

THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1038983

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1994-07-04

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Dittons Scout Group
The Shack
Willowbank
Claygate Lane
Thames Ditton
KT7 0LE

Phone 02083984341

Website www.thedittons.com

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ACHIEVING THEIR FULL PHYSICAL INTELLECTUAL SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL POTENTIAL AS INDIVIDUALS AS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS AND AS MEMBERS OF THEIR LOCAL NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES

Activities: Scout group. OPERATING 2 BEAVER COLONIES, 2 CUB SECTIONS, 2 TROOP SECTIONS AND 1 EXPLORER SECTION. ALL OPERATE UNDER THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION RULES AND GUIDANCE AND MEET ONCE A WEEK IN TERM TIME. SOME CAMPS ARE HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED - IN PRACTICE, ELMBRIDGE
- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£108,518	£68,465	-	-
2023-12-31	£70,857	£63,993	-	-
2022-12-31	£62,344	£53,717	-	-
2021-12-31	£72,011	£67,303	-	-
2020-12-31	£33,735	£47,711	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Annette Williams	Chair	2022-10-08
Diana Goodhugh		
Jessica Cresswell		2024-02-06
Julia Hawkins		2013-01-01
Louise O'Gorman		2018-11-18
Matt Davies		2022-06-01
Melanie Uzunoglu		2014-01-01
Pamela Forsyth		2023-01-01
Paul Bartlett		2013-01-31
SUZAN BAKER		
Thomas William Goodacre		2025-03-14

THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1038983

Accounts

Annual Report of the Dittons Scouts

Annual General Meeting, Friday March 14th, 2025



Highlighting the 2024 adventures of our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers



The Dittons Scouts, The Shack, Willowbank,
15 Claygate Lane, Thames Ditton
Charity No.1038983

Dittons Mission Statement *the Purpose of Scouting at the Dittons*

Our values are at the heart of all we do in Scouting:

Integrity - We're honest, we try to do the right thing (even if no-one's watching) and we stay true to ourselves.

Respect - We're thoughtful of people's feelings and values, treating everyone as we'd like to be treated ourselves.

Care - We're kind to others, looking after the world we live in.

Belief - We explore our beliefs and attitudes with wide-open minds.

Co-operation - We work with others to change the world for the better, making friends along the way.



Group Activity Report by *Suzan Baker, Dittons Group Lead Volunteer*

In this 2024 annual report we are particularly thrilled to highlight the incredible fun, camaraderie, and joy that our outdoor events, particularly camping, offer to all our Dittons scout sections. These events serve as a cornerstone of our scouting program, providing an invaluable opportunity for scouts to immerse themselves in nature, foster friendships, and create unforgettable memories. The Surrey Scouts experience enjoyed at the huge Ardingly Showground in Scoutabout '24 was a particularly cherished highlight of 2024, as it allowed scouts and adults alike to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and reconnect with outdoor adventures - while basking in more heat wave sunshine. Cubs camped twice during 2024 and Explorers endured (I mean enjoyed!) their wettest camp ever in Scotland!



During these camping adventures, our cubs, scouts, explorers (and adults!) engage in a wide array of exciting activities, from hiking and map reading to climbing and archery. These activities not only promote physical fitness and outdoor skills but also encourage teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving abilities. Moreover, the bonds forged around our many campfires are truly special, as we all come together to share stories, laughter, and create a genuine sense of belonging to our group – the combined wearing of our splendid Dittons purple helps.



In the report pages that follow each section details their activities and these words, combined with the pictures, show exactly what makes us all very proud. Proud of all our Dittons volunteers and proud of each of our young people and I want to say a big thank you to all our Section Team members who have once again put in a great deal of hard work and freely given up hours of their time to provide quality Scouting at the Dittons over 2024.

A massive thank you once again to our 2024 activity planners, badge capturers, cake makers, nail hammerers, lift givers, mini bus drivers, question asking and OSM answering, bonfire building, BBQ burning, picnic making, uniform washing, sideline cheering, email reading, form filling in helpers from every single **Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer at The Dittons** – we definitely could not run scouting without you, our Dittons community.

Enjoying Volunteering – it definitely is for all!



Always looking for new team members to pull on purple, join in the fun and grace next year's report!

The Group Trustee Board – Annette Williams, Chair of Trustees

The Group Trustee Board plays a vital role in the running of a Scout Group. Trustees make decisions and carry out administrative tasks to ensure that the best quality Scouting can be delivered to young people in the Group. Trustees must act collectively as Charity Trustees of the Scout Group. The committee also exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment.

