THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1021328

Details

Other names	THE FIRST BROCKLEY CROSS SCOUT GROUP
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1993-05-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	25 Breakspears Road Tack Mews Brockley London SE4 1XW
Phone	07854838884
Email	group@1stnewcross.co.uk
Website	www.1stnewcross.co.uk

Activities

Objects: 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.

Activities: 1st New Cross Scout Group take part in a large range of activities, indoor and outdoor; which include hiking, camping, climbing, abseiling, cooking (indoors and outside), craft making, writing, drawing and many more activities.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** IN PRACTICE THE BROCKLEY AND WEST LEWISHAM AREAS OF SOUTH EA
- Lewisham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£33,513	£39,570	-	-
2024-03-31	£44,233	£35,684	-	-
2023-03-31	£43,745	£46,494	-	-
2022-03-31	£55,434	£49,025	-	-
2021-03-31	£23,938	£26,053	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Alexander McKinnon	Chair	2022-09-16
BRIAN WILLIAM SWEETING		
DAVID SIDNEY FRICKER		2013-01-30
EILEEN MARGARET FRICKER		
ELIZABETH JANE FRICKER		
Eleanor Ruth Clarke		2020-01-24
Mari Toomse-Smith		2024-09-07
Rebecca Dacia Stansfield		2024-09-07
Stacey Ann Ingrassia		2024-09-07
Stephanie Dil		2024-09-07
Thomas Dougal Allebone-Webb		2024-09-07

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THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1021328

Accounts

The First New Cross (The Greys) Scout Group

Annual Report and Accounts

2024/25

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Scouts

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Trustees' Annual Report

1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

A. Reference and Administration Details.

Registered Charity Number: 1021328 Scout Registration Number 44935

Headquarters: 25 Breakspears Road, Tack Mews, Brockley, London, SE4 1XW

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity:

Alan McKinnon – Chair
Elizabeth Fricker– Lead Volunteer
Brian Sweeting – Treasurer
Eleanor Clarke - Trustee
David Fricker – Trustee
Tom Allebone-Webb - Trustee
Mari Toomse-Smith - Trustee
Stephanie Dil - Trustee
Eileen Fricker – Trustee
Rebecca Stansfield - Trustee
Stacey Ingrassia - Trustee

Other members of the Group Sub-Committees:

Debbie Cohen, David Cohen, Katie Sturgess, Joanne Fuller, Tamara Lees, Hayley Streeks

B. Structure, Governance and Management.

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.

The Group is a Trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
The Group is managed by the Charity Trustees of the Scout Group (Group Trustee Board), which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

Currently, The Group Trustee Board consists of Chair, Treasurer and Group Lead Volunteer with other representation from Leaders and parents and meets six times annually unless any extraordinary meeting needs to be convened. It exists to support the Group Lead Volunteer in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for: the maintenance of Group property; the raising of funds and the administration of Group finance; the insurance of persons, property and equipment; Group public occasions; assisting in the recruitment of Leaders and other adult support; appointing any sub-committees that may be required and appointing Group Administrators and Advisers other than those who are elected.

C. Objectives and Activities.

The objectives of the Group are as a unit of the Scout Association. The aim of the Scout Association is to provide 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 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 Law and guided by adult Leadership.

Amongst measures required to achieve our objectives are the production and implementation of informative, interesting and fun programmes and activities for all Sections plus the maintenance of numbers. Attendance at Cub and Scout District Camps and District sleep-overs for Beavers is typical of the external activities encouraged, as is taking part in broader based activities with other organisations and various Scout District and County organised events.

With costs rising continually, an income of around £10,000 per year is required to pay the Group's mandatory expenditure – Council tax, utilities, insurances, plus additional funds for exceptional and unexpected matters and vehicle insurance and running costs etc. More traditional methods of fund raising such as attendance at fairs continue to be in the main abandoned due to almost total lack of assistance and public apathy. Other methods of fund raising are being used including a direct method of raising establishment funds based upon the number of Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels benefiting from our facilities, an on-line shopping system which generates a percentage fee from the retailer, the Lewisham Lottery and numerous sponsored events and social evenings. The use of our Headquarters two days a week by three external organisations generates much needed donations as does the use for children's parties, however this is not necessarily throughout the entire year but we appreciate their continued support. The requirement of funds for the Group excludes the needs of funds for the Sections for expeditions and other activities.

D. Achievements and Performance.

The Group continues to go from strength to strength and is well supported by the Group Trustee Board. As outlined on a number of occasions, there is an ongoing requirement to encourage parents to become more involved in fundraising and social events which generate a much needed source of income, without which we would struggle to continue. The new structure that has been put into place has allowed us to create Teams based on requirements needed for the Group and we are hopeful that the parents will be able to continue to support the Team for Fundraising.

The provision of Scouting in Brockley continues to be adequately maintained. At the 2024 Census (January), our numbers had increased over a 12-month period in most sections, with strong retention rates. In the two months until the end of March 2025, our numbers have been maintained at maximum capacity in all sections with waiting lists. We need to ensure that this continues and maintain our extensive recruitment drives which are currently in progress and to concentrate on maintaining the youth membership. We have also continued to maintain sufficient numbers in adult leaders in all sections, but will continue to recruit to cover all eventualities

The Squirrel Scout, Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Section Annual Reports are appended at the end of this report. Also appended separately is a report from the Golden Hind Explorer Scout Unit which although they are District based, is affiliated to the First New Cross, meets at our premises and is part of our Scouting Family.

The sections have undergone some leader changes in the past year and we have welcomed a number of new leaders and helpers into the Group. The Group website, www.1stnewcross.co.uk continues to grow and is constantly being updated and expanded, continuing to provide visitors to the site with a great deal of information about the Group and its activities, fundraisers and events. The website looks fantastic. Our thanks to Katie Sturgess for continuing to keep this updated and maintained, giving full transparency of the Group's activities.

The completion of training of Leaders through District and County run and online courses still continues to be a priority and we are pleased to say that the majority of Leaders are up to date. All persons sitting on the Trustee Board also need to complete the online Trustee Induction Training. Alike with all other Scout Groups, all Leaders are volunteers and undertake their duties without any financial reward, indeed they are out of pocket, having to purchase uniform items and using annual leave to attend camps and other activities. We are extremely fortunate to have a group of very enthusiastic, dedicated Leaders who give as much of their own time as possible for the benefit of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, not just at weekly Drey/Colony/Pack/Troop/Unit meeting nights and camps or expeditions but also in administration, advance programme planning, fundraising, Headquarters maintenance, advertising, recruitment and undertaking their own training. Without this very devoted team, the First New Cross could not perform to its full potential. Our sincere thanks go to them all.

The members of the Group Trustee Board, that are not uniformed Leaders, are also unpaid volunteers and they too give up their spare time freely for the benefit of the Group and need to be DBS cleared and have minimal training. The Trustee Board continues to retain its member numbers. All fundraising and social events arranged by the Group require the support of the parents that have children within the Group to provide essential assistance in organising and running those events.

We had twenty four representatives from the Cub Section, including Leaders and Young Leaders, who went to the County run event to Disneyland Paris in 2024. A great time was had by all.

There have been a number of section camps, sleepovers, trips and excursions throughout the year giving our youth element a wide and varied window of opportunities to enjoy different things and basic camping skills alike. The section reports appended to this report give a full and in-depth insight into what these were and the enjoyment that was had by all.

In November 2024 the Group attended the Deptford War Memorial for our Remembrance Parade along with 2nd & 32nd Deptford Groups, where poppy wreaths were laid in remembrance.

The Group Lead Volunteer Liz Fricker writes: This year has seen yet another rise in Youth member numbers and we have also had some fantastic new adults join our merry band. Jo Fuller (Akela) has stepped up to become Deputy Group Lead Volunteer to support me in my role as Group Lead Volunteer. This partnership has meant that we have a more rounded team to support our team members within the Group and to ensure continuity. My personal thanks go to Alan McKinnon for being the Chair of the Group Trustee Board and to Brian Sweeting for being our Group Treasurer, of course not forgetting our tremendous Team members that help to facilitate the amazing programme that our youth members enjoy. The next 12 months are looking to be as jam packed as the last.

Chief Scout Awards for each section have been gained this year, the latest of which will be presented at the Group AGM & Awards Evening, a date for which will be announced shortly. The Group Annual Sectional Awards will be announced and presented at the Group AGM & Awards Evening on 6th September 2025.

The Annual Awards, which will be presented at the AGM are:

- Michelle Buckle Award – Squirrel of the Year
- Joe Curd Award – Beaver of the Year
- Barbara Collins Award – Cub of the Year
- Alan Collins Award – Scout of the Year
- Sid Reader Award – Explorer of the Year
- Geoffrey Morriss Award – For Outstanding Achievement
- Peter Buckle Award – Leader of the Year
- Brian Sweeting Award – Young Leader of the Year

E. Financial Review.

i. Background.

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group should income and fundraising activities fall short. Given the recent rise in costs of utilities and inflation, The Group Executive Committee considers that the Group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, approximately ***£10,000.00****. This amount was held at the year end.*

With both Central and Local Government requiring further economies, there is a possibility that the only external financial assistance we receive, being the Mandatory 80% discount on Business Rates, could be reduced particularly as a re-valuation of all Business Rates has recently been undertaken with possible new higher charges expected soon.

The Financial situation and details of Income and Expenditure are appended to this report.

The First New Cross Scout Group is totally self-supporting receiving no external financial assistance or regular grants from any source whatsoever save for the reduction in Business Rates as currently dictated by Parliament for premises used by Registered Charities.

We are very fortunate in having a substantial piece of freehold property within inner suburban London with a main hall, storage facilities and adequate space to undertake external Scouting and other activities. However, alike with any other business or domestic premises we have to pay our way finding funds for Rates - Water and Business; Gas; Electricity; Media Communications; Property, Equipment, Contents and Vehicle Insurances and, as with any premises owner or householder, maintain our land and the trees and buildings upon it in a reasonable condition. Indeed, as an organization dealing with Youth and other members of the public, the standards we are required to maintain are much higher than normal "Housekeeping". Also being a Scout Group and a Registered Charity, we are classified as a "Commercial" organization and thus all tariffs charged to us reflect this classification.

The ways that the necessary funds are raised to meet these commitments are limited and all require the assistance of the Leaders, Trustees, **parents** of the Youth of the Group and other adults. Leaders and other adults working with the 1st New Cross are **unpaid volunteers** giving their own time and expertise for the benefit of the local Community. All Leaders and Trustees have to undergo mandatory training courses to suit their position in the Group, often at locations away from home and for weekends or longer periods. This is in addition to planning and running Squirrel, Beaver, Cub or Scout meetings each week; planning and running activities, camps and expeditions; keeping attendance and financial records; attending Scouters' meetings within the Group and within the Scout District; up to and including this year, attending Group Executive meetings and serving on various sub-committees for fund-raising or maintenance - the list is endless. On top of all this, most of our Leaders still find time to organize fund-raising events and undertake valuable work around the buildings and grounds.

Whilst we are not permitted to hire out our premises for gain upon penalty of losing the Business Rates discount, a number of other organizations and individuals have made use of our premises and afforded donations towards establishment costs, and for this we are very grateful. Fixed rate donations have also been made by other Scout Groups and individuals towards the running costs of the Mini-bus and trailer. The figure for the running costs of the Minibus does not usually include fuel. Where the vehicle is used by external parties, the vehicle leaves our Headquarters full of fuel and is returned in the same manner. When used by the First New Cross, fuel costs are included within the individual Accounts for camps, expeditions, etc.
Every Squirrel, Beaver, Cub and Scout (and Explorer) is required to pay an Annual Membership fee (or Capitation) to the Scout Association and this is collected as part of weekly subscriptions. This is not First New Cross money; we merely collect the fee and pay it annually through Lewisham Scout District and this year was a total of £7,140.00. The Membership Fee goes towards paying the costs of all the many services provided by the Scout Association for its juvenile and adult members including the upkeep of Headquarters' Camping and Activity sites such as Gilwell Park. Most importantly perhaps, this fee covers the Insurances provided for all members of the Scout Association whilst taking part in any recognised Scouting activity. Currently (2025) the Membership Fee stands at £60.00 per head per year; that equates to approximately £1.68 per week for each of the weeks that the Drey/Colony/Pack/Troop meet in an average year - good value for all the activities, adventure and knowledge available.

ii. 2024/2025 Results.

There has been a decrease in our income for this year and this is largely due to the majority of payments were received in the previous year for the County Disney Trip, with just 25% of them made this year. The use of our premises by external entities is steady although is slightly less than it has been in previous years. Our fundraising events have been, on average, almost as successful as last year but these will need to increase in frequency and attendance for the events more widely supported. Once again, the lack of backing for the Gift Aid system has contributed to this. All parents that were eligible were requested to give consent for Gift Aid to be claimed back through Online Scout Manager and this has now been done, but not before the year end, so Gift Aid will be claimed from April 2022 to the present and will be shown on next year's accounts. However, another push will be required to enlist new member parents to do this as standard so that Gift Aid information can be automatically generated.

The continuing increases in necessary expenditure emphasizes the need for a substantial contingency figure to be contained in the annual establishment costing and how important it is for parents/guardians of the Youth within the First New Cross to be supportive of our aims and needs, otherwise this 117 year old Scout Group, probably the oldest extant Scout Group in the World, could, in extreme circumstances, be forced to close, thus depriving your children and the rest of the local neighbourhood of any Scouting provision. We are more than aware that our premises, although in a usable condition, could benefit from some updating and modernization. The architectural survey undertaken last year has provided a means of identifying where this could be achieved. Of course, this is a project that would require a large amount of external funding through grants and one has become available in recent weeks, so we are actively looking for somebody who is adept at applying for such grants to undertake this on behalf of the Group, ideally a parent or Trustee.

Excluding the monies generated purely for the benefit of the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts (weekly subscriptions, camp fees, etc.), the majority of our income came from the use of our Headquarters for educational and social occasions, and for use of the Mini-bus and trailer, and some Fund-Raising events organised by the Executive Committee and the Leaders. There has not been many events in number this year but we did manage an extremely well attended Bonfire Evening raising £1,950.86 , but we hope that next year will afford a greater variety of events. We also secured amounts from online outlets such as Easyfundraising - £207.23, Lewisham Lottery - £288.50, £175.80 from Group Logo pen sales and payments from Raffall for online raffles totalling £482.05. All liaison and other arrangements regarding the use of our premises and the minibus by third parties falls to a few Warranted and unpaid Leaders who already run Uniformed Sections and Trustees. It can therefore be disappointing and demoralising if fund-raising and/or social events organised for the benefit of other people's children are poorly supported by the parents, even having to be cancelled at the last minute for lack of interest or assistance, although the events that have taken place have been better attended this year, so your continued support in future events would be much appreciated as is vital to the success of our ability to raise funds.

As mentioned before, Income Tax reclaim (Gift Aid) is claimed back from HMR&C one year in arrears. We have made no claim for a number of years for several reasons including difficulties in contacting HMR&C, late receipt of the necessary application forms, a computer error and most importantly, a dearth of signed Gift Aid forms from parents/guardians of the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and latterly Squirrels. This has thankfully now been resolved and for all weekly subscriptions paid by eligible parents/guardians, we can claim back a further 25% amounting to around **£2,000** plus each year on current numbers. We therefore respectfully request that all parents/guardians who are able, complete the section and check the necessary box in the personal details section of Online Scout Manager (OSM). This is a genuinely easy and simple method of raising funds without any impact upon the time or pockets of the parents/guardians of this Scout Group's Youth and without your assistance, as detailed above, we cannot claim this for your subscriptions.

The outgoings upon Utilities including Business and Water Rates, Gas, Electricity, Phone & Broadband and Insurances were largely within our budgetary expectations. Under recent legislation, all minibuses used by Youth organisations under a Section 19 minibus permit must also have 10-weekly safety checks which is an added cost and quite expensive at the slightly decreased rate of £1,032.00 for the year, although that does include an annual service and MOT test. This has been entered into for a fourth successive year but ensures that the vehicle that children and leaders are travelling in is checked very regularly and well-maintained.

Business and Water Rates are due on 1st April 2025 and will be followed by Utility Bills each quarter, annual Premises Insurance and Mini-bus Insurance and other costs and funds must be raised to cover these mandatory outgoings. All expenditure save Utility, other mandatory bills and routine housekeeping is laid before the Group Trustee Board for approval.

The Number 2 Bank account has shown decreases in funds however this is purely temporary due to ongoing payments for the County Trip to Disneyland Paris in 2024, which was forwarded to County.

The Golden Hind Explorer Scout Unit are not part of the First New Cross Scout Group but are "controlled" both administratively and financially directly by Lewisham Scout District as is normal procedure laid down in the Policy, Organization and Rules of the Scout Association. Nevertheless they are part of the First New Cross "Scouting family" sharing our Headquarters and facilities and with some Adults serving in both the First New Cross (1NX) and the Golden Hind (GHESU).

F. Comments upon the Future

We aim to continue to maintain and strengthen our position in terms of numbers and the quality of Scouting available to the local community as always.

There continues to be recruitment campaigns through our website and social media with regard to bringing more children into the adventure that is Scouting (even though we have waiting lists currently), together with recruiting more adults to serve as leaders or on the Trustee Board and/or as officers of the Group. We will need to maintain the retention of our leaders in the sections and we need to also maintain the youth membership to keep them interested in staying with us particularly in the Scout Section as increasing schoolwork can put increased pressures on this age group. Leader training will continue to be a priority. The Group will continue to promote itself through recruitment campaigns to ensure that Scouting in Brockley is properly maintained. We are all very pleased to be back to face to face Scouting and long may that last

The efforts of the maintenance team and others have helped to keep our premises in a reasonable condition which will need to be continued. A work weekend will usually be scheduled within the summer break to tackle any work that needs doing. The pathways to the premises would all benefit from being resurfaced and this is another thing that we propose to apply for a grant for. The substantial trees on our property have been pollarded/reduced as they were substantially overgrown and this was paid for using a grant from Morrisons. There is however still work that will need to be done on these. Also with this grant we purchased raised beds for vegetables which are being put together with a view to each section looking after one. We will however need to look into applying for another grant to get the residue of the trees, not covered by this grant, to be pollarded/reduced. Therefore our fundraising efforts may need to be raised to encompass part of the cost albeit to offset our contribution to any grant application, as is usually expected.

Full details of our conventional fundraising and social events have not been finalised and we will advise on dates for these as soon as we are able to. The Fundraising Sub-Committee will meet in November to discuss and plan for the Fundraising events for 2026 and then present these to the Trustee Board for approval.

The 2025 Group Fundraising/Event calendar as it stands is:

- 21ST JUNE 2025 –HILLY FIELDS FAYRE
- 12TH JULY 2025 – KARAOKE EVENING
- 6TH SEPTEMBER 2025 – AGM & AWARDS EVENING

- 4TH OCTOBER 2025 – RACE NIGHT
- 18TH OCTOBER 2025 – CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE LAUNCH
- 8TH NOVEMBER 2025-- BONFIRE EVENING
- 9TH NOVEMBER 2025 – REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE
- 6TH DECEMBER 2025 - JINGLE MINGLE including CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE DRAW

We will continue to raise funds through Easy Fundraising which allows anybody to purchase goods online acquiring a donation from the retailer for the Group at no extra cost to themselves. We will continue to promote the Lewisham Lottery which will help raise funds for the Group. We will continue to update our website and attempt to include as many links as possible to assist navigation of other associated sites and to provide our members with up to date information of Group, District and County activities and events.

We are fairly unique in Inner London in having a freehold property with a fairly large plot of land. Our conservation of this area is to be maintained, not only with consideration of our own use for training, games and camping, but also for the benefit of wildlife, of which there is evidence of substantial species. We see our husbandry of the trees and flora throughout the site as being a worthwhile legacy for the future. All youth Sections will continue to be encouraged to take part in the beneficial maintenance of the grounds.

The Group and GHESU will attend the Annual Remembrance Day Service at the Deptford War Memorial in November 2025 representing Scouting in Lewisham.

This coming year will again be a challenge given the amount that we need to achieve, however, with your help, we will achieve our goals. The teamwork and general enthusiasm shown by the Executive Committee (as was, now Trustee Board), Section Leaders and general support from the District and its team needs to be carried forward and where possible improved upon. It is imperative that recruitment within the sections is ongoing and successful to ensure that numbers in the Group are maintained and where possible increased.

Generally, we are very optimistic for the immediate future, but we fully appreciate the hard work and dedication which will be required, as always, by all adult volunteers in the Group to achieve our desired aims, not least of which is the need to generate funds to allow our aims and objectives to be met and the First New Cross to continue its long, so far, 117 year existence. It is essential that the Trustee Board is retained and strengthened and that all members of the Group Council make every endeavour to assist in the provision of funds, suitably maintained premises and afford the opportunity for even better Scouting in our community. All new members of the Trustee Board MUST submit to a DBS check and undertake a minimal amount of training. Should any parents wish to serve on this committee please speak with any leader who will pass on your details to the Group Scout Leader. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:





Alan McKinnon, Chair.
Dated: 07.08.2025

Liz Fricker, Group Lead Volunteer.
Dated: 07.08.2025

Section Reports

2024/2025

Squirrel Section Report

April 2024 – March 2025

Our year

The Squirrel section continues to thrive, with 24 squirrels in our Drey and a long waiting list. 7 squirrels were awarded their acorn award this year and 2 squirrels additionally completed their YouShape badges.

Summer 2024

We focused on fun this term, with outdoor den building, treasure hunts and sports day. For Earth Day we planted seeds and we also learned about different bird species. Some parent helpers joined to supervise tool use to construct and decorate bird boxes. The squirrels created musical instruments from recycled materials then made beautiful music the following week with the help of a music teacher who led a session for the squirrels. For Father's Day we made photo frames then toasted marshmallows over the fire. We finished the term with a teddy bear's picnic at Hilly Fields. The Young Leaders organised games and we enjoyed sharing food with the teddy bears. We had so much fun that we hope to make this an annual event!



