptions	1,650.00		1,349.00	
		8,125.00	10,790.84	
<b>Operating Surplus/Deficit for year</b>		5,096.14	(1,458.75)	
<b>Financed by:</b>	B/fwd	Movement	C/fwd	
General Purpose Fund	2,369.39	5,096.14	7,465.53	
Bursary Fund	200.00	300.00	500.00	
COIF Deposit Account	31,662.63	(6,198.19)	25,464.44	
COIF Investment Fund	102,709.16	18,093.26	120,802.42	
	136,941.18	17,291.21	154,232.39	
<b>Section Accounts</b>				
Scout Shop	276.96	(123.50)	153.46	
Beaver Section	2,900.61	760.70	3,661.31	
Cub Section	3,048.43	172.38	3,220.81	
Scout Section	693.35	177.30	870.65	
	6,919.35	986.88	7,906.23	

Peter Randall (Treasurer)

*Trustees: John Banbury Perkins, Peter James Randall, Jeff Richards (Chair), Andrew William John Low, Ann Low, Robert William Low, Sarah Jane King, Chloe King, Hanna Louise Randall*

## Beaver Section Report & Beaver of the Year

We had a busy six months with the colony doing a number of activities resulting in the Beavers earning various badges before we had to stop in March. The Colony has stayed static in number throughout the year.

At the beginning of the year we did part of the Teamwork Challenge with a problem-solving activity which involved the Beavers making floating boats out of junk. The Beavers then had a sleepover at the Hall in October. Following that, we did the Navigator Activity Badge before Christmas. We started the year by doing the Air Activities Badge and making different styles of paper planes to see which flew the furthest. We also made a bird feeder for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. For Mother's Day we made bath bombs with Squirrel's help. Eight of our Beavers went on the District outing to Kew Gardens in March.

Since March and the lockdown, the Colony have still been able meet up and see each other by having Zoom meetings once a week for half an hour. Although different from the regular meetings, they still did lots of varied activities including scavenger hunts and a pirate themed escape room. They have been doing badges at home and have completed 13 Activity badges and 21 Challenge badges between them during this period.

In addition to the meetings, the Beavers also renewed their promise online, took part in the 'Walk to the Moon' Challenge and joined in the 'Clap for the NHS'



A number of Beavers and their families enjoyed the Virtual Sleepover in April and The Great Indoor Weekender in July. They all joined in with various activities and sent many pictures to the leaders throughout the day.



Eight Beavers have completed their Bronze Awards this year with four completing during the closure.

We have had some lovely feedback from parents thanking us for keeping the Beaver meetings going during this period of uncertainty:

- “Thank you all so much. It really has helped keeping the kids sane over these last few crazy months. You are all stars”
- “Thank you so much for all your hardwork. My son has enjoyed belonging and identifying with beavers during these difficult times. We can’t wait to see you in September”
- “Thank you so much for your support and enthusiasm. We don’t have words to explain our gratitude”
- “Massive thank you to you, Otter and Hedgehog for your continuous support and for arranging amazing themes/challenges for us all”

I would like to thank all the parents who have supported the leaders and supported their young person with the activities and all the kind messages that have been given to the leaders. I would like to thank Badger, Woodpecker, Squirrel, Raven and Ratty for all their support and help. I also want to thank my young leaders Robin and Hedgehog for coming each week to help.

This year the Beaver of the Year is being awarded to two Beavers. One of them has grown in confidence in the last year and became a young person who tried their hardest in all the activities and badges. The other one has really grown in confidence and become less shy and has had to work extremely hard to get the Bronze Award.

Both are always enthusiastic and fully participate in the evenings.

The Beaver of the Year award goes to Ophelia Bourne and Nitheish Prabakaran.

## Otter (AL)



## Cub Section Report and Cub of the Year Award

Throughout the year the number in the pack have been static even though quite a few Cubs left to go onto to Scouts however there has been a steady flow coming up from Beavers along with a number of new Cubs joining the pack.

We have done a number of different activities throughout the year which have resulted in the Cubs earning various parts of badges. We have been working towards the Challenge Badges and have set several Cubs their own challenges for the Personal Challenge Badge.

We started the Autumn term doing the Navigator Activities stage 2 badge and used their skills at the Autumn camp which was held at Frylands Wood Scout Activity Centre. They also completed the Local Knowledge Activity badge before Christmas. In December we had the annual Christmas party with the Beavers, as usual playing lots of games involving balloons. After Christmas, the Pack worked on the Cook Activity Badge and everyone who came along one evening cooked one of four different stir fry recipes. For Mother's Day, the Cubs had great fun making bath bombs.