Trustees hold legal and financial accountability for the management of The Scout Group, including the upkeep of the Shack, the property and equipment at The Dittons, fundraising efforts, and the overall administration of the Group's finances. This vital role supports our section teams in carrying out scouting activities. According to the group reserves policy, which will be reviewed in 2025, the aim is to build a fund to enable The Dittons to purchase the freehold of our field if possible and to and significantly improve and extend our buildings.



- Membership is open to all through elections at the AGM or by co-option throughout the year.
- All Dittons Trustees are registered with the Charity Commission as Trustees of The Dittons.

Scouts is just a great place to volunteer.

- ❖ Every volunteer is welcomed.
- ❖ Every volunteer is valued.
- ❖ Every volunteer is supported.
- ❖ Every volunteer gains skills (and has fun!)

Trustees 2024	Group Lead Volunteer	Secretary	Treasurer
	Suzan Baker	Louise O’Gorman	Diana Goodhugh
Paul Bartlett	Stuart Jack	Melanie Uzunoglu	Pamela Forsyth
Matt Davies	Julia Hawkins	Jess Cresswell	<i>Vacant...</i>
Chair - Annette Williams			

Smiles from our volunteer Trustees – could you join us?



Objectives of The Dittons Scout Group- Public Benefit Statement

The purpose of Scouting is to contribute to 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. Scouting uses a method, which is young people in partnership with adults: enjoying what they are doing; learning by doing; participating in varied and progressive activities; making choices for themselves; taking responsibility for their own actions; working in groups; taking increasing responsibility for others; taking part in activities outdoors; sharing in prayer and worship; and making and living out their Scout Promise.

Under the Charities Act 2006 The Scout Association is required to demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit. Our assessment is that we have met the public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings. The activities outlined in this report highlight the areas of work that achieves these aims.

Anyone here from Dittons?

How loud do you think the YES was!



District Cross Country 2024

Clean sweep of awards - we won all sections!

Volunteers make memories for all



Theres only one thing Dittons like more than cooking and that is ...cooking on fires!



The Dittons Fair *by Rebecca Walker, Fair Chair*

Report on The Dittons Fair – Sunday 12th May 2024

We held our 68th Dittons Fair on May 12 2024 and it was another magical day! Thousands of people flocked to Giggs Hill Green for what’s become the largest community event in the local area. The sun shone (again!), the arena was flooded with a sea of purple as the Dittons Beavers, Cubs and Scouts helped to open the Fair and the BBQs didn’t stop flipping burgers for over four hours.



Our leaders cooled off in ‘Soak the Leader’, the cheering from the crowds as the pigs raced was deafening and our arena acts gave us some show stopping performances. Everywhere you looked there were smiles.

A huge thank you is due to each one of you for all your contributions towards making it a huge success: from promoting the Fair by programme selling to stall donations to volunteering on the day (over 200 of you!) – We just couldn’t do it without all your effort and support. Many thanks also to our leaders, who work as volunteers week in, week out, for our children, but who also come out in force for the fair and are there from 7am until 7pm when we lock up the Green and head to the pub.

This is our only fundraiser and the only ‘volunteering requirement’ we have of all the families that join The Dittons.

It is this one day, of maximum effort, that ensures the continuation of The Dittons Scout Group.

We keep our Dittons Membership Charge to a minimum and the Fair is therefore our main source of income to keep our beloved and unique Shack alive and well and scouting activities going strong!

See you on the Green to do it all over again on May 11th 2025



1932 Committee *by Paul Bartlett, Chair of Committee & Estates Manager*



Our wonderful building, The Shack, which we are so fortunate to own outright, requires a lot of time, love and attention to keep it usable and intact and during 2024 we have continued this TLC: volunteers have overseen and undertaken maintenance of the Shack, fire alarm servicing, fire extinguisher checks, wireless Internet access and a lot of ad-hoc work.



The kitchen refurbishment has finally started. The builder was selected, but selecting the commercial kitchen installer was proving challenging and time consuming. Three different suppliers were providing three different quotes, which made comparison difficult.