Autumn/Winter Term 2024

This term was all about badge work, with Digital Maker and Brilliant Builder badges being completed over a series of sessions covering duplo car ports and a local walk to identify computers in the environment. We had an eventful trip to Lewisham fire station; after we took a look at the fire engines two teams were called out on duty and we got to see the fire fighters in action before we had an enforced early finish! As we neared Christmas the squirrels became local superheroes and did a food bank collection, then we finished the term with a Christmas party.

Spring Term 2025

In the Spring term we had a lot of exciting events. We celebrated squirrel appreciation day, Lunar New Year, St Patrick's Day, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, World Book Day and Easter. We managed to squeeze in more badge work, with Exciting Experiments and Emergency Aid both taking place over 2 sessions.

Trips and nights Away

The 9 squirrels got adventurous by joining Spring Camp at Cudham Shaws in April. For some of these squirrels it was their first time sleeping away from home and it was a positive experience for all of them. Later in the Autumn 16 squirrels attended Space Camp, a sleepover at the Scout Hut, followed by a trip to the Planetarium in Greenwich for Ted's Space Adventure.

10 squirrels challenged themselves to walk 5km on the New Cross Hike in September. They did so well and we think that some are ready to push themselves further and participate in the 10km hike next year!



At Christmas we organised a trip to the pantomime at Catford Broadway Theatre. 16 squirrels had a lot of fun getting into the Christmas spirit with plenty of audience participation and laughter.

Thank you to all the parents who have supported us this year and well done to our Squirrels who have shown us that age is no barrier to being a great Scout!

Squirrel Leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.

Beaver Section Report

April 2024 – March 2025

Our year

This year has been another exciting and rewarding one for our Beaver Colony. We've focussed on building confidence, developing new skills, and above all, having fun! The programme has been packed with hands-on activities, outdoor adventures, and valuable teamwork experiences. We're incredibly proud of everything the Beavers have achieved.

Summer Term 2024

It's been another super busy year for the beavers, and we have covered a lot of activities and badges. During summer term the beavers covered the Global Issues badge, and worked on lots of challenge badges. We also had a fantastic Spy Camp at Waylands, where the clever Beavers unearthed Raven as the dastardly Agent Mole in a weekend of code cracking, and a brilliant Pokémon themed district Beavers camp where many of our beavers slept under canvas for the first time.

Autumn Term 2024

During Autumn term the Beavers worked on Emergency Aid 2 badge, with some excellent first aid being administered! They also went on a trip to Nunhead Cemetery where we visited the Scouts memorial and had an interesting talk from the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery. We were really proud and impressed to see so many Beavers representing the section at the Remembrance Sunday parade to the cenotaph as part of their World Challenge and Faith Badge. We celebrated St Andrew's night with tartan weaving, shortbread and Scottish country dancing with parents taking a turn too!

Spring Term 2025

In Spring Term we covered Disability Awareness, International and Builder Badges and completed Experiment Badge at science camp, taking part in lots of exciting experiments over the weekend with really amazing results!



Trips and events

Other programme highlights include the Vitality Westminster Mile, Litter picking duties at Hilly Field Fair, Climbing at the Reach, and excitingly our first New Cross Distance Hike for the younger sections, which saw Beavers being invited to take part in a 5 or 10km hike. The hike was designed to give the younger members of our group the chance to take part in a distance hike, and had kit checks, pre hike briefings and snack checkpoints, just like the real thing! Beavers were awarded with a blanket badge and a great sense of achievement. We hope to build on this by inviting other district groups to join us next year.

Badges

It has been a bumper year for badges- we have awarded a staggering 382 badges including 9 Chief Scout Bronze Awards, 106 challenge badges, 176 activity badges and 91 staged badges. A huge well done to all our Beavers and their families for their hard work.

Leaders

This year we have had some movement in our section volunteers. Very sadly, Otter (Daniel Perkins) stepped down from Beavers as section lead volunteer in November for personal reasons. We would like to thank Dan for his service to Beavers and send all our best wishes to him and his family. Raven has stepped up to section lead volunteer and is supported by 4 uniformed volunteers, a number of occasional helpers, and a team of enthusiastic young leaders. Kingfisher and Kookaburra have both been invested and have gone into uniform, and Mushu has joined us as a leader, making the transition from young leader. We were also very happy to welcome Chipmunk to the Beavers team. Kestrel continues to support the colony.

We continue to welcome a steady flow of new Beavers into the Colony and have seen excellent progression as older members move on to the next stage of their scouting journey. We continue to hold a waiting list, and were able to welcome two new beavers from this list. As of April 2025 there are 40 Beavers in the Colony.

A heartfelt thanks to our families, volunteers and of course, young people for everything they do to make this colony a great place to be!

From all the Beaver leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.

Cub Section Report

April 2024 – March 2025

Our year

This year we increased the packs size to 36! we now have approximately 25 turning up each week! We have had a fantastic year and have done lots of different things. This year we have awarded 6 Chief Scout Silver awards and awarded a massive 302 Badges ranging from challenge to activity to staged! I'm extremely proud of all the hard work from both the Cubs and the Leaders

Summer Term 2024

The summer term saw us camping again! This time we went to Bears Wood for a weekend of back to basics ☺ we cooked on barrel fires, tried some team building activities and had a lots of fun.



At weekly pack meetings we started off by doing some of the gardening badge where we grew seeds, learned how to cook on a trangia, and then paddled over to Danson Park to go on a giant paddle board! Which all the cubs enjoyed. We rounded off the end of the academic year by going to Hilly Fields to play some wide games.

Autumn / Winter Term 2024

We kicked off the year by reviewing our code of conduct, we then started to look at a new badge that Akela found; the Earth Tribe badge. We then decided to go for a whistle stop tour of the air activity badges. As we crept closer to half term the cubs got to experience a new sport. We had someone come in and teach some fencing, which was greatly enjoyed by all the cubs who took part. We started to look at how celebrations are celebrated around the world and we kicked off with the Latin festival of Dia De Los Muertos and the Hindu festival Diwali. We decided as a team that we wanted to find out about as many festivals from around the world as we could.



Spring Term 2025

To start off the year we made community maps, done some team building and problem solving challenges. And then came the really fun stuff! We asked the cubs to design either a bird house, bug hotel or hedgehog home and the ideas and creative juices were flowing. We then proceeded to build these homes for animals and have donated two hedgehog houses to Frylands Wood Scout Outdoor Center ☺

Camps

This time Akela brought the sunshine with her to camp. We managed to get Liz to come and run the kitchen at bears wood camp for us! And then we slowed down a little bit UNTIL the First New Cross invaded the most magical place on earth! We went to DISNEYLAND PARIS for a quick weekend trip!

We then moved onto some STEM work with Raksha. And had lots of fun making a mess for our Great British Cub bake off.

Leader training

September last year Akela decided that she didn't have enough on her plate and then proceeded to get an archery permit for some strange reason. This was along side Liz so we can now take the sections for some archery shooting! Other leaders are still working their way through the leader training and hoping to be finished sometime within the next few months.

(Don't worry we plan to do it again in the future!) a great time was had by all. After Disney Akela took a break from camping as she was getting a bit tired and needed a rest (although much disappointment Wolves don't hibernate!) but she has planned a couple of camps for next year already.

Thank you to all parents who have supported us this year. Thank you to all the Cub Leaders as we know it has been a hard year and we have all needed to lean on and support each other.

Jo (Akela) Shelby (Kaa) Sam (Shere Khan), Rob (Raksha) Eagle (Justyna)

Cub Scout Leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.

Scout Section Report

April 2024 – March 2025

Our Year

The Scout section has had an exciting and successful period with a strong and active membership of 25 members. The scouts have shown great enthusiasm, achieving a fantastic total of 92 badges through a wide variety of activities.

Skills development

Scouts honed their outdoor skills with a “curry in a hurry” challenge, where they successfully cooked on trangias, a perfect preparation for future camping adventures. They also learned important new skills during a dedicated navigator night.

Problem-solving and teamwork

The troop engaged in fun and challenging problem-solving exercises, which were enjoyed by all (despite one instance leading to a humorous “explosion”!).

Trips and events

The scouts attended the Spectacular! musical, which was a fantastic cultural experience. They also had a great time at Group Camp, where they were able to put their newly acquired skills to the test. An evening at Frylands was also enjoyed, providing another opportunity for adventure and teamwork. The troop also took part in bouldering, a great way to challenge themselves physically and build confidence. Some of the older scouts joined with the explorers on a behind-the-scenes trip to ING bank.

Water activities

A major highlight was the scuba diving opportunity organized by Katie, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated. The scouts also had a blast at a lively pool party and an end-of-term water fight.

Important learning

Beyond the fun, the scouts participated in crucial learning sessions. An internet safety night and a dedicated evening on the effects of drugs and alcohol were both well-received, with the scouts demonstrating excellent understanding and engagement.

Special thanks go to Raven and Katie for their invaluable support throughout the year. Their dedication has been a huge part of our success and the amazing experiences the scouts have enjoyed.

This has been a very productive and fun period for the Scout section. The high number of badges achieved reflects the scouts’ commitment to learning new skills, while the wide range of activities shows their adventurous spirit. We look

forward to more exciting challenges and adventures ahead!

Scout Leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.

Golden Hind ESU Section Report

April 2024 – March 2025

Our year

We have 34 fantastic intrepid Explorer Scouts and 6 Volunteers. Our Explorers come from 1st New Cross and 3rd Crofton Park Scouts, but we have also welcomed new young people who want to join our DofE programme. We have 4 regular Volunteers and several occasional volunteers.

Our adventures

In May 2024 we travelled to Belgium, exploring Brussels and Leuven, and visited the largest Scout Museum in Europe. We camped at De Kluis Scout Campsite, tried mountain scooters and tree climbing. The trip has inspired some of our Explorers to have their own international adventures, and consider the Explorer Belt award.

Canoe Programme

This year, our unit successfully raised £4,000 to purchase a new canoe trailer, thanks to fundraising efforts from our Explorers, parents, volunteers and through Scouting grants. This has significantly enhanced our capability to safely deliver DofE Expeditions and has already been put to great use. We are immensely grateful to everyone who contributed towards this goal and we are very proud of our Canoe fleet.

We have a new home for our Unit Expedition equipment - our very own shed. A special thank you to the 1st New Cross Scout group and to Trevor and David F who made it ready for us with repairs, security, lighting and shelving.

Expeditions

The Duke of Edinburgh's award is a main focus at GHES and is growing each year. Bronzes complete in a 2 day expedition on the River Medway, the Silvers completed a 3 day expedition on the River Severn and the Golds complete a 4 day expedition on the Great Glen in Scotland - canoeing and wild-camping from Fortwilliam to Inverness. Gold graduates are also invited to take part in an autumn wild camp expedition on the the River Spey in Scotland. Congratulations to all our DofE participants.

Leader training

This year our volunteer team have completed outdoor first aid qualifications, white water safety and rescue courses, archery permits and tomahawk permits. A future goal is to develop a team of specialist volunteers in hillwalking and climbing to allow us to have mountain adventures. If you are interested in being part of the Lewisham Mountain Interest Support team (MIST) and developing your skills and experience, please email us at goldenhindesu@1stnewcross.co.uk.

Explorer Activities and Achievements

Holly Dixon was nominated by our team for a Jack Petchey outstanding achievement award and with their £300 grant, they chose to take the Unit to an Aqua Course which was a fun treat after a busy Expedition season. We explored the Surrey Mines for a day with the county caving team.



We entered 2 x teams into the Southern 50 hiking and navigation challenge in February. We took part in a huge Halloween camp (Scarefest) at Gilwell Park where lots of fun was had by all. Trevor gave us a behind the scenes tour at ING bank. We also had a social at the theatre to see the Lion King, and held our own silent disco inviting local Explorer units. Favour and Kairo met the new Chief Scout - Dwayne Fields and were part of the press launch and Kairo attended the UK Youth Forum at Oxford University.

Explorer of the Term

Summer 2024: Oscar Cole, Jonah Cole and Sol De Glanville
Autumn 2024: Imogen Hooper
Spring 2025: Holly Dixon

Volunteering as Young Leaders

We are incredibly proud of our fantastic young leaders who volunteer with Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs weekly. They attend Young Leader training run by Lewisham district, which is part of the YL training scheme. Their contribution is invaluable and we are grateful for their hard work. Well done to all our young leaders!

Thank you

Thank you to our extremely dedicated volunteer team. Their commitment to Scouting has made a huge impact on our young people over the past year and we truly appreciate the countless hours the team have invested in planning activities and leading events.

Explorer Leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.

Group Accounts

1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1021328. Scout Registration No. 44935 First Registered with B-P on 24th. May 1908.

Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Receipts

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	**£**
Donations and Similar Income.		
Annual Scout Assn. Membership Subscriptions	7,140.00	6,292.00
Annual Scout Assn. Subs. paid on via Lewisham District	**(7,140.00)**	**(6,292.00)**
Membership Subscriptions - Section's use	3,857.76	3,479.20
Membership Subscriptions - Establishment	2,017.24	2,741.80
Donations - Puppy School, S.E. London	1,502.00	731.25
Donations – Other (Guides, Church, Secret Adventure, Parties etc.)	7,194.44	8,840.78
- Mini-bus usage	996.00	1,185.00
- Grant from Lewisham Council	-------	—------
- Grant for Squirrels	-------	-—----
Gift Aid *(See note in Annual report)*	-------	--------
Youth Programme, Activities, Camps, Inc. WSJ, Croatia etc.	13,939.00	23,011.07
	29,506.44	**39,989.10**
Fund Raising (Gross).		
Table Sale/Fayres	—---	30.00
Easyfundraising	207.23	166.07
Bonfire Evening	2,261.15	1,436.50
Amazon Core Europe	—----	72.08
Lewisham Lottery	288.50	386.50
Raffall Online Raffle Payments	482.05	1,267.20
Jingle Mingle	—----	672.50
Other fundraising activities	1,018.30	195.00
	3,987.23	**4,225.85**
Investment Income.		
Deposit Account Interest	19.11	17.87
Total Gross Income	**35,512.78**	**44,232.82**

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Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Payments

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Charitable Payments.		
Youth Programme, Activities, Camps, etc. incl. WSJ & Croatia	23,642.56	20,517.28
Council Tax (Business Rates)	648.70	648.70
Water & Sewerage	354.95	443.32
Electricity & Gas	3,089.29	2,918.54
Property & Equipment Insurance	1,057.22	1,711.29
Telephone & Broadband	726.66	646.24
Mini-bus running costs. (Road Tax, Insurance, MoT, Purchase, etc.)	2,949.82	3,495.90
Maintenance - H.Q. and Grounds	1,419.73	902.32
Equipment, furniture, etc.	1,958.42	91.92
Online Scout Manager Costs	437.50	437.50
Other Establishment costs (Misc/ Zettle/ Stripe/GoCardless fees etc.)	2,170.84	3,426.65
	38,455.69	**35,239.66**
Fund Raising Expenses (including prizes, etc.)		
Table Sale/Fayres	20.00	--------
Easyfundraising	-------	--------
Bonfire Evening	310.29	300.16
Jingle Mingle	—----	144.18
Other fundraising activities (incl Pens with Logo)	383.99	—-----
Cash Float for Fundraising	400.00	
	1,114.28	**444.34**
Total Gross Expenditure	**39,569.97**	**35,684.00**
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	**(-6,057.19)**	**(8,548.82)**
Cash funds this year end	**44,659.87***	**50,717.06***

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

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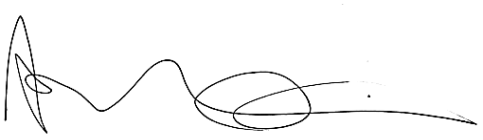
Statement of Assets at the end of the year.

31st March 2025

	31st March 2025	31st March 2024
	£	£
Cash Funds.		
Bank Current Account (No.1 General Funds)	39,108.86	38,096.75
Bank Current Account (No.2 Expeditions)	1,196.91	8,786.91
Deposit Account (C.O.I.F.)	404.74	385.63
PayPal Charity Account Balance	590.68	590.68
Equals Card Balances	2,656.62	2,857.09
Cash/Floats	400.00	0.00
Cash in Hand from Disney	302.06	0.00
Total Cash Funds	**44,659.87**	**50,717.06**
Ring-Fenced assets from Geoffrey Morriss Bequest		
(Building, Maintaining & Digitising Group Archives)	10,000.00	10,000.00
(Emergency Situation Fund).	2,120.00	2,120.00
County Disney Trip Payments received to be paid to County	----------	7,435.00
Total Ring-Fenced Funds	**12,120.00**	**19,555.00**
Non-monetary assets for own use.		
Land and Buildings	190,000.00	190,000.00
Mini-bus	18,500.00	19,500.00
Scouting equipment, furniture, etc.	9,800.00	9,800.00
	218.300.00	**219.300.00**

The above Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets were approved by the Trustees on the 31st Day of July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:





…… ……

Brian Sweeting, Group Treasurer **Alan McKinnon, Group Chair**

THE FIRST NEW CROSS

(THE GREYS)

SCOUT GROUP

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

2024/25

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

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The above Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets were approved by the Trustees on the 31st Day of July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:





……..... …….....

Brian Sweeting, Group Treasurer **Alan McKinnon, Group Chair**

Mrs Rebecca Warren
Homeville
The High St
Bures St Mary
Suffolk
CO8 5HZ
5th August 2025

SCUITINEER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE 1ST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

I report on the accounts of the group for the year ended 31st March 2025

Respective responsibilities of trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts you consider that neither the audit not the independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 1993 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and report to you.

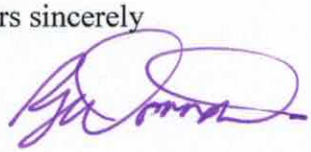
Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's constitution; and with particular reference to the Scout Association's Guidance on the Accounting and Audit Requirements – Fact Sheet LT103950 appendix 3; I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out on the preceding pages.

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records and supporting information and explanations produced to me and comply with the constitution. It should be noted the land and buildings are registered with Land Registry under the title of The Scout Association Trust Corporation. I can confirm that no income or receipts were subject to special restrictions which need to be shown in the accounts.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Warren

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1021328

Accounts



The First New Cross (The Greys) Scout Group

Annual Report and Accounts

2023/24

scouts.org.uk/join

#ScoutsForLife

Scouts

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Trustees' Annual Report

1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

A. Reference and Administration Details.

Registered Charity Number: 1021328 Scout Registration Number 44935

Headquarters: 25 Breakspears Road, Tack Mews, Brockley, London, SE4 1XW

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity:

Alan McKinnon – Chairman	David Fricker – Exec Member	Eileen Fricker – Exec Member
Elizabeth Fricker– GSL	David Cohen – Premises Manager	Luke Cohen - Quartermaster
Brian Sweeting – Treasurer	Debbie Cohen – Cub Scout Leader	David Liddle – Exec Member
Eleanor Clarke - Secretary	Peter Buckle – Asst. Beaver Leader	Zoe Gaffen – Exec Member

Other members of the Group Executive Committee:

Stacey Ingrassia, Katie Sturgess, Matthew Coleman, Roe Hennessy-Littlejohns, Shelby Millard, Joanne Fuller, Gemma Whitelaw, Sam Sheead, Kate Woodward, Tamara Lees

B. Structure, Governance and Management.

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.

The Group is a Trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee (soon to be Trustee Board), including the members who are also the "Charity Trustees" of the Scout Group, which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

Currently, The Group Executive Committee consists of three independent representatives, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer together with Group Scout Leader, individual Section Leaders (optional), parents' representation and others, and meets six times annually unless any extraordinary meeting needs to be convened. It exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for: the maintenance of Group property; the raising of funds and the administration of Group finance; the insurance of persons, property and equipment; Group public occasions; assisting in the recruitment of Leaders and other adult support; appointing any sub-committees that may be required and appointing Group Administrators and Advisers other than those who are elected.

C. Objectives and Activities.

The objectives of the Group are as a unit of the Scout Association. The aim of the Scout Association is to provide 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 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 Law and guided by adult Leadership.

Amongst measures required to achieve our objectives are the production and implementation of informative, interesting and fun programmes and activities for all Sections plus the maintenance of numbers. Attendance at Cub and Scout District Camps and District sleep-overs for Beavers is typical of the external activities encouraged, as is taking part in broader based activities with other organisations and various Scout District and County organised events.

With costs rising sharply an income of around £10,000 per year is required to pay the Group's mandatory expenditure – Council tax, utilities, insurances, plus additional funds for exceptional and unexpected matters and vehicle insurance and running costs etc. More traditional methods of fund raising such as attendance at fairs continue to be in the main abandoned due to almost total lack of assistance and public apathy. Other methods of fund raising are being used including a direct method of raising establishment funds based upon the number of Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels benefiting from our facilities, a couple of on-line shopping system which generates a percentage fee from the retailer, the Lewisham Lottery and numerous sponsored events and social evenings. The use of our Headquarters two days a week by three external organisations generate much needed donations as does the use for children's parties, however this is not necessarily throughout the entire year but we appreciate their continued support. The requirement of funds for the Group excludes the needs of funds for the Sections for expeditions and other activities.

D. Achievements and Performance.

The Group continues to go from strength to strength and is well supported by the Group Executive Committee (Trustee Board from September 2024). As outlined on a number of occasions, there is an ongoing requirement to encourage parents to become more involved in fundraising and social events which generate a much needed source of income, without which we would struggle to continue. The new structure that will be coming into place will allow us to create Teams based on requirements needed for the Group and we are hopeful that the parents will be able to support the Team for Fundraising.

The provision of Scouting in Brockley continues to be adequately maintained. At the 2024 Census (January), our numbers had increased over a 12-month period in most sections, with strong retention rates. In the two months until the end of March 2024, our numbers have been maintained at maximum capacity in all sections with waiting lists. We need to ensure that this continues and maintain our extensive recruitment drives which are currently in progress and to concentrate on maintaining the youth membership. We have also continued to maintain sufficient numbers in adult leaders in all sections, but will continue to recruit to cover all eventualities

The Squirrel Scout, Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Section Annual Reports are appended at the end of this report. Also appended separately is a report from the Golden Hind Explorer Scout Unit which although they are District based, is affiliated to the First New Cross, meets at our premises and is part of our Scouting Family.