5 Cubs took part in the annual Wobstacle event in February, this is a water event organised by 2nd Malden Cub Pack. This was a race against other Packs from Kingston District over an inflatable obstacle course and paddling with a ball the length of the pool. Although we only had a small team, the Cubs did extremely well and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

Since March and the lockdown, the Pack have been having Zoom meetings once a week for half an hour. They have done a number of different activities during these meetings including PowerPoint quizzes, two escape room challenges including a Harry Potter themed one, a Star Wars themed meeting and scavenger hunts. They all seemed to have great fun and most of the Pack were able to join the meetings, barring connection problems, which meant that they were quite large Zoom meetings. They have also been doing badges at home and as a result have completed 15 Activity badges and 1 Challenge badge between them.

Nearly all the Cubs took part in the Virtual Sleepover in April and The Great Indoor Weekender in July, nearly all joined in with various activities and sent many pictures to the leaders throughout the day. They also took part in the 'Walk to the Moon' event, the online Promise Renewal and 'Clap for the NHS'.



As you can see from the pictures, food plays a large part in Cub outdoor activities.



In addition, Bagheera set weekly challenges and it has been great fun watching the videos and seeing the pictures of the Cubs attempting these challenges. I think during one challenge we received nearly 100 messages via WhatsApp during the space of 2 hours.

Three Cubs have completed their Silver Awards this year.

However, they are not the only member of the Pack to receive an award this year. In March, Bagheera completed his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and after doing a presentation via Zoom (the first time this had ever been done) to the County Commissioner, District Commissioner and a few other people, was awarded his Queens Scout Award, which is the top badge award that a Scout can earn. We're looking forward to receiving the invitations to St James's Palace and Windsor Castle where he will be presented with his awards once things have returned to normal.

We have had some lovely feedback and comments from parents thanking us for keeping the Cub meetings going during this period of uncertainty along with other comments during the virtual camps:

- "I would just like to thank you all for all your hard work and time. The children have really enjoyed it. Hope to see everyone in September"



- “So busy, so happy. Worked very hard and enjoyed every single moment. Thank you so much”
  - “We are arguing over dessert for dinner! Bonfire Banoffee or Chocolate Orange Brownies! Calzone for main course! Just getting things sorted for rocket launch”
- I would like to say a very big thank you to Robert (Bagheera), Ann (Raksha), Sarah (Shere Khan), Chloe (Woodpecker), Paul (Kaa) and Jeff (Wontolla) for all their help during the last year and to all the parents that have helped throughout the year as well. I would also like to thank my Young Leader Kayleigh (Hathi) for her help this year.

This year the Cub of the Year is again going to two Cubs who have always tried their best in everything that we have done. They have attended nearly every camp or activity we have run and taken part in all the games and activities during Pack night. One Cub has shown enthusiasm and grown in confidence in the many activities she has attended. The other Cub has helped with settling in new Cubs to the Pack and completed a few of badges at home, they have also grown in confidence.

The Cub of the Year award goes to Kyra Lee and Ann Sebastian.

**Akela (RL)**





## [Scout Section Report to follow]

### Group Scout Leader's Report

An Annual Report is usually a summary of what has happened over the last twelve months. This one will be no different despite the upset caused by the Covid 19 virus.

Until March we were a normal, active Group. We had a Group Camp planned and the site booked and we were making good progress with getting DBS approvals. We intend to run the Camp next year.

In January we had to submit our Census figures to Head Quarters. There were 20 Beavers, 16 Cubs, 11 Scouts and 15 Leaders. This is a small but welcome increase on last year.

The Sections were at their usual best and you will have seen the reports of their activities. Since the lockdown began in March the Leaders have been working very hard to do their best to keep Scouting happening and have been in contact with their young members by Zoom Whatsapp and other marvellous devices. Many Activity and Challenge badges have been gained. This is a credit not only to the young members for doing the work, the Leaders for setting the challenges but also to the adults at home for encouraging their children (and perhaps clearing up afterwards?).

The Group took part in the Virtual Sleepover in April and the Great Indoor Weekender in July. The Virtual Sleepover set a world record of over 95,000 campers from 68 countries. Well done all and specially Otter and Akela for getting the Group to participate.

I started this report by saying it would be a look back on what the Group has done over the past 12 months. We have been in lockdown since March and are still not able to hold face to face indoor meetings. There are signs that this restriction may be lifted in the next few weeks and we could be back to some sort of normality before too long. The Section Leaders have been making plans for this welcome move and looking at what they need to do to ensure the safety of all members, including social distancing and hygiene rules. Programmes will also need to be adapted to meet the new situation.

I will end my report by giving my heartfelt thanks to all the Leaders, their supporters and to our Chairman, Jeff Richards and Peter Randall our Treasurer. This year has been specially trying and they have all risen to the challenge and done themselves and our Group proud

JP, Group Scout Leader