Whilst this was ongoing, an application was made to Elmbridge Borough Council for a contribution from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). We were successful and were granted £25,000 towards the building works. We were simultaneously also encouraged and supported by our Dittons' Surrey County Councillor, Nick Darby, to apply for a grant from 'Your Fund Surrey'. Councillor Darby's endorsement saw the Dittons Scout Group receive an additional sum of £27,658 towards the commercial kitchen costs. Our applications to these funds did not negatively impact any other organisation, since all funding requests were granted. The Dittons will still need to use money raised through the annual Fair to complete the kitchen refurbishment. The key point of note, is that this external funding allows the Dittons the financial opportunity to actively consider construction of other activity buildings for our young people (for example an indoor shooting range), without having to wait for future Dittons Fairs to raise the money.

The photographs show that the kitchen has been enlarged into an 'L' shape, following the extension into the next door "Uncle's Room". New double-glazed windows have been installed and a secure door now opens onto the field. Commercial grade stainless steel equipment will be fitted, counters and cupboards, which will ensure its longevity. A new serving hatch will be created into the hall, with removable panelling to retain the hall's character. We will have a full height fridge & freezer, a commercial dishwasher and an on-demand water heater – no more washing up in cold water!

The garages and sheds outside of the Shack continue to demand their own TLC and Stuart has been doing a fantastic job of tidying, organising and fixing them as required. Additionally, he has arranged the refurbishment of the much loved centenary camp fire circle, which we looking forward to enjoying with the coming of Spring and Summer.

All volunteers at the Dittons continue to strive to provide the best facilities for the Group's young people and I thank everyone for their hard work, especially **Stuart Jack and Aidan McGuinness**.



The kitchen has served its time well at the Shack...



But we are delighted to see it being replaced!



Dittons Beavers

Montreal Colony Leadership Team in 2024

Team Leader - David Cooper

Toronto Colony Leadership Team in 2024

Team Leader - Pamela Forsyth

Section Team in 2024 - Jess Cresswell, Nicola Riggs, Aileen Widdowson, Jon O’Sullivan, Tom Goodacre, Marc Cohen, Lisa Jenkinson Swayne, James Walker

Section Team in 2024 - Annette Williams, Terezie Wickenden, Becky Lawson, Lee McCarthy, Katie Tiller, Rachel Surgeoner

Explorer Young Leader:

Explorer Young Leaders: Joshua Baird & Jack Briscoe

This past year has seen a range of activities and events that have kept the Beavers engaged and excited. Under the leadership of David and Pamela, the beavers navigated through various challenges, culminating in another successful year filled with memorable events. Events like the Dittons AGM provided a platform for showcasing their talents and the Beaver Fun Day brought joy to all participants. Throughout the year, the Beavers enjoyed numerous weekly meetings where they participated in activities such as creating Mother’s Day cards, playing frisbee golf, and learning about emergency aid. The group also hosted an Easter egg hunt combined with a Moving On Ceremony, creating a sense of growth and celebration for the children.

Additionally, the group took part in fun activities such as ten-pin bowling and a garden badge, which encouraged creativity and teamwork. The highlights from this year also included the Christmas Carol Concert and a festive Christmas party, both of which brought the group together during the holiday season. Several events were organised during the year, including cross-country training sessions and competitions which helped instill a spirit of competition and camaraderie among the Beavers. Both Colonies also visited the Safari Adventure Golf in Hersham and also enjoyed sledging and mini ringos at The Oakwood Centre, Sandown Park during the autumn term. The participation in Esher District events, such as the Beaver party, further demonstrated the group's dedication to community involvement. Notably, the Esher District Cross Country Competition injected an element of challenge and excitement into the year. Montreal Colony won the District Cross Country team race, with Toronto Colony finishing a close second of the 11 competing District Colonies.

The whole Beaver team has ensured that all children had a positive and constructive experience, the energy and enthusiasm shown by the children has ensured all meetings are enjoyable. Significant contributions, particularly through the tough summer term, were made from all the excellent team of helpers. Finally, a thank you to the parents and all volunteers for supporting the group; your involvement made all the difference in providing our Beavers with enriching experiences in 2024.

The Dittons Scout Group will bid farewell to David Cooper in July of 2025. David has been an integral part of the Beaver leadership team for 35 years, please don’t underestimate how much his absence will be felt. David has contributed an immense amount of time and energy, helping to shape the program and guide the children. His dedication over the decades has made a lasting impact on many young lives, and he will be missed by all – put July 13th 2025 in your diary and prepare to celebrate!



3 Beavers from Montreal and **10 from Toronto** earned their prestigious **Chief Scout’s Bronze Award**, the highest badge a Beaver can earn – Congratulations!