The sections have undergone some leader changes in the past year and we have welcomed a number of new leaders and helpers into the Group. Sadly one of our long-standing Beaver Leaders and Trustee, Peter Buckle passed away and he will be sorely missed by us all, not least the children in the Beaver Section. We also have a number of Occasional Helpers into the Group. The Group website, www.1stnewcross.co.uk originally set up by Luke Cohen, continues to grow and is constantly being updated and expanded, continuing to provide visitors to the site with a great deal of information about the Group and its activities,

fundraisers and events. The website looks fantastic. Our thanks to Luke Cohen for keeping this eloquently updated and maintained giving full transparency of the Group's activities. This is now being lovingly cared for by Katie Sturgess.

Our Lead Trustee, Alan McKinnon, has embraced and championed the start of the new transformation and is leading the way in getting everything in place.

The completion of training of Leaders through District and County run courses still continues to be a priority and we are pleased to say that the majority of Leaders are all up to date. All persons sitting on the Trustee Board also need to complete the online Trustee Induction Training. Alike with all other Scout Groups, all Leaders are volunteers and undertake their duties without any financial reward, indeed they are out of pocket, having to purchase uniform items and using annual leave to attend camps and other activities. We are extremely fortunate to have a group of very enthusiastic, dedicated Leaders who give as much of their own time as possible for the benefit of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, not just at weekly Drey/Colony/Pack/Troop/Unit meeting nights and camps or expeditions but also in administration, advance programme planning, fundraising, Headquarters maintenance, advertising, recruitment and undertaking their own training. Without this very devoted team, the First New Cross could not perform to its full potential. Our sincere thanks go to them all.

The members of the Group Executive Committee, that are not uniformed Leaders, are also unpaid volunteers and they too give up their spare time freely for the benefit of the Group and need to be DBS cleared and have minimal training. The Committee continues to retain and increase its member numbers however would still benefit immensely from increased parental involvement. All fundraising and social events arranged by the Group require the support of the parents that have children within the Group to provide essential assistance in organising and running those events.

We had five representatives from the Scout & Explorer Sections who went to South Korea for the World Scout Jamboree in 2023, the only representatives from Lewisham District. There were also a number of leaders that were also involved. Although this trip didn't go to plan or how anyone would have thought, the young people all gained an enormous amount of experience from it and did the group proud.

In addition to this we had a number of young people that were selected to go on the County trip to Croatia in 2023, again with a number of leaders also selected and Liz Fricker & David Liddle are part of a team of 4 heading the Leader team. This is an outstanding achievement and once in a lifetime experience for all. This trip was a complete success and all that went came back with memories that will last a life time. A reunion camp was planned for May 2024.

There have been a number of section camps, sleepovers, trips and excursions throughout the year giving our youth element a wide and varied window of opportunities to enjoy different things and basic camping skills alike. The section reports appended to this report give a full and in-depth insight into what these were and the enjoyment that was had by all.

In November 2023 the Group attended the Deptford War Memorial for our Remembrance Parade along with 2nd & 32nd Deptford Groups, where poppy wreaths were laid in remembrance.

Chief Scout Awards for each section have been gained this year, the latest of which will be presented at the Group AGM & Awards Evening, a date for which will be announced shortly. The Group Annual Sectional Awards will be announced and presented at the Group AGM & Awards Evening. This year we have introduced 2 new awards for Young Leader of the Year and Leader of the Year. Both of these awards were nominated by their peers.

The Annual Awards, which will be presented at the AGM are:

- Michelle Buckle Award – Squirrel of the Year
- Joe Curd Award – Beaver of the Year
- Barbara Collins Award – Cub of the Year
- Alan Collins Award – Scout of the Year
- Sid Reader Award – Explorer of the Year
- Geoffrey Morriss Award – For Outstanding Achievement
- Peter Buckle Award – Leader of the Year
- Brian Sweeting Award – Young Leader of the Year

E. Financial Review.

i. Background.

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group should income and fundraising activities fall short. Given the recent rise in costs of utilities and inflation, The Group Executive Committee considers that the Group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, approximately ***£10,000.00****. This amount was held at the year end.*

With both Central and Local Government requiring further economies, there is a possibility that the only external financial assistance we receive, being the Mandatory 80% discount on Business Rates, could be reduced or even scrapped, particularly as a re-valuation of all Business Rates has recently been undertaken with possible new higher charges expected soon.

The Financial situation and details of Income and Expenditure are appended to this report.

The First New Cross Scout Group is totally self-supporting receiving no external financial assistance or regular grants from any source whatsoever save for the reduction in Business Rates as currently dictated by Parliament for premises used by Registered Charities.

We are very fortunate in having a substantial piece of freehold property within inner suburban London with a main hall, storage facilities and adequate space to undertake external Scouting and other activities. However, alike with any other business or domestic premises we have to pay our way finding funds for Rates - Water and Business; Gas; Electricity; Media Communications; Property, Equipment, Contents and Vehicle Insurances and, as with any premises owner or householder, maintain our land and the trees and buildings upon it in a reasonable condition. Indeed, as an organization dealing with Youth and other members of the public, the standards we are required to maintain are much higher than normal "Housekeeping". Also being a Scout Group and a Registered Charity, we are classified as a "Commercial" organization and thus all tariffs charged to us reflect this classification.

The ways that the necessary funds are raised to meet these commitments are limited and all require the assistance of the Leaders, Trustees, **parents** of the Youth of the Group and other adults. Leaders and other adults working with the 1st New Cross are **unpaid volunteers** giving their own time and expertise for the benefit of the local Community. All Leaders and Trustees have to undergo mandatory training courses to suit their position in the Group, often at locations away from home and for weekends or longer periods. This is in addition to planning and running Squirrel, Beaver, Cub or Scout meetings each week; planning and running activities, camps and expeditions; keeping attendance and financial records; attending Scouters' meetings within the Group and within the Scout District; up to and including this year, attending Group Executive meetings and serving on various sub-committees for fund-raising or maintenance - the list is endless. On top of all this, most of our Leaders still find time to organize fund-raising events and undertake valuable work around the buildings and grounds.

Whilst we are not permitted to hire out our premises for gain upon penalty of losing the Business Rates discount, a

number of other organizations and individuals have made use of our premises and afforded donations towards establishment costs, and for this we are very grateful. Fixed rate donations have also been made by other Scout Groups and individuals towards the running costs of the Mini-bus and trailer. The figure for the running costs of the Minibus does not usually include fuel. Where the vehicle is used by external parties, the vehicle leaves our Headquarters full of fuel and is returned in the same manner. When used by the First New Cross, fuel costs are included within the individual Accounts for camps, expeditions, etc.
Every Squirrel, Beaver, Cub and Scout (and Explorer) is required to pay an Annual Membership fee (or Capitation) to the Scout Association and this is collected as part of weekly subscriptions. This is not First New Cross money; we merely collect the fee and pay it on annually through Lewisham Scout District and this year was a total of £6,292.00. The Membership Fee goes towards paying the costs of all the many services provided by the Scout Association for its juvenile and adult members including the upkeep of Headquarters' Camping and Activity sites such as Gilwell Park. Most importantly perhaps, this fee covers the Insurances provided for all members of the Scout Association whilst taking part in any recognised Scouting activity. Currently (2024) the Membership Fee stands at £60.50 per head per year; that equates to approximately £1.68 per week for each of the weeks that the Drey/Colony/Pack/Troop meet in an average year - good value for all the activities, adventure and knowledge available.

ii. 2023/2024 Results.

There has been a decrease in our earnings for this year and this is largely due to grants having been received in previous years, which have not been available this year. The use of our premises by external entities is steady although is less than it has been in previous years. Our fundraising events have been, on average, as successful as last year but these will need to increase in frequency and attendance with the events were more widely supported. Once again, the lack of backing for the Gift Aid system has contributed to this. All parents will again be requested to complete a Gift Aid form, if they are able to, to afford us the opportunity of claiming 25% back in Gift Aid. As previously advised, for subscriptions from April 2022, this should not have been a problem as Online Scout Manager has been used to collect subscriptions and event payments and Gift Aid information can be automatically generated. However, most parents have not checked the required box required for the system to be able to do this, so the system subsequently fails. Parents will again be requested to check this box on OSM.

The continuing increases in necessary expenditure emphasizes the need for a substantial contingency figure to be contained in the annual establishment costing and how important it is for parents/guardians of the Youth within the First New Cross to be supportive of our aims and needs, otherwise this 116 year old Scout Group, probably the oldest extant Scout Group in the World, could, in extreme circumstances, be forced to close, thus depriving your children and the rest of the local neighbourhood of any Scouting provision. We are also aware that our premises, although in a usable condition, could benefit from some updating and modernization. To this effect we have had an architectural survey undertaken with some drawings made for the means of identifying where this could be achieved. Of course, this is a project that would require a large amount of external funding through grants, but not an impossibility.

Excluding the monies generated purely for the benefit of the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts (weekly subscriptions, camp fees, etc.), the majority of our income came from the use of our Headquarters for educational and social occasions, and for use of the Mini-bus and trailer, and some Fund-Raising events organised by the Executive Committee and the Leaders. There has not been many events in number this year but we did manage a Christmas Event (Winter Fayre & Jingle Mingle) raising £528.32 and a very well attended Bonfire Evening raising £1,136.34 , but we hope that next year will afford a greater variety such as Quiz, , Community Fun Day, Karaoke Night, Jingle Mingle, and possible New Years' Eve event, which sadly only generated a fraction of our required income. We also secured amounts from online outlets such as Easyfundraising - £166.07, Lewisham Lottery - £386.50 and Amazon Core Europe - £72.08 and payments from Raffall for previously held online raffles totalling £1,267.20. All liaison and other arrangements regarding the use of our premises and the minibus by third parties falls to a few Warranted and unpaid Leaders who already run Uniformed Sections and Trustees. It can therefore be disappointing and demoralising if fund-raising and/or social events organised for the benefit of other people's children are poorly supported by the parents, even having to be cancelled at the last minute for lack of interest, although the events that have taken place have been better attended this year, so your continued support in future events would be much appreciated and is vital to the success of our ability to raise funds.

Income Tax reclaim (Gift Aid) is claimed back from HMR&C one year in arrears. We have made no claim since the 2015/16 Financial Year for several reasons including difficulties in contacting HMR&C, late receipt of the necessary

application forms, a computer error and most importantly, a dearth of signed Gift Aid forms from parents/guardians of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in the Group in that year. A circulation of all parents/guardians will be made with new and revised Gift Aid forms. For all weekly subscriptions paid, we can claim a further 25% amounting to around **£1,500** each year and thus we ask all parents/guardians who are able, to sign the appropriate Gift Aid form or to check the necessary box in the personal details section of OSM. This is a genuinely easy and simple method of raising funds without any impact upon the time or pockets of the parents/guardians of this Scout Group's Youth and without your assistance, as detailed above, we cannot claim this.

The outgoings upon Utilities including Business and Water Rates, Gas, Electricity, Phone & Broadband and Insurances were largely within our budgetary expectations. Under recent legislation, all minibuses used by Youth organisations under a Section 19 minibus permit must also has to have 10-weekly safety checks which is an added cost and quite expensive at the increased rate of £1,138.80 for the year, although that does include an annual service and MOT test. This has been entered into for a third successive year but ensures that the vehicle that children and leaders are travelling in is checked regularly and well-maintained.

Business and Water Rates are due on 1st April 2024 and will be followed by Utility Bills each quarter, annual Insurance and Mini-bus costs and funds must be raised to cover these mandatory outgoings.
All expenditure save Utility, other mandatory bills and routine housekeeping is laid before the Executive Committee for approval.

The Number 2 Bank account has shown increases in funds however this is purely temporary due to some final payments being made for the World Scout Jamboree 2023 in South Korea which in turn is paid on to County, and ongoing payments for a County Trip to Disneyland Paris in 2024, again to be forwarded to County.

The Golden Hind Explorer Scout Unit are not part of the First New Cross Scout Group but are "controlled" both administratively and financially directly by Lewisham Scout District as is normal procedure laid down in the Policy, Organization and Rules of the Scout Association. Nevertheless they are part of the First New Cross "Scouting family" sharing our Headquarters and facilities and with some Adults serving in both the First New Cross (1NX) and the Golden Hind (GHESU).

F. Comments upon the Future

We aim to continue to maintain and strengthen our position in terms of numbers and the quality of Scouting available to the local community as always.

There continues to be recruitment campaigns through our website and social media with regard to bringing more children into the adventure that is Scouting (even though we have waiting lists currently), together with recruiting more adults to serve as leaders or on the Trustee Board and/or as officers of the Group. We will need to maintain the retention of our leaders in the sections and we need to also maintain the youth membership to keep them interested in staying with us particularly in the Scout Section as increasing schoolwork can put increased pressures on this age group. Leader training will continue to be a priority. The Group will continue to promote itself through recruitment campaigns to ensure that Scouting in Brockley is properly maintained. We are all very pleased to be back to face to face Scouting and long may that last

The efforts of the maintenance team and others have helped to keep our premises in a reasonable condition which will need to be continued. A work weekend will usually be scheduled within the summer break to tackle any work that needs doing. The pathways to the premises would all benefit from being resurfaced and we propose to apply for a grant for this. The substantial trees on our property have been pollarded/reduced as they were substantially overgrown and this was paid for using a grant from Morrisons. There is however still work that will need to be done on these. Also with this grant we

purchased raised beds for vegetables which are being put together with a view to each section looking after one. We will however need to look into applying for another grant to get the residue of the trees, not covered by this grant, to be pollarded/reduced. Therefore our fundraising efforts may need to be raised to encompass part of the cost albeit to offset our contribution to any grant application, as is usually expected.

Full details of our conventional fundraising and social events have not been finalised and we will advise on dates for these as soon as we are able to. The Fundraising Sub-Committee will meet in November to discuss and plan for the Fundraising events for 2025 and then present these to the Trustee Board for approval.

The 2024 Group Fundraising/Event calendar as it stands is:

- MAY-JUNE 2024 – LUCKY SQUARES (new initiative)
- 7TH SEPTEMBER 2024 – END OF SUMMER SOCIAL & AGM
- 12TH OCTOBER 2024 – CHILDREN'S DISCO FOLLOWED BY RACE NIGHT
- 18TH OCTOBER 2024 – CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE LAUNCH
- 10TH NOVEMBER 2024-- BONFIRE EVENING
- 11TH NOVEMBER 2024 – REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE
- 7TH DECEMBER 2024 - JINGLE MINGLE including CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE DRAW

We will continue to raise funds through Easy Fundraising which allows anybody to purchase goods on line acquiring a donation from the retailer for the Group at no extra cost to themselves. We will continue to promote the Lewisham Lottery which will help raise funds for the Group. We will continue to update our website and attempt to include as many links as possible to assist navigation of other associated sites and to provide our members with up to date information of Group, District and County activities and events.

We are fairly unique in Inner London in having a freehold property with a fairly large plot of land. Our conservation of this area is to be maintained, not only with consideration of our own use for training, games and camping, but also for the benefit of wildlife, of which there is evidence of substantial species. We see our husbandry of the trees and flora throughout the site as being a worthwhile legacy for the future. All youth Sections will continue to be encouraged to take part in the beneficial maintenance of the grounds.

The Group and GHESU will attend the Annual Remembrance Day Service at the Deptford War Memorial in November 2024 representing Scouting in Lewisham.

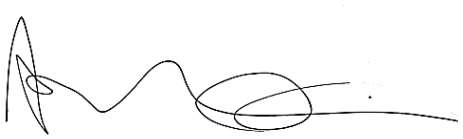
This coming year will again be a challenge given the amount that we need to achieve, however, with your help, we will achieve our goals. The teamwork and general enthusiasm shown by the Executive Committee (as was, now Trustee Board), Section Leaders and general support from the District and its team needs to be carried forward and where possible improved upon. It is imperative that recruitment within the sections is ongoing and successful to ensure that numbers in the Group are maintained and where possible increased.

Generally, we are very optimistic for the immediate future, but we fully appreciate the hard work and dedication which will be required, as always, by all adult volunteers in the Group to achieve our desired aims, not least of which is the need to generate funds to allow our aims and objectives to be met and the First New Cross to continue its long, so far, 116 year existence. It is essential that the Trustee Board is retained and strengthened and that all members of the Group Council make every endeavour to assist in the provision of funds, suitably maintained premises and afford the opportunity for even better Scouting in our community. All new members of the Trustee Board MUST submit to a DBS check and undertake a minimal amount of training. Should any parents wish to serve on this committee please speak with any

leader who will pass on your details to the Group Scout Leader. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:



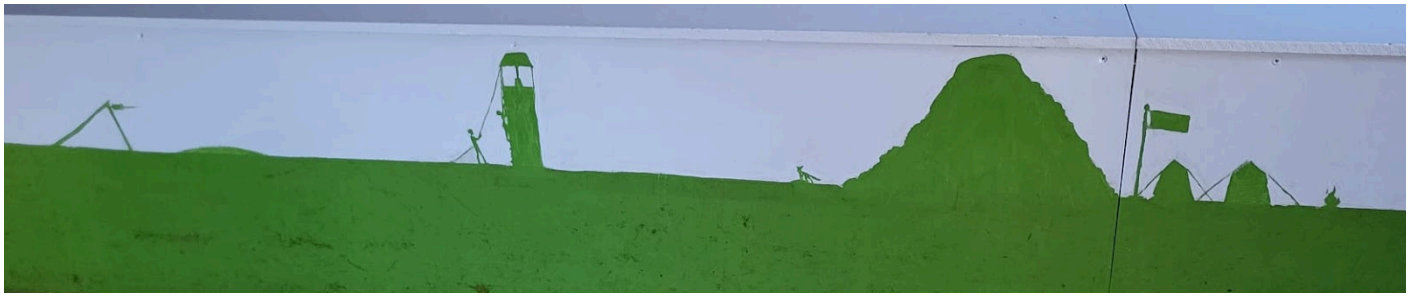


Alan McKinnon, Chairman.

Dated: 23.07.2024

Liz Fricker, Group Scout Leaders.

Dated: 23.07.2024



Section Reports

2023/2024



Squirrel Section Report

April 2023 – March 2024

Our year

The Squirrel section continues to thrive, with the maximum 24 squirrels in our Drey and a long waiting list. We have had lots of adventures this year, and lots of badges have been awarded!

Summer 2023

The summer term was a busy one, with junk modelling, Lego building, a tea party for the Coronation and den building with the Young Leaders. Bumblebee led an engaging week about BSL, where the squirrels learnt how to sign their own name as well as some key phrases. Chipmunk ran a mindfulness session as part of Earth Day and the squirrels thought about how to look after the planet. Stacey visited to run a session on diversity and we also talked about feelings with a Disney Encanto themed week.



We welcomed Scout HQ to one of our meetings in June, where they took photos of our very photogenic Squirrels. We have been delighted to see some familiar faces in the Scout media campaigns!

Autumn/Winter Term 2023

The Autumn term saw lots of special guests to our meetings and lots of visits off site too. We recognised harvest festival with a hunger banquet with Simon (Clara's dad) and a food bank collection. Ema visited to help the squirrels to make hedgehogs and hedgehog houses (which they are very good at!). We had our first off-site meeting of the year, at Lewisham Police Station, where we made friends with the police horses and got to try on some very heavy kit! We completed the Exciting Experiments badge over 2 weeks with some hands on science and some demonstrations of bigger reactions.



Mushu, Rainbow Beetle and Chil talked to the squirrels about their adventures at the World Scout Jamboree in Korea, and will perhaps have inspired some young people to aim for the WSJ in 2031!

The Squirrels earned their Emergency Aid badge, with Young Leader Donald Duck showing how to treat injuries and parent helper Jon running a 999 call centre for the squirrels to act out an emergency situation.

Fundraising is a big part of Scouting and the squirrels worked towards their All About Me badge by painting plant pots ready to sell at the Winter Fair. They looked fantastic! Thank you Badger and family for hosting the plant pot stall for our Christmas fundraising!

A special visitor arrived in time for Christmas - the Squirrels partied with one of Santa's elves and had their photo taken by Thumper. We finished the term with a trip to the pantomime at the Albany.

Spring Term 2024

We had more visitors this term, with River bringing his array of rodents and reptiles to the hut, a gymnastic coach teaching us some moves and a visit from a local Police team.

During the Spring term we spent some time building up our campfire safety knowledge and made lanterns to light up our campfire circle for lunar new year.

We celebrated squirrel appreciation day and our 2nd birthday by decorating some squirrel cakes and having a party.

Trips and nights Away

12 squirrels joined the beavers at Frylands and dressed up as superheroes for the District Funday in June. They got to try out lots of the different activities on offer and even had a bit of spending money for the Frylands Wood Providore.



We kept Squirrels going during the summer holiday with a trip to the bouldering wall at Surrey Quays in August. This was so popular that we took them again in October. The squirrels also had the chance to watch Elemental on a cinema trip.



In October Thumper organised our first sleepover off site at the Fort, with 32nd Deptford Squirrels. It was a fantastic chance for the squirrels to experience being away from home in a safe but unfamiliar setting. They made new friends and showed how resilient they are!

Sammy the Squirrel continues to have adventures at home with the Squirrel of the week, led by Young Leader Mushu.

Thank you to all the parents who have supported us this year and a big "Well Done" to our Squirrels who have shown us that age is no barrier to being a great Scout.

Squirrel Leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.



Beaver Section Report

April 2023 – March 2024

Our year

Our beaver colony has had a busy year, with numbers growing from 29 in April 2023 to 35 in March 2024. All our members are squirrels coming up, or beavers who transfer from other groups. We continue to hold a waiting list.

Summer Term 2023

The Beavers have been very busy, and have covered a wide programme of activities this year! Summer term 23 saw the Beavers completing their Sports badge and start their health and fitness badge. They also prepared for and attended camp. Term ended with the traditional water fight.

Autumn Term 2023

After the summer break, Beavers completed their health and fitness badge and worked on challenge badges. They particularly enjoyed a fantastic capoeira session run by Eagle, which was a brilliant experience for them. The creative badge was completed in the run up to Christmas, with crafts being made to sell at the Jingle Mingle, and a performance of We Wish You a Merry Christmas for parents and other sections, accompanied by Raven on the trumpet.



