



# **The First New Cross (The Greys) Scout Group**

## Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23

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# **Trustees' Annual Report**

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

## A. Reference and Administration Details.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 32<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 utilised 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 HMRC one year in arrears. We made no claim since the 2015/16 Financial Year for several reasons including difficulties in contacting HMRC, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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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:

- 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023 – SUMMER FAYRE
- 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 – LAUNCH OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAW
- 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023-- BONFIRE EVENING
- 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 – REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE
- 15<sup>TH</sup> 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:



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Alan McKinnon, Chair.

Dated:



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Liz Fricker, Group Scout Leader.

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!

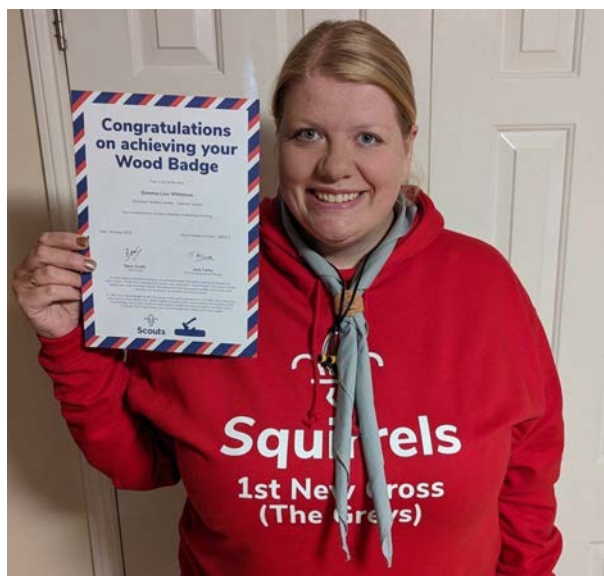
We finished off the term with another brilliant Campfire – the Squirrels are incredibly good at listening and behaving safely around the fire now.



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## Autumn / Winter Term 2022

**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**



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!

## 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.





## 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.



## 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!



## January 2023

Scouts took part in a film for HQ that will help get more adults volunteering in the movement. It starred 1<sup>st</sup> 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!





## 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.**

**Share more.**

**Be more.**





# 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 it is 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](mailto: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](mailto:goldenhindesu@1stnewcross.co.uk).

We are expecting new members to join us from 3<sup>rd</sup> Crofton Park and 1<sup>st</sup> New Cross, 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.**

**Share more.**

**Be more.**

---

# Group Accounts

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

# THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1021328.

Scout Registration No. 44935

First Registered with B-P on 24<sup>th</sup>. May 1908.

## Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### Receipts

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
<b>Donations and Similar Income.</b>		
Annual Scout Assn. Membership Subscriptions	6,440.00	4,455.00
Annual Scout Assn. Subs. paid on via Lewisham District	<b>(6,440.00)</b>	<b>(4,455.00)</b>
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 ( <i>See note in Annual report</i> )	-----	-----
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
	<b>41,503.50</b>	<b>52,424.80</b>

### 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
	<b>2,234.61</b>	<b>3,009.10</b>

### Investment Income.

Deposit Account Interest	6.41	0.11
--------------------------	------	------

<b>Total Gross Income</b>	<b>43,744.52</b>	<b>55,434.01</b>
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## Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### Payments

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
<b>Charitable Payments.</b>		
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
Morrison's 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
	<b>45,750.25</b>	<b>48,962.65</b>
<b>Fund Raising Expenses (including prizes, etc.)</b>		
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	-----
	<b>744.07</b>	<b>62.00</b>
<b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>46,494.32</b>	<b>49,024.65</b>
<b>Net of Receipts/(Payments)</b>	<b>(-2,749.80)</b>	<b>(6,409.36)</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>42,168.24*</b>	<b>44,918.04*</b>

# THE FIRST NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

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## Statement of Assets at the end of the year.

### 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022
	£	£
<b>Cash Funds.</b>		
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
<b>Total Cash Funds</b>	<b>42,168.24</b>	<b>44,918.04</b>
<b>Ring-Fenced assets from Geoffrey Morriss Bequest</b>		
Building, Maintaining & Digitising Group Archives	10,000.00	not shown
Emergency Situation Fund	2,120.00	not shown
<b>Total Ring-Fenced Funds</b>	<b>12,120.00</b>	not shown
<b>Non-monetary assets for own use.</b>		
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
	<b>220,300.00</b>	<b>220,800.00</b>

The above Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets were approved by the Trustees  
on the 12<sup>th</sup> 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**

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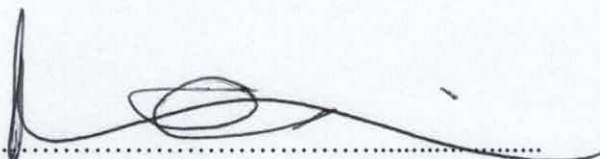
**31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

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on the 12<sup>th</sup> 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  
13<sup>th</sup> June 2023

SCUTINEER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
THE 1<sup>ST</sup> NEW CROSS (THE GREYS) SCOUT GROUP

I report on the accounts of the group for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> 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 nor 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