Dittons Cubs

Mowgli Cub Pack Leadership Team in 2024
Team Leader – Suzan Baker

Zulu Cub Pack Leadership team in 2024
Team Leader – Matt Davies & Craig Behrens

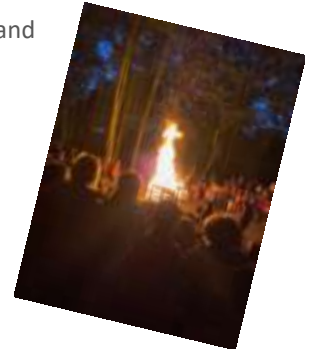
Team members - - Lloyd Smith, Simon Morris, Steve Audsley, Charlie Balbirnie, Wing Yin Wong, Amy Packer, James Green & Karen Faulder

Team members - Stephen Wakefield, Alasdair Young, Natalie Graham

Explorer Young Leaders –Ted Ferguson, Josh Baird & Orson Skittles

Explorer Young Leaders – Neve Davies, Catherine Bartlett & Lauren Widdowson

Our past year in Cubs has certainly been a memorable one, marked by incredible teamwork and wonderful experiences. A significant highlight was our volunteer team of parents and young leaders, who have been unwavering in their enthusiastic support, ensuring that no challenge went unmet. Our Cubs Cause Chaos camp in September provided a particularly enchanting weekend, where everyone enjoyed the largest campfire we’ve ever seen contrasting with the serenity of being under the stars, accompanied by the sounds of owls all around. Despite some incredibly rainy weather during earlier June District camp, the spirit of our Cubs remained positive, there were no complaints and it showcased the enthusiasm and resilience of everyone. Cubs really can go camping!



Throughout the year we had meetings that catered to a wide range of activities designed to both educate and entertain. Our sessions included engaging games, cooking lessons, and preparations for various outdoor adventures. These gatherings not only provided valuable skills, such as emergency aid and outdoor challenges, but also fostered a sense of community among the Cubs. We also took part in several exciting events outside our regular meetings: the District Hike, District Quizzes, the District Sausage Sizzle in October; the Cubs sold programmes in the local streets before enjoying the atmosphere of the Dittons Fair. Another engaging outdoor activity, the Cross Country Training sessions and the resulting District Cross Country competition encouraged the Cubs to embrace healthy rivalry and teamwork. And we celebrated with a win and a very large shield!

A significant moment in our annual calendar was the presentation in 2024 of **five Chief Scout Silver Awards**, recognizing the dedication and hard work of our Cubs. This achievement stands as a testament to their commitment to Scouting and the skills they have developed throughout the year. Looking ahead, we are excited for more camping adventures and hiking opportunities, along with the diverse activities that make our nights at Cubs enjoyable and enriching. We are committed to providing an engaging programme that caters to the interests and growth of our young members. None of this would be possible without the young leaders, the team leaders and team members who have worked tirelessly over the past year. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and Dittons appreciate everything you do for our Cubs.



Dittons Scouts

Scout Troop (Wednesday) Leadership Team in 2024
Team Leader – Jackie Bourne & Tony Butcher

Scout Troop (Thursday) Leadership Team in 2024
Team Leader – Allen Widdowson

Team members - Will Kendrick, Gavin Bacon & Martin Brown

Team members - Jonathan Yates, Richard Hunt, Martin Yates & Phil Hawkins

Explorer Young Leaders – Kai Butcher & Drew Swallow

As always, 2024 has been no different and the scout troops have once again been packed with engaging activities, meetings, and events that have truly showcased the spirit of our Dittons scouting community. This was a year for large scale outdoor adventures as the scouts took part in a Derbyshire Camp, Scoutabout '24, Alton Towers adventures and another week-long summer sailing trip in Guernsey.

Scoutabout '24 occurs every three years, takes place with 5,000 other Surrey scouts and guides in Ardingley Showground and really is something special. There were diving, driving archery, shooting, enormous inflatables, camp fire songs, laser tag, crafts and water slides to enjoy. The music on the Saturday evening gave the whole field a festival atmosphere; all in all a really special weekend experience for adults and young people alike.



Our meetings have been filled with a wide variety of activities that kept our scouts both active and entertained. Highlights included outdoor experiences like Fires with S'mores, Pioneering, Night Hikes and Navigation, alongside engaging events such as Masterchef, Pancake Day, and games at the Shack. Each gathering provided opportunities for development in skills and teamwork. Throughout the year, our scouts also participated in an array of events, underlining the group's dedication to learning and adventure. Noteworthy experiences included the additional events such as Action for Nature, District Scouting Skills, and various hikes which allowed participants to embrace the outdoors and develop their scouting skills. We won the Scout section of the District Cross Country – again!