Spring Term 2024

Spring term saw the Beavers working on their photography badge, with a competition judged blind by Otter. We were very impressed with their understanding of the rules of photography, and their beautiful pictures. They also took advantage of the winter evenings to complete their Space badge, identifying stars and planets in the night sky. The term ended with Beavers working on their YouShape badge, working well as a group to identify how to support people experiencing homelessness in our community, by choosing a charity and making money collection boxes.



The beavers were awarded an impressive amount of badges this year, with 9 Bronze awards, 79, challenge awards and 195 activity or staged badges!

Sleepovers and trips

Many Beavers enjoyed attending the Easter Egg hunt family day at Frylands, with 14 Beavers attending the District Beavers sleepover, also at Frylands. They took part in activities such as grass sledging, pond dipping and blindfold trail. They also enjoyed a session at Clip and Climb and a Heroes Fun Day.

The beavers were invited to a Joint sleepover in October with 32nd Deptford, further cementing the bonds between our groups.



Leaders

This year we have had 3/4 uniformed leaders and 2/3 parent volunteers. Bex Stansfield (Raven) joined the section as an Assistant Beaver Leader at the start of this year, alongside Otter and Kestrel. Unfortunately, Jacqui Guest aka Squirrel, has had to step down due to ill health. We all thank her for her service to Beavers and 1st New Cross. Kestrel will also be stepping back from Beavers to concentrate on District Scouting work, but will still be supporting the leadership team with her expertise and experience. We have a parent helper who will be going into uniform in June 2024. Thank you to all the volunteers who give their time to the section.

We would like to take a moment to fondly remember our beloved Baloo, who was loved by all the Beavers and anyone who knew him. After many years if service to Scouting, he took a step back from Beavers at the start of the year to concentrate on chemotherapy, having been diagnosed with throat cancer. Unfortunately, he lost his fight in September, and is greatly missed by us all.

Thank you all for your support for Beavers this year, we look forward to the 2024-2025 programme.

From all the Beaver leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.





Cub Section Report

April 2023 – March 2024

Our year

This year we have continued to grow with numbers rising weekly! We have been able to offer spaces to Young people off our waiting list! We awarded 321 badges this year, with 9 gaining their Chief Scout Silver Award.

Summer Term 2023

During the summer term we celebrated the King's Coronation with us making a patchwork quilt and painting wooden carriages. We then tackled some of our challenge badges doing a round robin style night with different bases. We set off to Frylands for a Beaver and Cub camp for Frylands activity night. Kaa and Rama ran a successful Navigator level 1 and 2 (good thing too as Akela has no clue how to read a map still!) and with this Akela and the team closed down for the summer. Summer saw Akela jetting off to Croatia with 3 of the young leaders and nearly 90 other young people for 10 days with the county! Luckily Akela came back in one piece.



Autumn / Winter Term 2023

We came back in September ready to go and we looked at our code of conduct and came up with a youth shaped way to manage behaviour and consequences. The end of September saw us running off to camp with two other groups that Akela made contact with while on the Croatia camp. For the term's badge work, we got a little messy with fake blood while tackling emergency aid, and our Young leaders ran an olympic night. We gained another young leader. We paid our respects to our fallen soldiers by taking part in the Remembrance Day parade. We cross stitched some poppies and enjoyed becoming a scientist as Raksha ran the scientist badge.



Actual camps

This is the part of the report I love to write! I absolutely love taking the Cubs camping! Whether we are indoors or out! This year we have been to many camps, from Frylands to Waylands to Wilberforce and Cudham Shaws the Cubs and leaders have loved exploring new and wondrous places! In May we did a joint Beaver and Cub camp, September saw us "trying to catch 'em all" with two other scout groups and a fab Pokemon camp.

December saw the Elves running wild and causing mischief. In February, Kaa ran a one night sleepover at the hall and we finished off the term with a spring camp (Although Akela must learn to look at the calendar when she books camps). Next year we have a Cub/Scout camp in June, maybe with the possibility of Gilwell in August, Disneyland Paris in November and so many new ideas for us to take the Cubs! So watch this space!!



Spring Term 2024

We started off 2024 with doing the money skills badge, although I'm sure the Cubs liked the sweet end of the deal. We then had River and his animals for a session, planned and made our own pancakes being cautious of people's medical and dietary requirements. We then had some laughs and giggles with the entertainer badge, and started the gardening badge.



Leader training

Over the last year leaders have been pushing on with their ongoing learning and qualifications. Akela is booked for an archery course in September 2024. Kaa finalised her practice hours for her tomahawk permit and has been running sessions. Rama went and got his Air Rifle permit, Chil and Rama are still working towards their wood badges with the support of the team, and Kaa should be getting ready for her Nights away permit in spring/summer '25. Akela has done some work on mental health and wellbeing, and our Young leaders continue to work through their training scheme.

Thank you to all parents who have supported us this year. Thank you to all the Cub Leaders and thank you to the incredible 1NX team. More camping awaits!

Jo (Akela),Shelby (Kaa), Lili (Chil), Rob (Raksha), Sam (Rama), Rafe (Rikki), Arthur (Rocky), Holly (Viper), Ioana (Hathi), Theo (Mowgli) and Annalia (Mysa)

Cub Scout Leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.



Scout Section Report

April 2023 – March 2024

Our Year

The Scout Section has undertaken a wide range of activities in the 2023-24 scouting year to actively engage and support young people in their personal development.

Scouting skills

Our Scouts participated in hands-on experiences, experiments, and challenges, enabling them to develop practical skills, problem-solving abilities, and a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

We have incorporated learning by doing into our activities throughout the year. Below is one example of our Scouts trying to build a cooking station out of pioneering poles and ropes. When asked if the leaders should show how the station is built first or whether Scouts wanted to “have a go” themselves, all wanted to have a go! We think they did brilliantly.



We strive to offer a variety of new activities to Scouts to keep things interesting and give young people opportunities to taste different activities. It is often at Scouting that young people get introduced to hobbies that turn into lifelong sources of enjoyment.

This year, our newest and most interesting activities included a magic and illusion night, attending a musical and a Warhammer-themed shop visit. We also held a youth-led talent show night where Scouts can share their hobbies with each other in a relaxed and fun environment. We have great talents in all of our Scouts!



Ready Set Cook!

An activity that best showcases how our Scouts are growing through taking responsibility was the cooking contest Ready-Set-Cook. The Scouts were tasked to (i) plan a 3-course menu, (ii) prepare an ingredient list within a tight budget, (iii) coordinate preparing their dishes in just an hour, all while working as a team. We have seen great success from all teams, fantastic examples of leadership and teamwork. The dishes were also delicious!



Spiritual Refection

A key pillar of Scouting is for Scouts to engage in spiritual reflection, whether through moments of quiet contemplation, discussions about values and ethics, or participation in ceremonies and traditions that promote a sense of connection to something greater than themselves.

In May 2023, our Scouts went on a Mindfulness Walk during one Section meeting. Many of our Scouts were introduced to reflection and mindfulness for the first time, and everyone learned a skill to cope with the daily stresses and pace of everyday life using mindfulness.

We also held a very successful and proudly youth-led “Culture Night”, where Scouts brought food, clothes, songs and stories from their culture, spirituality and heritage. Scouts got to respectfully show their curiosity towards other cultures.



Camps

The Scouts started and ended the year with two fantastic camps. Our first camp was where the very first Scout camp in history took place: Brownsea Island. Scouts enjoyed the beautiful nature offered by the Island’s beaches, open spaces and clean air full of history. At the end of the scouting year, we went on an indoor camp at Cudham Shaw, where Scouts enjoyed a mix of indoor and outdoor activities.



Leadership

Our adult volunteer team had a really high turnover last year. We have seen 6 adult volunteers and 2 young leaders leave the Section, with 1 regularly attending Leader joining us. Naturally, this has and will continue to have an impact on the quantity and amount of activities we are able to offer.

Having a low number of full-role leaders in a section as large as 30 Scouts means that we are mainly lacking in organisational capacity and recruiting is therefore a priority for us.

In terms of having adult support, we have help from a new Parent’s Rota, which brings adult support during our section evenings from Parents. This has been working well. In addition, we have multiple adults generously offer their help on an ad hoc basis.

Thank you for you continued support to keep Scouts going. We can’t wait to go on more adventures with Scouts again soon.

Scout Leaders



Golden Hind ESU Section Report

April 2023 – March 2024

Our year

This adventurous group of Explorer Scouts have had another great year filled with exciting expeditions, outdoor activities, volunteering, and new skills.

Our adventures

The unit has grown to 33 Explorers and 8 Volunteers. Over the year we have canoed, paddleboarded, sailed, rock climbed, hiked, navigated, bouldered, camped, cooked, parascended, travelled and explored. We've done all sorts of things, including the Southern 50 Hiking Challenge, Monopoly Live, a workshop with the British Red Cross, a debate for UK Parliament Week, and tried crossbow shooting. A highlight for the Explorers was Cudfest, a weekend festival where our party animals partied late into the night alongside Explorers from across the region.



Expeditions

2 Explorers completed their DofE Silver Expedition by Canoeing and wild camping along the Great Glen Way in Scotland. Starting in Fort William, they paddled on canals and rivers, experienced grade 2 rapids, finishing on the stunning Loch Ness. 5 Bronzes completed their Expedition on the River Medway and are looking forward to bigger adventures in 2024. These challenging experiences develop resilience, teamwork, independence and outdoor skills, and in 2024 we'll see our biggest DofE group in unit history.



Canoe Programme

This year we purchased two canoe fleets in partnership with Discovery ESU with funding from the Hedley Foundation. Parents and supporters kindly raised funds to buy further equipment. 3 Leaders qualified as British Canoeing paddlesport instructors this year, funded by the Royal Navy and Port of London Authority. A leader became qualified to tow canoe trailers with our minibus with funding from Scout trusts.

25th World Scout Jamboree - Korea

4 Explorers and 3 Volunteers from the unit were selected to attend the 25th World Scout Jamboree in Korea, camping alongside 40,000 Scouts from all over the world. Due to challenges, the Jamboree was moved to Seoul where we explored, tried amazing food and were treated so kindly by local people. Our time finished with a K-pop concert at Seoul Stadium and our Explorers have some incredible memories and stories to tell the unit when they got home.

County Croatia Expedition

7 Unit Members joined the county Croatia trip in August 2023, alongside over 100 Scouts from across the county. They had a fantastic time taking part in water activities, boat trips, exploring and made lots of new Scouting friends.

Volunteering as Young Leaders

21 unit members are Young Leaders who volunteer weekly at 1st New Cross, 3rd Crofton Park and 2nd Deptford Scout groups with Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We estimate they have given over 800 volunteering hours over the year, which is an outstanding contribution and impact. Thank you to all our fantastic Young Leaders, for all that they do!

Explorer achievements this year

- 18 Chief Scout Platinum Awards
- 11 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards
- 3 Chief Scout Diamond Awards
- 1 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award
- 2 Young Leader Awards
- 1 Jack Petchey Award
- 4 Bear Grylls Never Give up awards



Thank you

Our dedicated team of volunteers give countless hours behind the scenes to coordinate logistics, attend training, manage our finances, plan exciting adventures, keep everyone safe and source and maintain our equipment. Our team go above and beyond to run this ambitious unit, and have developed and grown Explorer Scouting in our local area, Thank you for all that you do.

Explorer Leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.

Group Accounts

1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1021328. Scout Registration No. 44935 First Registered with B-P on 24th. May 1908.

Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Receipts

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	**£**
Donations and Similar Income.		
Annual Scout Assn. Membership Subscriptions	6,292.00	6,440.00
Annual Scout Assn. Subs. paid on via Lewisham District	**(6,292.00)**	**(6,440.00)**
Membership Subscriptions - Section's use	3,479.20	3,333.10
Membership Subscriptions - Establishment	2,741.80	2,314.90
Donations - Puppy School, S.E. London	731.25	1,543.75
Donations – Other (Guides, Church, Secret Adventure, Parties etc.)	8,840.78	12,301.25
- Mini-bus usage	1,185.00	787.50
- Grant from Lewisham Council	-------	1,248.00
- Grant for Squirrels	-------	500.00
Gift Aid *(See note in Annual report)*	-------	--------
Youth Programme, Activities, Camps, Inc. WSJ, Croatia etc.	23,011.07	19,225.00
Don Broome Trust Grant	-------	2,500.00
	39,989.10	**41,503.50**
Fund Raising (Gross).		
Table Sale/Fayres	30.00	581.21
Easyfundraising	166.07	271.62
Bonfire Evening	1,436.50	408.00
Amazon Core Europe	72.08	102.48
Lewisham Lottery	386.50	489.50
Raffall Online Raffle Payments	1,267.20	--------
Jingle Mingle	672.50	321.80
Other fundraising activities	195.00	60.00
	4,225.85	**2,234.61**
Investment Income.		
Deposit Account Interest	17.87	6.41
Total Gross Income	**44,232.82**	**43,744.52**

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Receipts and Payments Account

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Payments

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	**£**
Charitable Payments.		
Youth Programme, Activities, Camps, etc. incl. WSJ & Croatia	20,517.28	24,009.09
Council Tax (Business Rates)	648.70	2,495.00
Water & Sewerage	443.32	-2,876.73
Electricity & Gas	2,918.54	1,694.95
Property & Equipment Insurance	1,711.29	1,531.87
Telephone & Broadband	646.24	719.59
Mini-bus running costs. (Road Tax, Insurance, MoT, Purchase, etc.)	3,495.90	2,346.05
Maintenance - H.Q. and Grounds	902.32	3,270.52
Equipment, furniture, etc.	91.92	1,593.09
Online Scout Manager Costs	437.50	637.01
Morrisons Charity funded works	------	6,750.00
Don Broome Trust Laptop/Banner Purchase	------	499.06
Other Establishment costs (Misc/ Zettle/ Stripe/GoCardless fees etc.)	3,426.65	3,350.75
	35,239.66	**45,750.25**
Fund Raising Expenses (including prizes, etc.)		
Table Sale/Fayres	-------	--------
Easyfundraising	-------	--------
Bonfire Evening	300.16	79.66
Jingle Mingle	144.18	104.41
Other fundraising activities	-------	560.00
	444.34	**744.07**
Total Gross Expenditure	**35,684.00**	**46,494.32**
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	**(8,548.82)**	**(-2,749.80)**
Cash funds this year end	**50,717.06***	**42,168.24***

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

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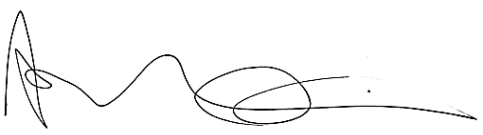
Statement of Assets at the end of the year.

31st March 2024

	31st March 2024	31st March 2023
	£	£
Cash Funds.		
Bank Current Account (No.1 General Funds)	38,096.75	37,210.15
Bank Current Account (No.2 Expeditions)	8,786.91	2,123.74
Deposit Account (C.O.I.F.)	385.63	367.76
PayPal Charity Account Balance	590.68	561.16
Equals Card Balances	2,857.09	1,426.85
Cash/Floats	0.00	478.58
Total Cash Funds	**50,717.06**	**42,168.24**
Ring-Fenced assets from Geoffrey Morriss Bequest		
(Building, Maintaining & Digitising Group Archives)	10,000.00	10,000.00
(Emergency Situation Fund).	2,120.00	2,120.00
County Disney Trip Payments received to be paid to County	7,435.00	-------
Total Ring-Fenced Funds	**19,555.00**	**12,120.00**
Non-monetary assets for own use.		
Land and Buildings	190,000.00	190,000.00
Mini-bus	19,500.00	20,500.00
Scouting equipment, furniture, etc.	9,800.00	9,800.00
	219.300.00	**220.300.00**

The above Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets were approved by the Trustees on the 15th Day of July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:





……..... …….....

Brian Sweeting, Group Treasurer **Alan McKinnon, Group Chair**

THE FIRST NEW CROSS

(THE GREYS)

SCOUT GROUP

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

2023/24

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

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The above Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets were approved by the Trustees on the 15th Day of July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:





……..... …….....

Brian Sweeting, Group Treasurer **Alan McKinnon, Group Chair**

Mrs Rebecca Warren
The Flat
3 North St
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 2XH
31st July 2024

SCUITINEER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE 1ST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

I report on the accounts of the group for the year ended 31st March 2024

Respective responsibilities of trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts you consider that neither the audit not the independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 1993 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and report to you.

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's constitution; and with particular reference to the Scout Association's Guidance on the Accounting and Audit Requirements – Fact Sheet LT103950 appendix 3; I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out on the preceding pages.

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records and supporting information and explanations produced to me and comply with the constitution. It should be noted the land and buildings are registered with Land Registry under the title of The Scout Association Trust Corporation. I can confirm that no income or receipts were subject to special restrictions which need to be shown in the accounts.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Warren

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1021328

Accounts



The First New Cross (The Greys) Scout Group

Annual Report and Accounts

2022/23

scouts.org.uk/join

#ScoutsForLife

Scouts

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Trustees' Annual Report

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

A. Reference and Administration Details.

Registered Charity Number: 1021328 Scout Registration Number 44935

Headquarters: 25 Breakspears Road, Tack Mews, Brockley, London, SE4 1XW

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity:

David Pennell – President	David Fricker – Exec Member	Eileen Fricker – Exec Member
Alan McKinnon – Chair	David Cohen – Premises Manager	Eleanor Clarke - Secretary
Elizabeth Fricker– GSL	Peter Buckle – Asst. Beaver Leader	David Liddle – Exec Member
Brian Sweeting – Treasurer	Debbie Cohen – Cub Scout Leader	Zoe Gaffen – Exec Member
Jacqueline Guest - Leader	Luke Cohen - Quartermaster	Neil Penlington – Exec Member

Other members of the Group Executive Committee:

Stacey Ingrassia, Katie Sturgess, Matthew Coleman, Roe Hennessy-Littlejohns, Shelby Millard, Joanne Fuller, Gemma Whitelaw, Sam Sheead.

B. Structure, Governance and Management.

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.

The Group is a Trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee, including the members who are also the "Charity Trustees" of the Scout Group, which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Group Executive Committee consists of three independent representatives, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer together with Group Scout Leader, individual Section Leaders (optional), parents' representation and others, and meets six times annually unless any extraordinary meeting needs to be convened. It exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for: the maintenance of Group property; the raising of funds and the administration of Group finance; the insurance of persons, property and equipment; Group public occasions; assisting in the recruitment of Leaders and other adult support; appointing any sub-committees that may be required and appointing Group Administrators and Advisers other than those who are elected.

C. Objectives and Activities.

The objectives of the Group are as a unit of the Scout Association. The aim of the Scout Association is to provide 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 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 Law and guided by adult Leadership.

Amongst measures required to achieve our objectives are the production and implementation of informative, interesting and fun programmes and activities for all Sections plus the maintenance of numbers. Attendance at Cub and Scout District Camps and District sleep-overs for Beavers is typical of the external activities encouraged, as is taking part in broader based activities with other organisations and various Scout District and County organised events.

With costs rising sharply an income of around £10,000 per year is required to pay the Group's mandatory expenditure – Council tax, utilities, insurances, plus additional funds for exceptional and unexpected matters and vehicle insurance and running costs etc. More traditional methods of fund raising such as attendance at fairs continue to be in the main

abandoned due to almost total lack of assistance and public apathy. Other methods of fund raising are being used
including a direct method of raising establishment funds based upon the number of Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels benefiting from our facilities, a couple of on-line shopping system which generates a percentage fee from the retailer, the Lewisham Lottery and numerous sponsored events and social evenings. The use of our Headquarters two days a week by three external organisations generate much needed donations as does the use for children's parties, however this is not necessarily throughout the entire year but we appreciate their continued support. The requirement of funds for the Group excludes the needs of funds for the Sections for expeditions and other activities.

D. Achievements and Performance.

The Group continues to go from strength to strength and is well supported by the Group Executive Committee. As outlined on a number of occasions, there is an ongoing requirement to encourage parents to become more involved in fundraising and social events which generate a much needed source of income, without which we would struggle to continue.

The provision of Scouting in Brockley continues to be adequately maintained. At the 2023 Census (January), our numbers had increased over a 12-month period in most sections, with strong retention rates. In the two months until the end of March 2023, our numbers have been maintained at maximum capacity in all sections with waiting lists. We need to ensure that this continues and maintain our extensive recruitment drives which are currently in progress and to concentrate on maintaining the youth membership. We have also continued to maintain sufficient numbers in adult leaders in all sections, but will continue to recruit to cover all eventualities. At the end of 2021 we decided that we would introduce the newest, youngest section, Squirrels (4-5 year olds), so we started the process of setting this up and we finally managed to open the Squirrel Drey on 23rd February 2022, the first non-pilot scheme in the County. The Squirrel Section has gone from strength to strength increasing to a maximum 24 and celebrated its 1st Birthday in February this year.

The Squirrel Scout, Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Section Annual Reports are appended at the end of this report. Also appended separately is a report from the Golden Hind Explorer Scout Unit which although they are District based, is affiliated to the First New Cross, meets at our premises and is part of our Scouting Family.

The sections have undergone some leader changes in the past year and we have welcomed a number of new leaders and helpers into the Group. We also have a number of Occasional Helpers into the Group. The

Group website, www.1stnewcross.co.uk originally set up by Luke Cohen, continues to grow and is constantly being updated and expanded, continuing to provide visitors to the site with a great deal of information about the Group and its activities, fundraisers and events. The website looks fantastic. Our thanks to Luke Cohen for keeping this eloquently updated and maintained giving full transparency of the Group's activities.

Liz Fricker has had a very successful first year as Group Scout Leader and we look forward to her continuing in that role and taking the Group to new levels in the future. Our Group Chair, David Fricker decided to step down as chair in September 2022 and Alan McKinnon, already a member of the Executive Committee was asked to take up the post, which he accepted. We would like to thank David for his excellent service as Group Chair over the past 10 years.

The completion of training of Leaders through District and County run courses will continue to be a priority in 2023, and some training, Safeguarding, Safety and First Response require updating on a regular basis. All persons sitting on the Group Executive Committee also need to complete the online Trustee Induction Training. Alike with all other Scout Groups, all Leaders are volunteers and undertake their duties without any financial reward, indeed they are out of pocket, having to purchase uniform items and using annual leave to attend camps and other activities. We are extremely fortunate to have a group of very enthusiastic, dedicated Leaders who give as much of their own time as possible for the benefit of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, not just at weekly Drey/Colony/Pack/Troop/Unit meeting nights and camps or expeditions but also in administration, advance programme planning, fundraising, Headquarters maintenance, advertising, recruitment and undertaking their own training. Without this very devoted team, the First New Cross could not perform to its full potential. Our sincere thanks go to them all.

The members of the Group Executive Committee, that are not uniformed Leaders, are also unpaid volunteers and they too give up their spare time freely for the benefit of the Group and need to be DBS cleared and have minimal training. The Committee continues to retain and increase its member numbers however would still benefit immensely from increased parental involvement. All fundraising and social events arranged by the Group require the support of the parents that have children within the Group to provide essential assistance in organising and running those events.

A memorial bench was placed in our grounds so that we can all remember Michelle Buckle who passed in March 2022.

We have five representatives from the Scout & Explorer Sections that will be going to South Korea for the World Scout Jamboree in 2023, the only representatives from Lewisham District. There are also a number of leaders that will also be involved. In addition to this we have a number of young people that have been selected to go on the County trip to Croatia in 2023, again with a number of leaders also selected and Liz Fricker & David Liddle are part of a team of 4 heading the Leader team. This is an outstanding achievement and once in a lifetime experience for all.

There have been a number of section camps, sleepovers, trips and excursions throughout the year giving our youth element a wide and varied window of opportunities to enjoy different things and basic camping skills alike. The section reports appended to this report give a full and in-depth insight into what these were and the enjoyment that was had by all.

In November 2022 the Group attended the Deptford War Memorial for our Remembrance Parade along with 2nd & 32nd Deptford Groups, where poppy wreaths were laid in remembrance.

Chief Scout Awards for each section have been gained this year, the latest of which will be presented at

the Group AGM & Awards Evening, a date for which will be announced shortly. The Group Annual Sectional Awards will be announced and presented at the Group AGM & Awards Evening.

The Annual Awards are:

- Michelle Buckle Award – Squirrel of the Year
- Joe Curd Award – Beaver of the Year
- Barbara Collins Award – Cub of the Year
- Alan Collins Award – Scout of the Year
- Sid Reader Award – Explorer of the Year
- Geoffrey Morriss Award – For Outstanding Achievement

A. Financial Review.

i. Background.

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group should income and fundraising activities fall short. Given the recent rise in costs of utilities and inflation, The Group Executive Committee considers that the Group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, approximately ***£10,000.00****. This amount was held at the year end.*

In view of these constant increases in Utility and other tariffs, the Group Executive Committee may consider it to be prudent to increase this figure. With both Central and Local Government requiring further economies, there is a possibility that the only external financial assistance we receive, being the Mandatory 80% discount on Business Rates, could be reduced or even scrapped, particularly as a re-valuation of all Business Rates has recently been undertaken with possible new higher charges expected soon.

The Financial situation and details of Income and Expenditure are appended to this report.

The First New Cross Scout Group is totally self-supporting receiving no external financial assistance or regular grants from any source whatsoever save for the reduction in Business Rates as currently dictated by Parliament for premises used by Registered Charities.

We are very fortunate in having a substantial piece of freehold property within inner suburban London with a main hall, storage facilities and adequate space to undertake external Scouting and other activities. However, alike with any other business or domestic premises we have to pay our way finding funds for Rates - Water and Business; Gas; Electricity; Media Communications; Property, Equipment, Contents and Vehicle Insurances and, as with any premises owner or householder, maintain our land and the trees and buildings upon it in a reasonable condition. Indeed, as an organization dealing with Youth and other members of the public, the standards we are required to maintain are much higher than normal "Housekeeping". Also being a Scout Group and a Registered Charity, we are classified as a "Commercial" organization and thus all tariffs charged to us reflect this classification.

The ways that the necessary funds are raised to meet these commitments are limited and all require the assistance of the Leaders, Trustees, **parents** of the Youth of the Group and other adults. Leaders and other adults working with the 1st New Cross are **unpaid volunteers** giving their time and expertise for the benefit of the local Community. All Leaders and Executive members have to undergo mandatory training courses to suit their position in the Group, often at locations away from home and for weekends or longer periods. This is in addition to planning and running Squirrel, Beaver, Cub or Scout meetings each week; planning and running activities, camps and expeditions; keeping attendance and financial records; attending Scouters' meetings within the Group and within the Scout District; attending Group Executive meetings and

serving on various sub-committees for fund-raising or maintenance - the list is endless. On top of all this most of our Leaders still find time to organize fund-raising events and undertake valuable work around the buildings and grounds. It is extremely sad to find that after all this effort, which is really for the benefit of other people's children, many of our fundraising events are so poorly attended, and frequently have to be cancelled due to the apparent apathy of those to whom our facilities are aimed.

Whilst we are not permitted to hire out our premises for gain upon penalty of losing the Business Rates discount, a number of other organizations and individuals have made use of our premises and afforded donations towards establishment costs, and for this we are very grateful. Fixed rate donations have also been made by other Scout Groups and individuals towards the running costs of the Mini-bus and trailer. The figure for the running costs of the Mini-bus does not usually include fuel. Where the vehicle is used by external parties, the vehicle leaves our Headquarters full of fuel and is returned in the same manner. When used by the First New Cross, fuel costs are included within the individual Accounts for camps, expeditions, etc.
Every Squirrel, Beaver, Cub and Scout (and Explorer) is required to pay an Annual Membership fee (or Capitation) to the Scout Association and this is collected as part of weekly subscriptions. This is not First New Cross money; we merely collect the fee and pay it on annually through Lewisham Scout District and this year was a total of £6,440.00. The Membership Fee goes towards paying the costs of all the many services provided by the Scout Association for its juvenile and adult members including the upkeep of Headquarters' Camping and Activity sites such as Gilwell Park. Most importantly perhaps, this fee covers the Insurances provided for all members of the Scout Association whilst taking part in any recognised Scouting activity. Currently (2023) the Membership Fee stands at £57.50 per head per year; that equates to approximately £1.60 per week for each of the weeks that the Drey/Colony/Pack/Troop meet in an average year - good value for all the activities, adventure and knowledge available.

ii. 2022/2023 Results.

There has been a significant decrease in our earnings for this year and this is largely due to grants having been received in previous years, which have not been available this year. The use of our premises by external entities is steady although we have lost one of our main users, the local church, whose own facility is now ready for use. Our fundraising events have been, on average, as successful as last year but these will need to increase in frequency and attendance with the events were more widely supported. Once again, the lack of backing for the Gift Aid system has contributed to this. All parents will again be requested to complete a Gift Aid form, if they are able to, to afford us the opportunity of claiming 25% back in Gift Aid. For subscriptions from April 2022 this should not have been a problem as Online Scout Manager has been used to collect subscriptions and event payments and Gift Aid information should have been automatically generated. However, most parents have not checked the required box so the system falls down. Parents will be requested to check this box on OSM.

The continuing increases in necessary expenditure emphasizes the need for a substantial contingency figure to be contained in the annual establishment costing and how important it is for parents/guardians of the Youth within the First New Cross to be supportive of our aims and needs, otherwise this 115 year old Scout Group, probably the oldest extant Scout Group in the World, could, in extreme circumstances, be forced to close, thus depriving your children and the rest of the local neighbourhood of any Scouting provision.

Excluding the monies generated purely for the benefit of the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts (weekly subscriptions, camp fees, etc.), the majority of our income came from the use of our Headquarters for educational and social occasions, and for use of the Mini-bus and trailer, and some Fund-Raising events organised by the Executive Committee and the Leaders. There have not been many events in number this

year but we did manage a table sale and fayre raising £581.21, a Christmas Event raising £321.80 and a Bonfire Evening raising £408.00 , but we hope that next year will afford a greater variety such as Quiz, Community Fun Day, Karaoke Night, Jingle Mingle, and New Years' Eve event, which although better than recent years, only generated a fraction of our required income. We also secured amounts from online outlets such as Easyfundraising - £271.62, Lewisham Lottery - £408.00 and Smile Amazon - £102.48. The money from the Lewisham Lottery has been utilise to help pay for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which has been installed on our premises. All liaison and other arrangements regarding the use of our premises and the mini-bus by third parties falls a few Warranted and unpaid Leaders who already run Uniformed Sections plus their own homes and work. It can therefore be disappointing and demoralising if fund-raising and/or social events organised for the benefit of other people's children are poorly supported by the parents, even having to be cancelled at the last minute for lack of interest, so your support in future events would be much appreciated.

Income Tax reclaim (Gift Aid) is claimed back from HMR&C one year in arrears. We made no claim since the 2015/16 Financial Year for several reasons including difficulties in contacting HMR&C, late receipt of the necessary application forms, a computer error and most importantly, a dearth of signed Gift Aid forms from parents/guardians of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in the Group in that year. A circulation of all parents/guardians will be made with new and revised Gift Aid forms. For all weekly subscriptions paid, we can claim a further 25% amounting to around **£1,000** each year and thus we ask all parents/guardians who are able, to sign the appropriate Gift Aid form. This is a genuine method of raising funds without any impact upon the time or pockets of the parents/guardians of this Scout Group's Youth.

The outgoings upon Utilities including Business and Water Rates, Gas, Electricity, Phone & Broadband and Insurances were largely within our budgetary expectations. Under recent legislation, all minibuses used by Youth organisations also has to have 10-weekly safety checks which is an added cost and quite expensive at £857.94, although that does include an annual service and MOT test. This has been entered into for a second successive year but ensures that the vehicle that children and leaders are travelling in is checked and well-maintained.

Following a request to our Water service providers for bill as we hadn't received one for over a year, we were shocked in November 2021 to receive notification that they considered that we owed them in excess of £7,500 due to a water leak from 2018 that had not been included on previous bills received. We contested this and had to go through the company's complaints procedure. We were provided with a payment plan of £605 per month whilst investigations were ongoing. I am pleased to report that after a period of 15 months we finally received notification that our appeal had been upheld and we received a refund payment of almost £7,500. This of course is not an increase to our funds but merely what had been paid already, returned.

Business and Water Rates are due on 1st April 2023 and will be followed by Utility Bills each quarter, annual Insurance and Mini-bus costs and funds must be raised to cover these mandatory outgoings.
All expenditure save Utility, other mandatory bills and routine housekeeping is laid before the Executive Committee for approval.

The Number 2 Bank account has shown increases in funds however this is temporary due to payments being made for the World Scout Jamboree 2023 in South Korea which in turn is paid on to County. This is normally undertaken by District but First New Cross and Golden Hind ESU are the only persons selected from Lewisham District, so is being done at Group level. We are fortunate to have 5 young people selected for South Korea and a further number of young people selected for the Croatia Trip, both in 2023. We also have a number of leaders selected for both trips.

The Golden Hind Explorer Scout Unit are not part of the First New Cross Scout Group but are “controlled” both administratively and financially directly by Lewisham Scout District as is normal procedure laid down in the Policy, Organization and Rules of the Scout Association. Nevertheless they are part of the First New Cross “Scouting family” sharing our Headquarters and facilities and with some Adults serving in both the First New Cross (1NX) and the Golden Hind (GHESU).

B. Comments upon the Future

We aim to continue to maintain and strengthen our position in terms of numbers and the quality of Scouting available to the local community as always.

There continues to be recruitment campaigns through our website and social media with regard to bringing more children into the adventure that is Scouting (even though we have waiting lists currently), together with recruiting more adults to serve as leaders or on the Executive Committee and/or as officers of the Group. We will need to maintain the retention of our leaders in the sections and we need to also maintain the youth membership to keep them interested in staying with us particularly in the Scout Section as increasing schoolwork can put increased pressures on this age group. Leader training will continue to be a priority. The Group will continue to promote itself through recruitment campaigns to ensure that Scouting in Brockley is properly maintained. We are all very pleased to be back to face to face Scouting and long may that last.

The efforts of the maintenance team and others have helped to keep our premises in a reasonable condition which will need to be continued. A work weekend will usually be scheduled within the summer break to tackle any work that needs doing. The pathways to the premises would all benefit from being resurfaced and we propose to apply for a grant for this. The substantial trees on our property have been pollarded/reduced as they were substantially overgrown and this was paid for using a grant from Morrisons. There is however still work that will need to be done on these. Also with this grant we purchased raised beds for vegetables which are being put together with a view to each section looking after one. We will however need to look into applying for another grant to get the residue of the trees, not covered by this grant, to be pollarded/reduced. Therefore our fundraising efforts may need to be raised to encompass part of the cost albeit to offset our contribution to any grant application, as is usually expected.

Full details of our conventional fundraising and social events have not been finalised and we will advise on dates for these as soon as we are able to. Hopefully Fund Raising events for the remainder of 2023 will be discussed and finalised soon, together with those for the period until the end of March 2024, later in November by the Group Fund Raising Sub-Committee and finalised at the Group Executive Committee meeting.

The 2023 Group Fundraising/Event calendar as it stands is:

- 17TH JUNE 2023 – SUMMER FAYRE
- 1ST NOVEMBER 2023 – LAUNCH OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAW
- 11TH NOVEMBER 2023-- BONFIRE EVENING
- 12TH NOVEMBER 2023 – REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE
- 15TH DECEMBER 2023 - JINGLE MINGLE including CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAW

The above events will be added to this year with a possibility of a Race Night and Quiz Night along with some others.

We will continue to raise funds through Easy Fundraising which allows anybody to purchase goods on line acquiring a donation from the retailer for the Group at no extra cost to themselves. We will continue to promote the Lewisham Lottery which will help raise funds for the Group. We will continue to update our website and attempt to include as many links as possible to assist navigation of other associated sites and to provide our members with up to date information of Group, District and County activities and events.

We are fairly unique in Inner London in having a freehold property with a fairly large plot of land. Our conservation of this area is to be maintained, not only with consideration of our own use for training, games and camping, but also for the benefit of wildlife, of which there is evidence of substantial species. We see our husbandry of the trees and flora throughout the site as being a worthwhile legacy for the future. All youth Sections will continue to be encouraged to take part in the beneficial maintenance of the grounds.

The Group and GHESU will attend the Annual Remembrance Day Service at the Deptford War Memorial in November 2023 representing Scouting in Lewisham.

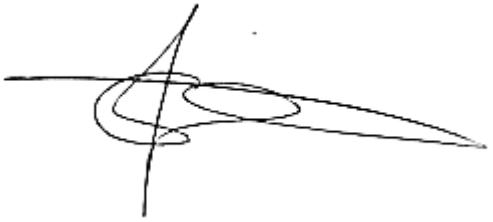
This coming year will again be a challenge given the amount that we need to achieve, however, with your help, we will achieve our goals. The teamwork and general enthusiasm shown by the Executive Committee, Section Leaders and general support from the District and its team needs to be carried forward and where possible improved upon. It is imperative that recruitment within the sections is ongoing and successful to ensure that numbers in the Group are maintained and where possible increased.

Generally, we are very optimistic for the immediate future, but we fully appreciate the hard work and dedication which will be required, as always, by all adult volunteers in the Group to achieve our desired aims, not least of which is the need to generate funds to allow our aims and objectives to be met and the First New Cross to continue its long, so far, 115 year existence. It is essential that the Group Executive Committee is retained and strengthened and that all members of the Group Council make every endeavour to assist in the provision of funds, suitably maintained premises and afford the opportunity for even better Scouting in our community. All new members of the Group Executive Committee MUST submit to a DBS check and undertake a minimal amount of training. Should any parents wish to serve on this committee please speak with any leader who will pass on your details to the Group Scout Leader. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:





Alan McKinnon, Chair.

Liz Fricker, Group Scout Leader.

Dated:

Dated:



Section Reports

2022/23



Squirrel Section Report

April 2022 – March 2023

Our year

We have just completed our first full year as a section and have really settled into the swing of things. The Drey has grown from the initial 14 first to 20, and then to the maximum permitted size of 24 Squirrels. We've completed our first Night Away, and participated in several events in various exciting locations.

Summer 2022

The summer term welcomed 6 new Squirrels, bringing us to a total of 20 and introduced our 4 coloured Nests, each with a guiding adult assigned. We instituted a Code of Conduct designed by the Squirrels to ensure the meetings ran smoothly and could be enjoyed by all of the Drey.

Introducing Sammy the Squirrel gave us a glimpse into our Squirrel adventures at home – he loves going home with our "Squirrel of the Week" to try new things.

We joined the Beaver section at the Frylands District Beaver Easter Egg Hunt and got to try out loads of different activities (and eat lots of chocolate!).

We worked towards the Let It Grow and Super Chef badges – the sunflowers the Squirrels grew in recycled containers for Earth Day flourished and we received regular updates on their progress from home.



In keeping with the themes of the programme, we learned about Eid, wrote and received letters to another Drey, and learnt about fire safety to prepare for our very first end of term campfire! This gave us the opportunity to make S'mores and send our older Squirrels swimming off to Beavers in style via the parachute river.

After receiving a fantastic donation of Duplo and associated materials from Lego, we introduced a termly Lego session which has become a firm favourite.



We welcomed our first "remote" Squirrel, Xander, who was very keen to work towards his badges but unable to make the meetings every week.

Our section joined the group at the Hilly Fields Fayre, collecting rubbish and raising money for the Group.

Finally we completed our first trip outside of our regular meetings – a special Scouts only viewing of Lightyear at Odeon Surrey Quays organised by Thumper.



Autumn/Winter Term 2022

When we returned after the Summer break, we'd expanded yet again to 24 Squirrels.

Working towards the Local Superhero badge and Let's Celebrate, we danced our way through St Andrew's Day celebrations with Woodpecker, had some great crafting sessions with Kestrel as the weather grew colder, and made our way to Lewisham Fire Station for our first off-site meeting arranged by Badger.



We also started our 3 month project to collect supplies for Lewisham Food Bank – we managed to donate over 100kg and work towards our Community Impact stage 1 badge in the process.

Chipmunk organised a fantastic weekend trip to the Greenwich Planetarium to see a special show aimed at our age group.

Spring Term 2023

With a focus on the world and the All Around Us challenge badge, we celebrated Lunar New Year, Squirrels Appreciation Day and Mother's Day, as well as learning to look after our teeth (a very important life skill!). We also wrote to another Squirrel Drey and hope to hear back soon.

Thumper continued to update our private Section Instagram page, with lovely photos every week from our meetings.

We also celebrated our first birthday as a Section – thank you to all the other leaders who baked a fabulous Squirrel cake and came to celebrate on the night.



Bert from Thames Water came in to tell us all about how the water system works, and helped us perform an experiment to teach us what we can and can't put down the toilet!



As the St Andrew's Day dancing went so well, Woodpecker taught us another dance for St David's Day and it went brilliantly – our Drey definitely has talent!

We finished off the term with another brilliant Campfire – the Squirrels are incredibly good at listening and behaving safely around the fire now.



Leaders

During the year, Hedgehog and Thumper took over from Kestrel as co-Squirrel Leaders with Badger, Chipmunk and Woodpecker assisting. Chill graduated from Young Leader to Adult Leader, Roo stepped down as Section Assistant over the Summer and Bumblebee joined us as a Section Assistant in the Spring.

Hedgehog completed her Leader Training, achieving her Wood Badge.



Kestrel was awarded the County Shining Stars Award for Squirrel Leader of the Year PLUS the Award of Merit. She has also become the Assistant County Commissioner for Squirrels for South London.

Rainbow Beetle, Slow Worm, Owl, Donald Duck and Mushu have been great Young Leaders throughout the year.

Nights Away

As soon as it was announced that Squirrels were permitted to do overnight stays, Thumper was on the case! She organised a fantastic Sleepover at the Scout Hut in Spring 2023 and even included a trip to the Creekside Centre on the second day to include Squirrels who were not ready for an overnight stay just yet. Stay tuned for future Nights Away over the next year!

Badges

So far this Drey has exceeded all expectations when it comes to badge work. Over the course of the year 16 Squirrels completed their Chief Scout's Acorn Award – the highest award in Squirrels.

In addition to this, there were 81 Challenge badges and a whopping 174 Activity badges issued.

Thank you to all the parents who have supported us during our first full year as we found our feet with a brand new Section – and a big "Well Done" to our Squirrels who've shown us that age is no barrier to being a great Scout.

Yours in Scouting

Badger (Stef), Hedgehog (Gemma), Thumper (Hayley), Woodpecker (Ellie), Chipmunk (Sophie), Kestrel (Debbie), Bumblebee (Aysan), Chill (Lili).

Squirrel Leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.





Beaver Section Report

April 2022 – March 2023

Our year

The end of another Beaver year and the section has developed amazingly from last year.

Summer Term 2022

The final few months of our 21-22 programme saw our beavers taking part in a number of badge work and activities.

Within these three months our Beavers have been given the opportunity to go on the district Beavers egg hunt and this was quickly followed with the district beaver Sleep Over. The beavers that took part in these activities enjoyed it immensely.

For our weekly sessions we concentrated on completing two badges, The Beavers Skills challenge badge, which had the beavers working together to solve puzzles such as river crossing, den building and bridge building, and doing activities to promote healthy eating.



The second badge was the newly formed badge Money Skills, which focused on the history of money and teaching beavers to distinguishing between items they need for survival and items that were luxuries.

We finished off our 21-22 programme with our annual Beavers water fight, in which at the end 6 Beavers swam up to Cubs.



Winter Term 2022

We Started our 22-23 programme with 23 Beavers in our colony and welcomed our third Young Leader. We concentrated on completing three badges; Air Activity, International and Navigation. One of our young Leaders Mushu led her first badge program, teaching our beavers about South Korea as part of their International badge and aligning this with her upcoming participation in the World Scout Jamboree. The end months of our Winter programme saw our Beavers concentrating on completing The world Challenge badge, then using their imagination in creating various craftworks.

Spring Term 2023

We came back in 2023 and by February we had grown our numbers to 28 Beavers and 5 Young Leaders. We were also honoured to have Bex join us as a uniformed Leader.

Within this time period our Beavers had the opportunity to go on the district Beavers egg hunt and this was quickly followed with the District Beaver Sleepover, with many of our beavers being invested. Our Beavers also were able to participate on another camp in coordination with the Cubs. This was an outdoor camp over two nights. The Beavers that took part conducted themselves amazingly and were a true credit to 1st New Cross Beavers.