A special mention must go to our Wednesday Troop volunteers, Martin Brown and Gavin Bacon, for completing their Scout Section team training. Their commitment to enhancing their skills to work with young people is commendable and greatly benefits our group. Stephen Wakefield moved from his time with Zulu cubs to join the Thursday scout troop team. We thank all leaders for their hard work throughout the year; their dedication is evident in the enjoyable activities and the supportive environment they help create.

We are also pleased to note that during this past year; one **Chief Scout Gold Award** - was presented, recognising the hard work and achievement of **Harrison Davey** - it is always heart-warming to see commitment for and enjoyment of scouting rewarded. It's been a great year of Scouting and it's been a pleasure for the whole Leadership team to see Scouts enjoying their time outdoors experiencing new challenges and adventures.

Ever wondered how those tents return to their bags?



Night Hike team



Summer Sailing



Scoutabout



Dittons Explorers

Section Leaders - Tom Wilkinson & Julia Hawkins

Esher District Explorer Support – Philippa Guildford

Section Team - Stuart Jack, Ro Guildford & Aidan Mcguinness

Network – Ed Bartlett, Summer Whelan, Edward Cruthers, Neve Davies, Ted Fergusson, Lauren Widdowson, Ben Sheppard & Josh Baird

Over 2024, The Dittons Explorer Scout Unit has been busy with a wide array of activities and achievements. One key highlight, that made us all very proud, was the notable achievement of Ro Guildford, who received a Kings Scout Award in September 2024. This prestigious accolade reflects both Ro's commitment to Scouting (she has been a Dittons Cub, Scout, Explorer and Network Young Leader) along with her personal development through a mixture of International, Community and Values based challenges over many years.

The group participated in numerous meetings that catered to the Explorers interests and skills. These meetings included several Explorer-led evenings that encouraged leadership and teamwork among participants. Events such as the Master Chef challenge and a creative Dragons' Den evening allowed the Explorers to showcase their culinary skills and innovative ideas. Regular meetings mixed activities such as laser quest, backwoods cooking, and games evenings. The Explorers were also actively engaged in District events, such as the Cooking Competition and the District Incident Hunt, which provided opportunities for them to work together, enhancing their skills and camaraderie throughout the year. Noteworthy events on the calendar included the exciting (but very wet!) summer Camp to Scotland and community engagement activities like the Remembrance Sunday service. These events not only helped foster Scouting values but also provided memorable experiences that the Explorers will carry with them – skills for life. Looking ahead, there is much to look forward to in the coming year. The group is planning an international trip to Germany, where Explorers will have the opportunity to engage in new experiences and further their Scouting journey

As we look at the current membership, we wish to express our gratitude to the Young Leaders and Network members who have made such significant contributions to explorers and the whole Dittons group, especially by working with other sections of the Dittons. Their dedication is invaluable and has definitely made an impact on the development of the younger members and the overall success of our group. We would like to take a moment to thank all the Explorers for their enthusiasm and energy, which continually makes volunteering with the group a rewarding experience. Together, we look forward to a promising and exciting year ahead in the world of Scouting. Finally, we would finish by thanking Steve Baird for his years of hard work as a Dittons Explorer leader and with our Duke of Edinburgh teams – we wish you all the very best in your new adventures.

The Duke of Edinburgh award has continued to be a key part of our programme.. 4 Explorers/Network undertook their Practice & Qualifying Gold award expeditions this year, with **2 achieving their Gold Awards in 2024!** A real success for The Dittons and the result of a lot of hard work by our young people, support from parents and a lot of hours of Dittons Leaders – we thank them all. 6 Explorers have started their Young Leader journey with us this year by starting the Young Leader training scheme. Finally by going above and beyond their Duke of Edinburgh Awards we have been happy to award **3 Chief Scout Platinum Awards** and **1 King's Scout Award.**



THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

Charity no 1038983

Receipts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Payments for the year ended 31 December 2024