Our weekly sessions concentrated on completing various badges, The Beavers Communication badge, which had the beavers working together to solve puzzles and find different ways to relay a message to one another. The Safety Badge, which focused on the How Beavers stay safe in various situations.



We ended May with our Colony having 31 Beavers and 5 Young Leaders. This is an amazing achievement and could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of 3 Uniformed Leaders and the 4 parent leaders that also gave up their time to make sure that we are able to run nights in a safe organised manner and the support of the Group.

Thank you all for your support, I Look Forward to the 2023-2024 programme.

From all the Beaver leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.





Cub Section Report

April 2022 – March 2023

Our year

This year we increased the pack size to 30! We have had a fantastic year and have done lots of different things. This year we have awarded 18 Chief Scout Silver awards and awarded a massive 450 Badges ranging from challenge to activity to staged! I'm extremely proud of all the hard work from both the Cubs and the Leaders



Summer Term 2022

The summer term saw us camping again! We went camping in April as a test run for Akela to do her nights away permit. We also looked at the new Cub money skills badge where we had the opportunity to either save our pokemon cards or to take them out of the bank of Kestrel. We had a couple of guest people come in and run an evening with Katie our Scout leader running a session on South Korea and the World Scout Jamboree, and then a parent who does amazing work trying to combat global malnutrition. May saw us wading into Deptford Creek for a creek walk.

July saw us running off to camp again this time for Akela's permit.

Autumn / Winter Term 2022

We came back in September ready to go and we looked at our code of conduct. We also had a new occasional helper join our team. In september Rikki was awarded his Duke of Edinburgh bronze award. We then decided to become scientists and Rama and Kaa taught us some line dancing, although I feel the Cubs were better at this than me.!We created postcards for the royal family and sent them off when the Queen passed. Kaa ran the astronomy badge and Akela had signed us up for UK Parliament week, the cubs had fun creating political parties and then campaigning for what they believed in. We rounded up the term with some cubs coming with Akela and Rama to Sevendroug castle to take part in the JOTI/JOTA which was enjoyed by all. We even managed a couple of investments up in the tallest tower of the castle. Although Akela did get part of it wrong! In December we celebrated Lil's 18th birthday by investing her as an adult leader.

Camps

This time Akela brought the sunshine with her to camp. We managed to get two camps within a few months! The Cubs enjoyed both! We had our amazing GSL Liz come on the one in July to run the kitchen! When we got home we were told how many of the cubs tried foods that they wouldn't normally eat at home! In September we took the senior cubs on a narrowboat trip. In January we held our annual winter camp, this time we went to Waylands campsite in Bromley and a lovely time was had by all. Although Akela was disappointed there was no snow! Hopefully one year!



Spring Term 2023

We started off 2023 with some taskmaster challenges. We ate bugs, did some physical activities and wrote letters to our future selves. Then came Luna New Year. We looked at our scouting history. Kaa then ran some amazing nights on Disability awareness and Ostara. Lastly, we did some Easter themed craft.

Leader training

Over the last year leaders have kept pushing through their training, with Akela gaining her nights away permit and both Akela and Kaa gaining their tomahawk permits.
Rama is looking into doing his permit for air rifle shooting and Akela would like to try archery. Both Rama and Chil are working towards their wood badges. We now have 4 young leaders. With three who have just completed their Duke of Edinburgh award with school and all four working their way through the Young leader scheme with the full support of the Adult leaders.



Jo (Akela), Debbie (Kestrel), Shelby (Kaa), Lili (Chil), Matt (Cinders), Sam (Rama) and Rafe (Rikki)

Cub Scout Leaders



Thank you to all parents who have supported us this year . Thank you to all the Cub Leaders as we know it has been a hard year and we have all needed to lean on and support each other. Thank you to the incredible 1NX team. We have come together to keep Scouting going strong for our group.

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.



Scout Section Report

April 2022 – March 2023

Our Year

We are 31 fun loving, adventure seeking, noisy Scouts and 7 very delighted leaders

April 2022

We started off the year with 'Easter freezer' camp at Frylands Wood, full of complex teamwork challenges, axe, saw and survival skills. Scouts cooked some top camp meals and showed the leaders a few things about how pizza ovens work. The Scouts also learnt how to keep essential Scout tools in top condition.



June

The section had a visit to ING hosted by our very own Trevor, Scouts got to sample a very tasty lunch provided by the bank. Afterwards we were taken to view the trading floor. Scouts had to promise not to invest in any crypto before they were allowed on the floor. Then Trevor took us to the wine cellar and shared a few of his great stories. We were given a behind the scenes tour of the power and control rooms and got to see what would happen if there was a power failure at the bank.



August

August is summer camp time. This year Scouts went on a big Welsh adventure. This is especially exciting as it was the first time the new Scout leaders had planned a summer camp. They had been waiting for an opportunity to show their skills after being in training for many years. The section can confirm they did not disappoint. This summer camp was an epic adventure!!!



We slept in hammocks under the stars, chatted around the campfire, hiked around lakes and mountains, explored beaches and islands, and went surfing!



September

We visited the classic car club in Beckenham Place Park, it was really fun meeting the owners and getting to sit inside cars from the 70's. It was a very wet night, but this did not stop the Scouts having fun. Interestingly, Scouts were shocked to discover that some of the cars on show were older than their leaders!!!



October

Scouts attended an Army Day at the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich. They completed their mechanics badge in just one day. Learning how to change a headlight and a wheel. They also got a good understanding of how clutches and engines work.









January 2023

Scouts took part in a film for HQ that will help get more adults volunteering in the movement. It starred 1st New Cross Scouts and their leaders!! It was a great fun day. The film crew sent us a thank you note because they were so impressed by how the Scouts conducted themselves whilst on set. If you would like to see the film please come and chat to one of the Scout leaders, but please understand that now we are film stars we can only autograph one item per person!

November

It was Kerem's turn to get his Nights Away permit. It was a really fun but wet and windy camp, a Coleman shelter got blown away due to the 65 mph winds! We believe the shelter has found a new home with a Scout group in Scotland. During the camp we hiked around the local area and came across a mega cow. We called him Dave, as you will see from the photo he did look around when we called his name. There was some really good map and compass skills learnt on this camp and we are pleased to report no Scouts were lost. Well done to Kerem for getting his nights away permit!



March

For the second year in a row our oldest Scouts took part in their expedition challenge award. This is a 2-day independent hike which has Scouts cooking their own meals and plotting their own route. This means they were able to add a stop at the local café to stock up. At the time this sounded like a good idea but they told us that paying £4 for lemonade is not great so will advise other Scouts to bring all their own food and drink on future hikes. This is great youth shaped Scouting! You will also see that chicken mc chicken face squeezer joined the Scouts on their expedition challenge too. Since he is not a Scout, he was not able to receive the expedition award. The Scout section is very proud of these Scouts gaining this top award. Well done!!





Scouts, well done for a great year and for keeping Scouting going. We can't wait to go on adventures with you again soon.

Matt, Katie, Roe, Kerem, James, Trevor, Ben, Daniel

Scout Leaders



Learn more.

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Golden Hind ESU Section Report

April 2022 – March 2023

Our year

This year the Unit has grown to 25 Explorers and we are busier and more adventurous than ever! Our Explorers commit themselves to try new things, take on challenges, achieve top awards and volunteer their time to help others. Thank you to our enthusiastic Explorers, who turn up week in week out and shape the unit to what is it today.

Our adventures

Our DofE Bronze team of Rafe, Yvan, Kayla completed their expedition over two days on the River Medway in July. All DofE teams complete a training weekend on the River Thames in the spring, demonstrating deep water canoe rescues, developing their paddling skills and team cooking and campcraft. To develop our skills we also paddled in Canary Wharf which was a unique urban adventure! In January our current DofE group completed an icebreaker paddle on the River Stour, paddling 11.5 km into the dark, guided by our head torches. This is our biggest DofE group ever and they are making great progress with their awards.





For their DofE Gold Expedition, Sam and Lili paddled 60 miles from Fortwilliam to Inverness over 4 days, wildcamping in the beautiful Scottish landscape. They were quickly acquainted with the Scottish midge! To see how amazing it was You can see a video of the summer expeditions here.



Besides meeting at the hut each week, Explorers have tried indoor skydiving, sailing with the county, taken a behind the scenes tour of ING bank, toured the of Houses of Parliament, competed in the Operation Red flare night hike, played in the board game café, experienced the Banff mountain film festival, went ice skating and bowling, and explored the winter lights festival. We also have spent two weekends volunteering as the service crew at Frylands Woods, doing essential maintenance work and running activities for visiting groups.

International Trips

The unit is going international in Summer 2023! The past year has been all about being prepared and attending training camps. Jake, Alex, Imogen and Noah are representing us at the World Scout Jamboree in Korea this summer alongside 40,000 scouts from 170 countries. Matt, Katie, Roe and Lili will also be there, volunteering alongside 8,000 volunteers. Rafe, Arthur, Xavi, Holly, Seb, Oli and Favour will be trailblazing to Croatia with the county this summer on a big exciting adventure full of activities, and Jo will be part of the leadership team. We hope everyone has an amazing time!



Young people taking the lead and achieving

We have 15 young leaders who have volunteered at Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at local groups every week. These explorers develop their confidence, communication skills and gain experience working as part of a team as well as being great role models for younger members.

Yvan was selected by Scouts HQ to interview celebrities Taika Waititi, Chris Evans and Tim Peake ahead of the Lightyear Premiere. Watch it here!



Explorers have completed Chief Scout Platinum & Diamond Awards and DofE Bronze awards this year, and next year we are set to achieve even more.



Alex C was nominated and awarded a Jack Petchey Outstanding Achievement award for his commitment to his Scouting. Lili received an outstanding achievement award for her dedication as a young leader and for her resilience and determination on her DofE Gold Expedition. Well done and congratulations to them both!



By creating opportunities for young people to shape Scouts and run meetings, they improve our unit, develop leadership skills and achieve their top awards. 7 Youth Shape Award modules were completed this year. Well done and thank you to these Explorers.

Running the unit

The unit is running well and we are becoming more stable financially. This year our volunteer team have gained canoe permits, tomahawk permits, British Canoe instructor and rescue qualifications. To address a driver shortage we successfully applied for £1,250 funding for Matt to take his test to drive a minibus with a trailer.

The reality is that without volunteers these adventures can't happen. We'd like to welcome new adult volunteers to our team to help us deliver an exciting programme. No experience is needed and you can volunteer as little or as much time as you can spare, whether this running a night here and there or becoming a fully trained leader we'd love to hear from you: goldenhindesu@1stnewcross.co.uk.

Looking ahead

Our plan for the year ahead is to increase the number of young people participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and completing the Young Leader Scheme. We are currently fundraising to buy a fleet of Canadian canoes in partnership with Discovery ESU, and have so far raised £3,500 of our £18,000 total. If you have ideas to help us reach our goal, please email goldenhindesu@1stnewcross.co.uk.

We are expecting new members to join us from 3rd Crofton Park and 1st New Cross, which which means we will continue to grow over the next year.

Well done to our Explorers, and thank you to our volunteers who make it all happen!

Katie and Jo

Explorer Leaders

Learn more.

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Group Accounts

1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1021328. Scout Registration No. 44935 First Registered with B-P on 24th. May 1908.

Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Receipts

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	**£**
Donations and Similar Income.		
Annual Scout Assn. Membership Subscriptions	6,440.00	4,455.00
Annual Scout Assn. Subs. paid on via Lewisham District	**(6,440.00)**	**(4,455.00)**
Membership Subscriptions - Section's use	3,333.10	2,492.16
Membership Subscriptions - Establishment	2,314.90	1,934.84
Donations - Puppy School, S.E. London	1,543.75	1,822.00
Donations – Other (Guides, Church, Secret Adventure, Parties etc)	12,301.25	8,518.38
- Mini-bus usage	787.50	848.13
- Mini-bus Scrappage Scheme & Vehicle Tax Refund	-------	7,137.50
- Grant from Lewisham Council	1,248.00	11,484.79
- Grant for Squirrels	500.00	500.00
Gift Aid *(See note in Annual report)*	-------	--------
Youth Programme, Activities, Camps, Inc. WSJ etc.	19,225.00	8,975.00
Morrisons Charity Grant for Veg Boxes & Tree Care	-------	7,212.00
Don Broome Trust Grant	250.00	1,500.00
	41,503.50	**52,424.80**
Fund Raising (Gross).		
Table Sale/Fayres	581.21	283.80
Easyfundraising	271.62	297.84
Bonfire Evening	408.00	584.00
Smile Amazon	102.48	164.87
Lewisham Lottery	489.50	103.50
Scout Personal Fundraiser (Jamie G-W)	--------	1,100.00
Jingle Mingle & Christmas Raffle	321.80	356.40
Other fundraising activities	60.00	118.69
	2,234.61	**3,009.10**
Investment Income.		
Deposit Account Interest	6.41	0.11
Total Gross Income	**43,744.52**	**55,434.01**

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1021328. Scout Registration No. 44935 First Registered with B-P on 24th. May 1908.

Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Payments

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Charitable Payments.		
Youth Programme, Activities, Camps, etc. incl. WSJ	24,009.09	11,816.58
Council Tax (Business Rates)	2,495.00	636.81
Water & Sewerage	-2,876.73	2,723.00
Electricity & Gas	1,694.95	1,414.22
Property & Equipment Insurance	1,531.87	1,268.36
Telephone & Broadband	719.59	609.34
Mini-bus running costs (Road Tax, Insurance, MoT, Purchase, etc.)	2,346.05	24,243.56
Maintenance - H.Q. and Grounds	3,270.52	13,188.01
Equipment, furniture, etc.	1,593.09	706.91
Online Scout Manager Costs	367.01	410.82
Morrisons Charity funded works	6,750.00	912.00
Don Broome Trust Laptop/Banner Purchase	499.06	1,699.90
Start Up Grant for Squirrels - Usage	------	414.60
Other Establishment costs (Misc/ Zettle/ Stripe/GoCardless fees etc.)	3,350.75	1,581.72
	45,750.25	**48,962.65**
Fund Raising Expenses (including prizes, etc.)		
Table Sale/Fayres	-------	--------
Easyfundraising	-------	--------
Bonfire Evening	79.66	62.00
Smile Amazon	-------	--------
Lewisham Lottery	-------	--------
Jingle Mingle & Christmas Raffle	104.41	--------
Other fundraising activities	560.00	--------
	744.07	**62.00**
Total Gross Expenditure	**46,494.32**	**49,024.65**
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	**(-2,749.80)**	**(6,409.36)**
Cash funds this year end	**42,168.24***	**44,918.04***

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

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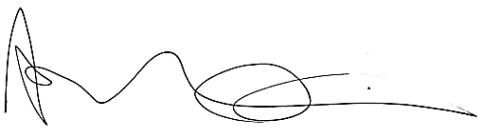
Statement of Assets at the end of the year.

31st March 2023

	31st March 2023	31st March 2022
	£	£
Cash Funds.		
Bank Current Account (No.1 General Funds)	37,210.15	41,005.44
Bank Current Account (No.2 Expeditions)	2,123.74	2,645.41
Deposit Account (C.O.I.F.)	367.76	361.35
PayPal Charity Account Balance	561.16	512.50
Equals Card Balances	1,426.85	0.00
Cash/Floats	478.58	393.34
Total Cash Funds	**42,168.24**	**44,918.04**
Ring-Fenced assets from Geoffrey Morriss Bequest		
Building, Maintaining & Digitising Group Archives	10,000.00	not shown
Emergency Situation Fund	2,120.00	not shown
Total Ring-Fenced Funds	**12,120.00**	not shown
Non-monetary assets for own use.		
Land and Buildings	190,000.00	190,000.00
Mini-bus	20,500.00	21,000.00
Scouting equipment, furniture, etc.	9,800.00	9,800.00
	220.300.00	**220.800.00**

The above Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets were approved by the Trustees on the 12th Day of June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:





…… ……

Brian Sweeting, Group Treasurer **Alan McKinnon, Group Chair**

THE FIRST NEW CROSS

(THE GREYS)

SCOUT GROUP

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

2022/23

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1021328. Scout Registration No. 44935 First Registered with B-P on 24th. May 1908.

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Scouting equipment, furniture, etc.	9,800.00	9,800.00
	220.300.00	**220.800.00**

The above Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets were approved by the Trustees on the 12th Day of June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Brian Sweeting, Group Treasurer

.....
Alan McKinnon, Group Chair

Mrs Rebecca Warren
The Flat
3 North St
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 2XH
13th June 2023

SCUITINEER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE 1ST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

I report on the accounts of the group for the year ended 31st March 2023

Respective responsibilities of trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts you consider that neither the audit not the independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 1993 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and report to you.

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's constitution; and with particular reference to the Scout Association's Guidance on the Accounting and Audit Requirements – Fact Sheet LT103950 appendix 3; I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out on the preceding pages.

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records and supporting information and explanations produced to me and comply with the constitution. It should be noted the land and buildings are registered with Land Registry under the title of The Scout Association Trust Corporation. I can confirm that no income or receipts were subject to special restrictions which need to be shown in the accounts.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Warren

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1021328

Accounts



The First New Cross (The Greys)
Scout Group

Annual Report and Accounts
2021/22

scouts.org.uk/join
#ScoutsForLife

Scouts

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Trustees' Annual Report

1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

A. Reference and Administration Details.

Registered Charity Number: 1021328

Scout Registration Number 44935

Headquarters: 25 Breakspears Road, Tack Mews, Brockley, London, SE4 1XW

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity:

David Pennell – President
David Fricker – Chairman
Peter Buckle – Asst. Beaver Leader
Elizabeth Fricker–DC Southwark & GSL
Jacqueline Guest - Leader
Brian Sweeting – GSL & Treasurer
David Cohen – Asst. Group Scout leader
Debbie Cohen – Cub Scout Leader
Luke Cohen - Quartermaster
Eileen Fricker – Exec Member
Eleanor Clarke - Secretary
Zoe Gaffen – Exec Member
Neil Penlington – Exec Member

Other members of the Group Executive Committee:

Michelle Buckle, Alan McKinnon, Stacey Ingrassia, Katie Sturgess, Matthew Coleman, Roe Hennessy-Littlejohns, Shelby Millard, Joanne Fuller, Gemma Whitelaw, Sam Sheead.

B. Structure, Governance and Management.

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.

The Group is a Trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee, including the members who are also the "Charity Trustees" of the Scout Group, which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Group Executive Committee consists of three independent representatives, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer together with Group Scout Leader, individual Section Leaders (optional), parents' representation and others, and meets six times annually unless any extraordinary meeting needs to be convened. It exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for: the maintenance of Group property; the raising of funds and the administration of Group finance; the insurance of persons, property and equipment; Group public occasions; assisting in the recruitment of Leaders and other adult support; appointing any sub-committees that may be required and appointing Group Administrators and Advisers other than those who are elected.

C. Objectives and Activities.

The objectives of the Group are as a unit of the Scout Association. The aim of the Scout Association is to provide 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 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 Law and guided by adult Leadership.

Amongst measures required to achieve our objectives are the production and implementation of informative, interesting and fun programmes and activities for all Sections plus the maintenance of numbers. Attendance at Cub and Scout District Camps and District sleep-overs for Beavers is typical of the external activities encouraged, as is taking part in broader based activities with other organisations and various Scout District and County organised events.

With costs rising sharply an income of around £10,000 per year is required to pay the Group's mandatory expenditure – Council tax, utilities, insurances, plus additional funds for exceptional and unexpected matters and vehicle insurance and running costs etc. More traditional methods of fund raising such as attendance at fairs continue to be in the main abandoned due to almost total lack of assistance and public apathy. Other methods of fund raising are being used including a direct method of raising establishment funds based upon the number of Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels benefiting from our facilities, a couple of on-line shopping system which generates a percentage fee from the retailer, the Lewisham Lottery and numerous sponsored events and social evenings. The use of our Headquarters two days a week by three external organisations generates much needed donations as does the use for children's parties, however this is not necessarily throughout the entire year but we appreciate their continued support. The requirement of funds for the Group excludes the needs of funds for the Sections for expeditions and other activities.

D. Achievements and Performance.

The Group continues to go from strength to strength and is well supported by the Group Executive Committee. As outlined on a number of occasions, there is an ongoing requirement to encourage parents to become more involved in fundraising and social events which generate a much needed source of income, without which we would struggle to continue.

The provision of Scouting in Brockley continues to be adequately maintained. At the 2022 Census (January), our numbers had increased over a 12-month period in all sections, with strong retention rates. In the two months until the end of March 2022, our numbers have increased further still to maximum capacity in all sections with waiting lists. We need to ensure that this continues and maintain our extensive recruitment drives which are currently in progress and to concentrate on maintaining the youth membership. We have also continued to maintain sufficient numbers in adult leaders in all sections, but will continue to recruit to cover all eventualities. At the end of 2021 we decided that we would introduce the newest, youngest section, Squirrels (4-5 year olds), so we started the process of setting this up and we finally managed to open the Squirrel Drey on 23rd February 2022, the first non-pilot scheme in the County.

The Squirrel Scout, Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Section Annual Reports are appended at the end of this report. Also appended separately is a report from the Golden Hind Explorer Scout Unit which although they are District based, is affiliated to the First New Cross, meets at our premises and is part of our Scouting Family.

The sections have undergone some leader changes in the past year and we have welcomed a number of new leaders into the Group. We also have a number of Occasional Helpers into the Group. The Group website, www.1stnewcross.co.uk originally set up by Luke Cohen, continues to grow and is constantly being updated and expanded, continuing to provide visitors to the site with a great deal of information

about the Group and its activities, fundraisers and events. The website looks fantastic. Our thanks to Luke Cohen for keeping this eloquently updated and maintained giving full transparency of the Group's activities.

In January 2022, Brian Sweeting, our Group Scout Leader for the last 12 years, stepped down from the role and has been replaced as Group Scout Leader by Elizabeth Fricker, former Scout Leader at First New Cross and former District Commissioner of Southwark, making history as the first female Group Scout Leader of the Group. Our thanks to Brian in all that he did as GSL and a very warm welcome to Liz, who will bring new ideas and a different perspective to the role. Brian has not left the Group, he will continue as Group Treasurer and Administrator.

The completion of training of Leaders through District and County run courses will continue to be a priority in 2022, and some training, Safeguarding, Safety and First Response require updating on a regular basis. All persons sitting on the Group Executive Committee also need to complete the online Trustee Induction Training. Alike with all other Scout Groups, all Leaders are volunteers and undertake their duties without any financial reward, indeed they are out of pocket, having to purchase uniform items and using annual leave to attend camps and other activities. We are extremely fortunate to have a group of very enthusiastic, dedicated Leaders who give as much of their own time as possible for the benefit of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, not just at weekly Drey/Colony/Pack/Troop/Unit meeting nights and camps or expeditions but also in administration, advance programme planning, fundraising, Headquarters maintenance, advertising, recruitment and undertaking their own training. Without this very devoted team, the First New Cross could not perform to its full potential. Our thanks go to them all.

The members of the Group Executive Committee, that are not uniformed Leaders, are also unpaid volunteers and they too give up their spare time freely for the benefit of the Group and need to be DBS cleared and have minimal training. We continue to welcome one of our close neighbours, Neil (also a section parent), onto the Group Executive Committee to give our immediate local community a voice and so that they are aware of what happens within the Group and this has proved to be most beneficial. The Committee continues to retain and increase its member numbers however would still benefit immensely from increased parental involvement. All fundraising and social events that are arranged by the Group require the support of the parents that have sons or daughters within the Group to provide essential assistance in organising and running those events.

The end of the last financial year was a very sad one with the sad passing of our Beaver Leader, Michelle Buckle on 30th March 2022. Michelle was a lovely lady who always put the kids first and no matter how ill she was would still do as much as she could, even from her hospital bed. We thank Michelle for her service to our Group and Scouting in general as she was also an active member of the District Team as ADC Beavers. We will all miss Michelle and a memorial bench will be placed in our grounds so that we can all remember her.

We have five representatives from the Scout & Explorer Sections that will be going to South Korea for the World Scout Jamboree in 2023, the only representatives from Lewisham District. There are also a number of leaders that will also be involved. In addition to this we have 14 young people that have been selected to go on the County trip to Croatia in 2023, again with a number of leaders also selected. This is an outstanding achievement and once in a lifetime experience for all.

There have been a number of section camps, sleepovers, trips and excursions throughout the year giving our youth element a wide and varied window of opportunities to enjoy different things and basic camping skills alike. The section reports appended to this report give in-depth insight into what these were and the enjoyment that was had by all.

In November 2021 the Group attended the Deptford War Memorial for our Remembrance Parade along with 2nd & 32nd Deptford Groups, where poppy wreaths were laid in remembrance.

Chief Scout Awards for each section have been gained this year, the latest of which will be presented at the Group AGM & Awards Evening on 16th September 2022. The Group Annual Sectional Awards will be announced and presented at the Group AGM & Awards Evening. As Squirrels has only been running since February, there will be an award for Squirrel of the 1st Term and then a Squirrel of the Year from next year, which will be known as the Michelle Buckle Award.

The Annual Awards are:

- Joe Curd Award – Beaver of the Year
- Barbara Collins Award – Cub of the Year
- Alan Collins Award – Scout of the Year
- Sid Reader Award – Explorer of the Year
- Geoffrey Morriss Award – For Outstanding Achievement

E. Financial Review.

i. Background.

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group should income and fundraising activities fall short. Given the recent rise in costs of utilities and inflation, The Group Executive Committee considers that the Group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, approximately ***£10,000.00****. This amount was held at the year end.*

In view of these constant increases in Utility and other tariffs, the Group Executive Committee may consider it to be prudent to increase this figure. With both Central and Local Government requiring further economies, there is a possibility that the only external financial assistance we receive, being the Mandatory 80% discount on Business Rates, could be reduced or even scrapped, particularly as a re-valuation of all Business Rates has recently been undertaken with possible new higher charges expected soon.

The Financial situation and details of Income and Expenditure are appended to this report.

The First New Cross Scout Group is totally self-supporting receiving no external financial assistance or regular grants from any source whatsoever save for the reduction in Business Rates as currently dictated by Parliament for premises used by Registered Charities.

We are very fortunate in having a substantial piece of freehold property within inner suburban London with a main hall, storage facilities and adequate space to undertake external Scouting and other activities. However, alike with any other business or domestic premises we have to pay our way finding funds for Rates - Water and Business; Gas;

Electricity; Media Communications; Property, Equipment, Contents and Vehicle Insurances and, as with any premises owner or householder, maintain our land and the trees and buildings upon it in a reasonable condition. Indeed, as an organization dealing with Youth and other members of the public, the standards we are required to maintain are much higher than normal "Housekeeping". Also being a Scout Group and a Registered Charity, we are classified as a "Commercial" organization and thus all tariffs charged to us reflect this classification.

The ways that the necessary funds are raised to meet these commitments are limited and all require the

assistance of the Leaders, Trustees, **parents** of the Youth of the Group and other adults. Leaders and other adults working with the 1st New Cross are **unpaid volunteers** giving their time and expertise for the benefit of the local Community. All Leaders and Executive members have to undergo mandatory training courses to suit their position in the Group, often at locations away from home and for weekends or longer periods. This is in addition to planning and running Squirrel, Beaver, Cub or Scout meetings each week; planning and running activities, camps and expeditions; keeping attendance and financial records; attending Scouters' meetings within the Group and within the Scout District; attending Group Executive meetings and serving on various sub-committees for fund-raising or maintenance - the list is endless. On top of all this most of our Leaders still find time to organize fund-raising events and undertake valuable work around the buildings and grounds. It is extremely sad to find that after all this effort, which is really for the benefit of other people's children, many of our fundraising events are so poorly attended, and frequently have to be cancelled due to the apparent apathy of those to whom our facilities are aimed.

Whilst we are not permitted to hire out our premises for gain upon penalty of losing the Business Rates discount, a number of other organizations and individuals have made use of our premises and afforded donations towards establishment costs, and for this we are very grateful. Fixed rate donations have also been made by other Scout Groups and individuals towards the running costs of the Mini-bus and trailer. The figure for the running costs of the Mini-bus does not usually include fuel. Where the vehicle is used by external parties, the vehicle leaves our Headquarters full of fuel and is returned in the same manner. When used by the First New Cross, fuel costs are included within the individual Accounts for camps, expeditions, etc.

Every Squirrel, Beaver, Cub and Scout (and Explorer) is required to pay an Annual Membership fee (or Capitation) to the Scout Association and this is collected as part of weekly subscriptions. This is not First New Cross money; we merely collect the fee and pay it on annually through Lewisham Scout District and this year was a total of £4,455.00. The Membership Fee goes towards paying the costs of all the many services provided by the Scout Association for its juvenile and adult members including the upkeep of Headquarters' Camping and Activity sites such as Gilwell Park. Most importantly perhaps, this fee covers the Insurances provided for all members of the Scout Association whilst taking part in any recognised Scouting activity. Currently (2022) the Membership Fee stands at £55.00 per head per year; that equates to approximately £1.55 per week for each of the weeks that the Drey/Colony/Pack/Troop meet in an average year - good value for all the activities, adventure and knowledge available.

ii. 2021/2022 Results.

There has been an increase in our earnings this year and this is largely due to donations received for the use of our premises which have increased since the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. Attendance for fundraising events has increased but could still be much better than it is if the events were more widely supported. Once again, the lack of backing for the Gift Aid system has contributed to this. All parents will be requested to complete a Gift Aid form, if they are able to, to afford us the opportunity of claiming 25% back in Gift Aid. For subscriptions from April 2022 this should not be a problem as Online Scout Manager will be used to collect subscriptions and event payments and Gift Aid information will be automatically generated.

The continuing increases in necessary expenditure emphasizes the need for a substantial contingency figure to be contained in the annual establishment costing and how important it is for parents/guardians of the Youth within the First New Cross to be supportive of our aims and needs, otherwise this 114 year old Scout Group, probably the oldest extant Scout Group in the World, could be forced to close, thus depriving your children and the rest of the local neighbourhood of any Scouting provision.

Excluding the monies generated purely for the benefit of the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts (weekly subscriptions, camp fees, etc.), the majority of our income came from a Business Grant from Lewisham Council for £11,484.79; the use of our Headquarters for educational and social occasions, and for use of the Mini-bus and trailer, and some Fund-Raising events organised by the Executive Committee and the Leaders. These have not been many events in number this year but we did manage a table sale raising £283.80 , a Christmas Raffle raising £356.40 and a Bonfire Evening raising £522.00 , but we hope that next year will afford a greater variety such as Quiz, Fireworks, Community Fun Day, Karaoke Night, Jingle Mingle, and New Years' Eve event, which although better than recent years, only generated a fraction of our required income. We also secured amounts from online outlets such as Easyfundraising - £297.84, Lewisham Lottery - £103.50 and Smile Amazon - £104.87. A very special effort was made by Jamie Gregory-White by running in the Run or Dye Event raising £600 through sponsorship and also £500 through a corporate donation - fantastic work Jamie! All liaison and other arrangements regarding the use of our premises and the mini-bus by third parties falls to two or three Warranted and unpaid Leaders who already have their Uniformed Sections to run plus their own homes and paid work. It can therefore be disappointing and demoralising if fund-raising and/or social events organised for the benefit of other people's children are poorly supported by the parents of those same children and even having to be cancelled at the last minute for lack of interest, so your support in future events would be much appreciated.

Income Tax reclaim (Gift Aid) is claimed back from HMR&C one year in arrears. We made no claim since the 2015/16 Financial Year for several reasons including difficulties in contacting HMR&C, late receipt of the necessary application forms, a computer error and most importantly, a dearth of signed Gift Aid forms from parents/guardians of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in the Group in that year. A circulation of all parents/guardians will be made with new and revised Gift Aid forms. For all weekly subscriptions paid, we can claim a further 25% amounting to around **£1,000** each year and thus we ask all parents/guardians who are able, to sign the appropriate Gift Aid form. This is a genuine method of raising funds without any impact upon the time or pockets of the parents/guardians of this Scout Group's Youth.

The outgoings upon Utilities including Business and Water Rates, Gas, Electricity, Phone & Broadband and Insurances were largely within our budgetary expectations. Due to the impending ULEZ restrictions we had to scrap our minibus as it did not comply with the regulations regarding emissions but we were able to apply to Transport for London under their Scrappage Scheme and we secured a £7,000 scrappage allowance. We had to source a new minibus and did so through a company in Bournemouth that specializes in buses for youth organisations. We were able to secure a vehicle with very low mileage that was four year's old and in excellent condition at a cost of £21,000 after negotiating a discount with them. This cost was offset with the use of the money from the Scrappage Scheme. Under recent legislation, all minibuses used by Youth organisations also has to have 10-weekly safety checks which is an added cost and quite expensive at £857.94, although that does include an annual service and MOT test. A tow bar also had to be fitted at a cost of £573.16. Almost all of the other mini-bus expenditure shown relates to running costs. That said, the cost of minibuses has risen since our purchase, largely because of ULEZ, and a bus the same as the one that we have is now costing in excess of £26,000.

Following a request to our Water service providers for bill as we hadn't received one for over a year, we were shocked in November 2021 to receive notification that they considered that we owed them in excess of £7,500 due to a water leak from 2018 that had not been included on previous bills received. We have contested this and been told by the Consumer Council for Water that we have to go through the company's complaints procedure first before they can intervene, which we have been doing, although we are having to pay substantial instalments monthly to offset the figure whilst the complaint is being dealt with. We hope that this will be resolved soon and that we will be reimbursed the majority of the money paid. Should the Water company rule against us, we will get the CCW involved.

Business and Water Rates are due on 1st April 2022 and will be followed by Utility Bills each quarter, annual Insurance and Mini-bus costs and funds must be raised to cover these mandatory outgoings. All expenditure save Utility, other mandatory bills and routine housekeeping is laid before the Executive Committee for approval.

The Number 2 Bank account shows an increase in funds however this is due to deposits made and fundraising that has taken place for the World Scout Jamboree 2023 in South Korea which in turn is paid on to County. This is normally undertaken by District but First New Cross and Golden Hind ESU are the only persons selected from Lewisham District, so is being done at Group level. We are fortunate to have 5 young people selected for South Korea and a further 14 young people selected for the Croatia Trip, both in 2023. We also have a number of leaders selected for both trips.

The Golden Hind Explorer Scout Unit are not part of the First New Cross Scout Group but are "controlled" both administratively and financially directly by Lewisham Scout District as is normal procedure laid down in the Policy, Organization and Rules of the Scout Association. Nevertheless they are part of the First New Cross "Scouting family" sharing our Headquarters and facilities and with some Adults serving in both the First New Cross (1NX) and the Golden Hind (GHESU).

F. Comments upon the Future

We aim to continue to maintain and strengthen our position in terms of numbers and the quality of Scouting available to the local community as always.

There continues to be recruitment campaigns through our website and social media with regard to bringing more children into the adventure that is Scouting (even though we have waiting lists currently), together with recruiting more adults to serve as leaders or on the Executive Committee and/or as officers of the Group. We will need to maintain the retention of our leaders in the sections and we need to also maintain the youth membership to keep them interested in staying with us particularly in the Scout Section as increasing schoolwork can put increased pressures on this age group. Leader training will continue to be a priority. The Group will continue to promote itself through recruitment campaigns to ensure that Scouting in Brockley is properly maintained. We are all very pleased to be back to face to face Scouting and long may that last

The efforts of the maintenance team and others have helped to keep our premises in a reasonable condition which will need to be continued. A work weekend will usually be scheduled within the summer break to tackle any work that needs doing. The pathways to the premises would all benefit from being resurfaced and we propose to apply for a grant for this. The substantial trees on our property will also be required to be pollarded/reduced as they are now substantially overgrown and we have now received a grant from Morrisons which will allow the majority of this work to be done and also raised bed vegetable boxes to be purchased. We will however need to look into applying for another grant to get the residue of the trees, not covered by this grant, to be pollarded/reduced. Therefore our fundraising efforts may need to be raised to encompass part of the cost albeit to offset our contribution to any grant application, as is usually expected.

Full details of our conventional fundraising and social events have not been finalised and we will advise on dates for these as soon as we are able to. Hopefully Fund Raising events for the remainder of 2021 will be discussed and finalised soon, together with those for the period until the end of March 2022, later in

November by the Group Fund Raising Sub-Committee and finalised at the Group Executive Committee meeting.

The 2022 Group Fundraising calendar as it stands is:

- 21ST MAY 2022 – RACE NIGHT – Cancelled – New Date to be Advised
- 18TH JUNE 2022 – SUMMER FAYRE
- 9TH JULY 2022 - QUIZ NIGHT – Cancelled – New Date to be Advised
- 18TH SEPTEMBER 2022 – SPONSORED BRIDGE WALK
- 15TH OCTOBER 2022 - KARAOKE EVENING
- 1ST NOVEMBER 2022 – LAUNCH OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAW
- 12TH NOVEMBER 2022 - BONFIRE EVENING
- 13TH NOVEMBER 2022 – REMEMBRANCE PARADE
- 16TH DECEMBER 2022 - JINGLE MINGLE including CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAW
- 31ST DECEMBER 2022 – NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENT

The above events can also be used by those individuals involved in the World Scout Jamboree and Croatia Trips to undertake personal fundraising for their trip by running stalls or taking part in sponsored events.

We will continue to raise funds through Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile, which allows anybody to purchase goods on line acquiring a donation from the retailer for the Group at no extra cost to themselves. We will continue to promote the Lewisham Lottery which will help raise funds for the Group. We will continue to update our website and attempt to include as many links as possible to assist navigation of other associated sites and to provide our members with up to date information of Group, District and County activities and events.

We are fairly unique in Inner London in having a freehold property with a fairly large plot of land. Our conservation of this area is to be maintained, not only with consideration of our own use for training, games and camping, but also for the benefit of wildlife, of which there is evidence of substantial species. We see our husbandry of the trees and flora throughout the site as being a worthwhile legacy for the future. All youth Sections will continue to be encouraged to take part in the beneficial maintenance of the grounds.

The Group and GHESU will attend the Annual Remembrance Day Service at the Deptford War Memorial in November 2022 representing Scouting in Lewisham.

This coming year will again be a challenge given the amount that we need to achieve however, with your help, we will achieve our goals. The teamwork and general enthusiasm shown by the Executive Committee, Section Leaders and general support from the District and its team needs to be carried forward and where possible improved upon. It is imperative that recruitment within the sections is ongoing and successful to ensure that numbers in the Group are maintained and where possible increased.

Generally, we are very optimistic for the immediate future, but we fully appreciate the hard work and dedication which will be required, as always, by all adult volunteers in the Group to achieve our desired aims, not least of which is the need to generate funds to allow our aims and objectives to be met and the First New Cross to continue its long, so far, 114 year existence. It is essential that the Group Executive Committee is retained and strengthened and that all members of the Group Council make every endeavour to assist in the provision of funds, suitably maintained premises and afford the opportunity for even better Scouting in our community. All new members of the Group Executive Committee MUST submit to a DBS check and undertake a minimal amount of training. Should any parents wish to serve on this committee

please speak with any leader who will pass on your details to the Group Scout Leader. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

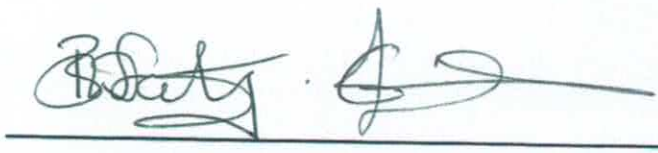
The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:



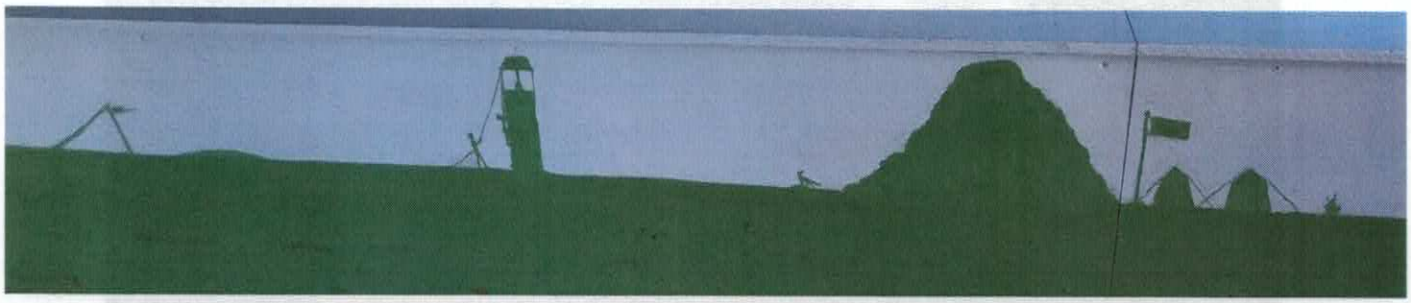
David Fricker, Chairman.

Dated: 19/08/2022



Brian Sweeting/Liz Fricker, Group Scout Leaders.

Dated: 19/08/2022



Section Reports

2021/22



Squirrel Section Report

February 2022 – March 2022

Our year



In September 2021 the Squirrel Section for 4-5 year olds (early years) was officially launched nationwide by the Scout Association and a seed of an idea was planted in my head 'what if we opened our own drey?'

Autumn 2021 - the plan

Questions asked and answered, feelers put out for possible leaders, review of the waiting list for young people and decision made. We had meetings to discuss programme, names, training and what materials we needed to purchase. A date in January was proposed to open, a list of new Squirrels drawn up and all the paperwork sorted. Then just before we sent the invites to join there was a surge in Omicron cases so we took the decision to postpone launch until after February half term.



Spring 2022 - opening

On 23rd February 2022 we had our very first Squirrel Drey meeting with parents and visitors from the County team. Everything ran very well and we had a red and white balloon arch and a special Squirrel cake made by Skippy (Liz-GSL). We had 14 young people to start us off and we soon got to know their individual characters. The first few weeks were quite challenging as it was so new to all of us but eventually we settled in to a routine and set guidelines of expected behaviour with the Squirrels.

At present we are the only open Squirrel Drey in South London and have high demand for places. We plan to increase numbers gradually going up to 24 in September when our first group of older ones will 'wiggle' up to Beavers.



The future holds lots of exciting adventures with a planned cinema trip, a visit to the fire station and celebrating the Queen's Jubilee.

From all the Squirrel leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.



Beaver Section Report

April 2021 – March 2022

Our year

The end of another Beavers year, and it certainly was a challenging one.

April brought back to face to face meetings. We welcomed all the old Beavers back along with 6 new ones, bringing our numbers up to 20.

Summer Term 2021

After returning to meeting at the hut we made sure we stayed outside covering the gardening badge, planting seeds, creating pictures and learning about the tools needed when gardening.

On starting back at Beavers in September, we welcomed Nafisi as a new leader to our group. Although Nafisi's stay was brief, we are grateful for the help she gave.

The start of our 2021/22 program saw 5 Beavers moving up to Cubs. All five were close to finishing their bronze awards which was quite an achievement as they had been deprived of face-to-face scouting.

This term saw the Beavers continue working on the gardening badge, sowing seeds and planting beans. We have had lots of happy beavers showing how well their beans had grown. The Beavers took part in a spy night with the Beaver's cracking codes and working out clues to puzzles set to them. They also completed the Air activity badge with the Beavers making paper airplanes and testing their aerodynamic designs in a series of test. They also had to learn about three classic Aircrafts and learn the role that weather plays in air flight.

Winter Term 2021

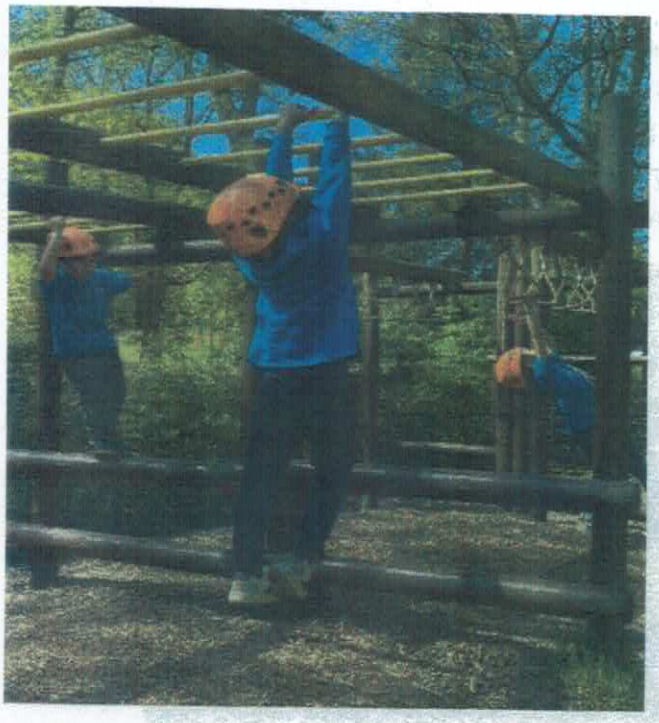
In our Winter term we welcomed two new Beavers as we had Beavers move up to Cubs. Due to the demand for places, our colony increased to 24.

Beavers had their first Beaver sleepover since covid became a reality here at the hut and as part of the sleep over, they visited the Maritime Museum. Beavers had a great time with the games that had been laid out, giving them the opportunity to work as part of a team as well as the opportunity to improve on their problem-solving skills. The sleepover was a great success!



The rest of the term our Beavers worked on the cook badge, learning about healthy foods and hygiene and safety in the kitchen, Beavers also created their own individual pizzas which they all couldn't wait to eat. A parent on seeing the work we did that night and being a dietitian came and gave a talk about the importance of eating healthy as she wanted to give the Beavers more in-depth information. Beavers took part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade and for Christmas we completed the creative badge with some creative Christmas decorations, and finished our last week with some fun games and a Christmas party.

We started January with 22 beavers, as 2 more of our Beavers swam up to Cubs. Beavers this term covered a range of different badges, from the Emergency Aid badge, learning what to do if they come across someone in medical distress to the Photographer badge learning what makes a good or bad picture and enjoying learning terms such as limb chops.



Spring Term 2022

This brought us to the Spring term and our Beaver numbers had increased to 25, an amazing achievement in growing the colony and a testament to the work that has been done by our leadership team. However, as our Beaver numbers Increased, our leadership numbers decreased by one with the unfortunate passing of the 1st New Cross Beaver Leader and District Assistant Beavers Commissionaire Michelle Buckle. The group, especially us Beaver leaders and Beavers will truly miss an amazingly kind and warm leader whose years of experience and know-how will be hard to be replicate. Beavers that were fortunate to have her as a leader I'm sure will have wonderful memories of Beavers and scouting largely due to her.

Beavers completed in this term the International and Space badges, In Michelle's memory the district easter egg hunt that she was in the process of organising took place at Frylands, this also was the location of the District Beaver Sleepover, A few of our lovely Beavers and one of our Young Leaders had the honour of being invested on their first Beavers nights away camp.



Heading into the spring term 24 beavers was within our colony. We were glad to have Zoe join us a Beaver leader an amazing bonus for our beavers and comes with additional family support. Beavers concentrated on completing three badges, Beavers Skills challenge badge, which had the beavers working together to solve puzzles such as river crossing and bridge building and doing activities to promote healthy eating and den building. The second was the newly formed badge Money Skills, which focused on the history of money and taught Beavers to distinguish between items they need for survival and items they want for enjoyment. We finished the term with Beavers completing elements of the Outdoor Challenge Badge culminating in an organised water balloon/water gun fight.

This Beaver Year could not have been possible without the amazing leadership and support that was given to the Beavers. From Debbie taking over while Michelle was absent, to Jacquie helping out when she can. To Peter still being Involved when other priorities understandably occupied his focus. To Alex becoming a parent helper even though her child is not part of our beaver family yet to the young leaders who stepped up on occasion without being asked and enabled weekly session to run. This 2021/2022 Beaver term can simply be summed up in one word Teamwork.



At the end of the 2021/2022 program, we saw 6 of our Beavers moving up into the Cub section. We are sad to see them leave but happy to meet 6 new Beavers that will be moving up from the newly formed Squirrel Section. With the dedication of our leadership team and the support of the group as a whole I'm sure they will continue to enjoy their scouting experience with us.

From all the Beaver leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.



Cub Section Report

April 2021 – March 2022

Our year

This year we increased the pack size to 30! We now have approximately 25 turning up each week! We have had a fantastic year and have done lots of different things.

Summer Term 2021

The summer term saw us brushing up on those key camping skills and even some navigation skills with Mountain Boy (much to Akela's enjoyment as she can't read a map very well) the cubs walked away with a level 2 navigation badge for their camp blankets. July saw us going to Frylands Wood for an activity day where we took part in archery and using the traverse wall where Akela kept her feet firmly on the ground. At our end of year party in the park we said a sad goodbye to 5 cubs who then joined the scout troop in September. We were sad to see them go but wished them well on their continued scouting journey.

Autumn / Winter Term 2021



We came roaring back in September with a get to know you session then we had 9 cubs go to eagle heights with the scouts and visit the huskies and birds of prey. Following on from this we had Kaa's fiancée come in and run the air activities level 1 badge and then gained another leader. We welcomed Rama (Sam) into the pack. We also invited our parents for a skills challenge night where we showed off our tea making skills and followed this by some Investments and awarding of badges, this was a special night for all. After the October half term, we then welcomed Matt and Katie to two pack nights where they kindly ran the digital maker level 1 for the cubs, the cubs enjoyed being able to programme the microbots and we were grateful for the help. Kestrel took the rains and introduced the new money skills badge to the cubs. December also saw Kestrel stepping down as the Cub Scout leader and Akela taking over. I would like to say a huge thank you to Kestrel for all the help and support she has given me, and I can only hope I can fill her shoes.

Actual camps



Akela had this amazing idea to go camping at the end of November! And 24 cubs, 2 young leaders and 5 adults agreed (What were we thinking) once again we trekked to Frylands Woods for a weekend of indoor camping as Akela is not as crazy as the scouts! The 24 cubs took part in air rifle shooting, making pizzas, learning some knots, and taking part in some winter themed activities. During that weekend Akela already had 2 more camps half planned! Unfortunately due to the cold we closed the camp a little bit earlier than expected, as we didn't want frozen cubs, although we did try to lose them without success much to our parents' disappointment. Camp was enjoyed by all and I can't wait to take the pack again, only this time in the spring/summer. Our Cub of the Camp was Ronell who always sets an amazing example for the cubs and we decided to promote him to sixer.

February 2022 saw us invite the senior cubs who were due to go up to scouts in April join us for an overnight stay at the hut to complete the outdoor challenge and the adventure challenge badges. One cub managed to achieve his personal

challenge, which is amazing! We also had one cub who completed his silver award on camp!



Spring Term 2022

We started off 2022 with a bit of a bang and we thought about what we wanted to achieve in 2022 and more importantly as a cub. Unfortunately we then had to go back to zoom for two weeks as lots of cubs came down with the dreaded covid but we made it through the personal safety badge and a session on lego. We have continued with working our way through badges, and Kaa ran a lovely night on our founder Lord Baden- Powell. We also celebrated Lunar New Year by making cards and dragons. In February 8 cubs got to go the low tide creek walk along with the Scouts, this provided a great opportunity for the Cubs who went to start their linking process.

Cinders had us making pots of gold out of clay for St Patrick's day, and the cubs enjoyed making a mess!

Leader training

In September Akela finished off her wood badge and Kaa followed shortly after. This is a great achievement for them both so well done. Rama is working his way through to get his wood badge.

December also saw Akela agreeing to go on a county trip next year to Croatia as part of the leadership team.

February saw Chil get a place on the international service team for the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in the summer of 2023, we are extremely proud of her and wish her all the success with fundraising!

Please join us at the AGM to see us award the Cubs their Chief Scout Silver award and to find out who is our Cub Scout of the Year for 2021/2022.

Thank you to all parents who have supported us during this strange year and encouraged the Cubs to keep going. A massive well done to the Cubs for being so understanding and hardworking during the pandemic. Thank you to all the Cub Leaders as we know it has been a hard year and we have all needed to lean on and support each other. Thank you to the incredible 1NX team. We have come together during a difficult time and have kept Scouting going strong for our group.

More Camping awaits!

Jo (Akela), Debbie (Kestrel), Shelby (Kaa), Lili (Chil), Matt (Cinders), Sam (Rama) and Rafe (Rikki)

Cub Scout Leaders

Learn more.

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Scout Section Report

April 2021 – March 2022

Our Year – Post COVID

We are 34 fun loving, adventure seeking, noisy Scouts and some very fantastic leaders.

April

Our year started off with a virtual Easter camp, we are sure all will agree that we never want to have a 'virtual' camp ever again. Scouting is at is best when we are going on adventures, having fun, making friends, getting outdoors, expressing our creativity, and experiencing the wider world in person, not stuck inside on a video call.

Summer Camp

As we recovered from COVID, our annual summer camp took us closer to home than normal. Dartford, at Hope Hill Scout campsite



We slept in Hammocks under the stars, a few Scouts even slept in the maggot tent! We chatted around the campfire, shared our best jokes, told silly stories. Went mountain biking, learnt how to sleep in a makeshift bivvy. It rained that night but the bivvys were well built and in fact waterproof. We also dealt with a midnight visit from an alien, but we have been advised to not talk about that.

A big highlight was the visit to Cyclopark, our Scouts learnt some fantastic skills and it was great to be outside after being stuck inside for so long.

After many years of top-notch summer camps. This was Debbie last, so thank you Debbie, and thank you for trusting the scout leaders to take the summer camp baton forward.

September

We went to Eagle Hights with the cubs, it was a great chance for the younger section to meet and spend time with the Scouts. It was nice to see them getting on and making friends across the sections.

We made pals with Huskies and got to eat pizza around a campfire with them. Our older Scouts got to camp in a dome circle tent thing. (There was electricity and beds inside, this is unheard of luxury on a camp!!) the Scouts have requested all camps are like this one in future.

Our Scouts got out their OS Maps and compasses to plan a hike around the local town of Eynsford. We didn't get lost, but the leaders did get soaked in the river!! It was terrific to see the Scout's navigation skills being used in the real world.



October

Our eldest Scouts completed their expedition challenge award. They hiked and camped on their own over 2 days, they rested at Hammer Wood camp site. Rumour has it that the Scouts didn't go to sleep until 3am. The leaders do not believe that. These Scouts got to the end of the hike before us!!! Thank you to Bill Compton for the suggestion of Hammer Wood & thank you Hammer Wood for the free badges!! The leaders are so proud of these scouts. WELL DONE on your award!!



November

Winter Camp happened, as expected this was a cold camp, our was kitchen frozen and so were our tents. Since scouts are always prepared this was no problem for us. Scouts went on an adventure scavenger hunt around Selsdon woods. They enjoyed it and since this was a very tricky hunt the leaders learnt some great lessons too!!



We got to use the new Frylands pizza oven, turns out that one of our scouts is a secret pizza chef. He will be opening Scout'z pizza shop very soon!!

Scouts oversaw the cooking for this camp, they produced great menu ideas and were terrific cooks too! The leaders are hoping this becomes a tradition on all future camps.

This camp was a permit camp for Matt, and we are happy to say the permit was granted and no Scouts were lost or harmed permanently during the gaining of the permit.



January

We were back conquering London for the Monopoly Run along with 1000's of Scouts and Guides, racing across London and buying up as much property as possible. We took a lot of tubes, did a lot of walking, got photos in a black cab, visited the toilets of the Savoy Hotel, did not lose any Scouts and we improved our score from last year! Although we did forget to check in at the first location, there is always next year.

Late in January we found out 2 of the Scout Leaders, Katie and Roe will be part of the international service team at the next Jamboree in Korea. Well done to them both, such great leaders!!

February

We went mud larking, for a laugh! It's really important Scouts explore their local environment so we took a visit to Creekside Discovery Centre, to spend an morning in the river and an afternoon doing STEM activities. The Scouts told us it was interesting learning about the river and its local history .



March

Easter Camp happened. Now Scouts are always prepared but turns out it's colder on an Easter camp than a Winter camp. No problem for the Scouts! With even more of the kitchen frozen and tent zips stuck we still got to take part in cool activities around Frylands.

The scouts learnt how to maintain our axes and saws and how to use them to build a great campfire to keep us warm for the weekend. There were several fun activities at Frylands we took part in.

This camp was for Roe to gain their nights away permit, they did. So, a MASSIVE WELL DONE to getting your permit Roe.

All the section leaders at Scouts now have a nights away permit, we think this is a super fantastic achievement, so here it is in writing for the archives WELL DONE SCOUT LEADERS, you rock!!!



The end bit

We have been joined by some fantastic new section assistants this year. James in February 2021, Trev in April 2021, Oweis in March 2022, and Keremcan in April 2022. These new members of the group have been so great. It's been so nice seeing them bond with the Scouts and become part of the team. Thank you for what you do. You are amazing!

This year, our always there for you great Group Scout Leader retired (he hasn't gone, he is just the treasurer now) the Scout section would like him to know what a great help and support he was to us and made our roles as Scout Leaders so much easier. Brian, thank you for being our GSL, 10 out of 10, would recommend.

This means we now have a new GSL, they have already been on two camps with us!! The Scout section is very impressed, so thank you and welcome Liz. We look forward to you being our GSL for many years to come.

Thank you to the parents for your continued support and friendly chats we have when you drop off your Scout, we really like it.

And of course, thank you Scouts, **well done for a great year, your leaders are very proud of what you have achieved this year and seeing you bounce back after COVID is so good!! We can't wait to go on more adventures with you again next year.**

Matt, Katie, Roe, Trev, Keremcan, James & Oweis
Scout Leaders





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Golden Hind Section Report

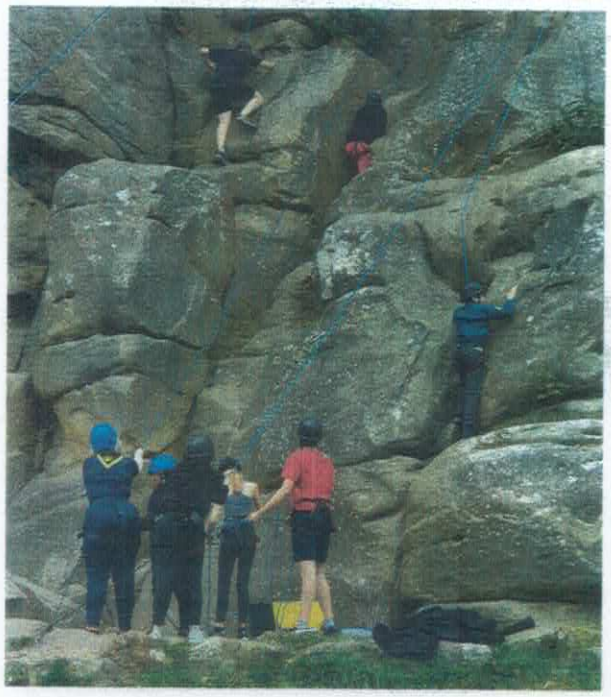
April 2021 – March 2022

Our year

Golden Hind Explorer Scout Unit has continued to grow since our last AGM

What we got up to

Golden Hind ESU has really taken off this year and it's down to the awesome bunch of young people who come up to the hut each week to learn skills, work together and have fun and adventures. They are shaping and building the unit and setting us off on a great path. Since the Scout section is thriving, we want to make sure we have an exciting offer for young people when they move up into Explorers.



Adventures

We have grown from 2 to 17 Explorers. A big part of our programme is DofE, and the Explorers had an adventurous year preparing for their Expeditions by Canoe, as well as undertaking Volunteering, Physical Activities and Skills. They have really enjoyed building friendships across units Explorer Units in South London.



At this year's AGM, we are very proud to announce that 3 Explorers are to be awarded the Chief Scout Platinum award, and 2 Explorers have achieved the Chief Scout Diamond Award. Congratulations and well done to them!

Over the year we had 8 Explorers volunteering and training as Young Leaders who work with our younger sections. Samuel Peevor received a Jack Petchey award for his commitment to Scouting and chose to take the Unit Indoor Skydiving with his grant.

International trips

We are looking ahead to 2023 which will be a very exciting year for GHESU with 5 Explorers going off to Korea to represent South London at the World Scout Jamboree in Korea, alongside 40,000 Scouts from around the world. At the same time we'll have 7 Explorers trailblazing to Croatia, to be part of the County Expedition. We are very proud to have such a strong sense of adventure in the Unit and we know they will create some amazing memories.



We would like to say thank you to The Alpkit foundation, the Don Broome Scout Trust and Scout Headquarters for funding for helping us restart the unit after covid and purchase expedition equipment.

Without volunteers, these adventures can't happen. We encourage anyone who can bring a sense of adventure and a willingness to try something new to come on board and volunteer with Golden Hind ESU.



Katie and Jo

Explorer Leaders

Learn more.

Share more.

Be more.

Group Accounts

1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022

THE FIRST NEW CROSS

(THE GREYS)

SCOUT GROUP

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

2021/22

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1021328. Scout Registration No. 44935 First Registered with B-P on 24th. May 1908.

Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Receipts

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	**£**
Donations and Similar Income.		
Annual Scout Assn. Membership Subscriptions	4,455.00	2,700.00
Annual Scout Assn. Subs. paid on via Lewisham District	**(4,455.00)**	**(2,700.00)**
Membership Subscriptions - Section's use	2,492.16	2,268.88
Membership Subscriptions - Establishment	1,934.84	562.62
Donations - Puppy School, S.E. London	1,822.00	30.00
Donations – Other (Guides, Church, Secret Adventure, Parties etc)	8,518.38	1,587.67
- Mini-bus usage	848.13	90.00
- Mini-bus Scrappage Scheme & Vehicle Tax Refund	7,137.50	--------
- Grant from Lewisham Council	11,484.79	10,000.00
- Start Up Grant for Squirrels	500.00	--------
Gift Aid *(See note in Annual report)*	-------	--------
Youth Programme, Activities, Camps, etc.	8,975.00	2,091.06
Morrisons Charity Grant for Veg Boxes & Tree Care	7,212.00	--------
Don Broome Trust Grant for Laptops	1,500.00	--------
Insurance Payout for Asbestos related loss of equipment	-------	4,900.00
	52,424.80	**21,530.23**
Fund Raising (Gross).		
Table Sale	283.80	-------
Easyfundraising	297.84	-------
Bonfire Evening	584.00	-------
Smile Amazon	164.87	-------
Lewisham Lottery	103.50	-------
Scout Personal Fundraiser (Jamie G-W)	1,100.00	-------
Jingle Mingle & Christmas Raffle	356.40	1,040.00
Other fundraising activities	118.69	1,366.27
	3,009.10	**2,406.27**
Investment Income.		
Deposit Account Interest	0.11	1.45
Total Gross Income	**55,434.01**	**23,937.95**

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Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Payments

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Charitable Payments.		
Youth Programme, Activities, Camps, etc.	11,816.58	2,302.61
Council Tax (Business Rates)	636.81	-------
Water & Sewerage	2,723.00	-------
Electricity & Gas	1,414.22	1,041.09
Property & Equipment Insurance	1,268.36	1,268.36
Telephone & Broadband	609.34	504.60
Mini-bus running costs (Road Tax, Insurance, MoT, Purchase, etc.)	24,243.56	1,533.51
Maintenance - H.Q. and Grounds	706.91	13,188.01
Equipment, furniture, etc.	524.83	5,760.42
Online Scout Manager Costs	410.82	-------
Morrisons Charity funded works	912.00	-------
Don Broome Trust Laptop Purchase	1,699.90	-------
Start Up Grant for Squirrels - Usage	414.60	-------
Other Establishment costs (formerly Misc. costs, Zettle charge etc.)	1,581.72	359.22
	48,962.65	**25,957.82**
Fund Raising Expenses (including prizes, etc.)		
Table Sale	-------	--------
Easyfundraising	-------	--------
Bonfire Evening	62.00	--------
Smile Amazon	-------	--------
Lewisham Lottery	-------	--------
Scout Personal Fundraiser (Jamie G-W)	-------	--------
Jingle Mingle & Christmas Raffle	-------	94.99
Other fundraising activities	-------	--------
	62.00	**94.99**
Total Gross Expenditure	**49,024.65**	**26,052.81**
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	**(6,409.36)**	**(-2,114.86)**
Cash funds this year end	**44,918.04***	**38,508.68***

THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1021328. Scout Registration No. 44935 First Registered with B-P on 24th. May 1908.

Statement of Assets at the end of the year.

31st March 2022

	31st March 2022	31st March 2021
	£	£
Cash Funds.		
Bank Current Account (No.1 General Funds)	41,005.44	35,372.95
Bank Current Account (No.2 Expeditions)	2,645.41	1,353.66
Deposit Account (C.O.I.F.)	361.35	361.24
PayPal Charity Account Balance	512.50	0.00
Cash/Floats	393.34	1,420.83
Total Cash Funds	**44,918.04**	**38,508.68**
Non-monetary assets for own use.		
Land and Buildings	190,000.00	190,000.00
Mini-bus	21,000.00	5,115.00
Scouting equipment, furniture, etc.	9,800.00	10,000.00
	220.800.00	**205,115.00**

The above Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets were approved by the Trustees on the 6th Day of July 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



……..... **Brian Sweeting, Group Treasurer**



……..... **David Fricker, Group Chairman**

Mrs Rebecca Warren
2 Ruses Cottages
Hall Street
Long Melford
Suffolk
CO10 9JF
30th August 2022

SCUITINEER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE 1ST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

I report on the accounts of the group for the year ended 31st March 2022

Respective responsibilities of trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts you consider that neither the audit not the independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 1993 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and report to you.

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's constitution; and with particular reference to the Scout Association's Guidance on the Accounting and Audit Requirements – Fact Sheet LT103950 appendix 3; I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out on the preceding pages.

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records and supporting information and explanations produced to me and comply with the constitution. It should be noted the land and buildings are registered with Land Registry under the title of The Scout Association Trust Corporation. I can confirm that no income or receipts were subject to special restrictions which need to be shown in the accounts.

Yours sincerely

R Warren

Rebecca Warren