Budget 2025	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Budget 2024	Actual 2024
<u>Subscriptions</u>			<u>Premises</u>		
23,000.00	23,000.00	22,150.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
9,910.00	8,720.00	8,719.35	Lighting/heating/water	300.00	1,272.42
13,090.00	14,280.00	13,430.65	Elmbridge rates rebate	270.00	268.00
			Refuse collection	750.00	1,157.79
<u>Rates</u>			Telephone/internet	350.00	265.24
280.00	270.00	268.00	Insurance (buildings)	1,450.00	1,373.70
280.00	270.00	268.00	Repairs, renewals etc	75,000.00	1,681.85
			Grounds maintenance	800.00	470.10
1,000.00	500.00	2,573.51	Cleaning - labour / materials	4,000.00	3,961.92
	100.00	115.59	<u>Administration expenses</u>	82,921.00	10,452.02
	600.00	2,689.10			
<u>Investment income received</u>			30.00	30.00	-
Bank interest	200.00	444.22	Postage, newsletters etc	550.00	385.71
NS&I interest	1,000.00	31,060.00	Website and IT facilities (OSM)	300.00	1,280.64
	25,000.00	31,504.22	GSL and leaders' expenses	1,700.00	1,545.19
	25,200.00		Bank charges/admin fee	2,580.00	3,211.54
<u>Donations</u>					
General donations	200.00	444.22	<u>Activities</u>		
Surrey County Council/other grant	1,000.00	31,060.00	Training	1,000.00	245.00
	1,200.00	31,504.22	AGM and social events	1,000.00	425.18
			Section expenses including camp	17,000.00	29,970.40
<u>Activities</u>				19,000.00	30,640.58
AGM and meetings	150.00	-			
Section events/camp fees	17,000.00	25,930.14	<u>Fundraising expenses</u>		
	17,150.00	25,930.14	Fair	12,000.00	13,808.46
				12,000.00	13,808.46
<u>Fundraising Income</u>					
Fair	27,000.00	34,412.19	<u>Other expenses</u>		
	27,000.00	34,412.19	Charitable donations	200.00	159.60
	1,500.00	-	<u>Purchases</u>	200.00	159.60
	1,500.00	-	Equipment	5,000.00	6,306.19
<u>Other income</u>			T shirts/Group badges	500.00	485.10
Gift aid recovery	9,493.00		Sundries	100.00	3,402.00
	9,493.00			5,600.00	10,193.29
<u>Sundry receipts</u>			<u>Expenditure for year</u>	122,301.00	68,465.49
T shirt receipts	400.00	284.07			174,197.45
Miscellaneous income	600.00	-			
	1,000.00	284.07			
	102,063.00	108,518.37			
<u>Income for the year</u>					
	63,000.00	108,518.37			
<u>Balance as at 1 January 2024</u>		134,144.57			

THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP Charity no 1038983

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December

	2024	2023	Notes
MONETARY ASSETS			
Bank current accounts	32,756.24	9,972.29	1. The Group Trustees own the freehold of the land on which the Shack is built, but not the surrounding land. No value is shown in these accounts.
Bank deposit account - Group	139,054.20	68,904.55	
NSI - land fund, or as required	-	53,407.13	
Section funds in hand	1,595.75	513.03	2. The Land Fund is to enable the Group Trustees to purchase the remaining land inside the boundary if it becomes available. Rent of £1 per annum is currently paid for this facility.
Cash - Group	791.26	1,347.57	
	<u>174,197.45</u>	<u>134,144.57</u>	

3. The Elbridge Rent Rebate is discretionary, and could be withdrawn.

NON MONETARY ASSETS

T-shirt stock		
Buildings and contents insurance value	618,302.00	598,550.00
Scouting equipment	48,828.00	48,345.00

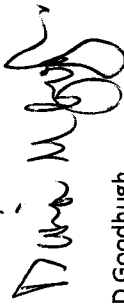
FUNDS

Restricted funds		
Land fund, or as required	53,407.13	53,407.13


Unrestricted funds

Cash, bank and similar funds carried forward	120,790.32	80,737.44
	<u>174,197.45</u>	<u>134,144.57</u>

The above accounts and accompanying statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 14 March 2025 and signed on their behalf by


D. Williams
Treasurer


S. Baker
Group Scout Leader


D. Williams
Independent Examiner



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

On accounts for the year
ended

31 DEC 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1038983

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

~~{The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]}. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

3/02/2025

Name:

DEREK WILKINSON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

(if any):

--

Address:

S2 MOLESBY CHOSE,
MARSHAM, WALTON ON TARRANT
SURREY, KT12 4P

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1038983

Accounts

Annual Report of the Dittons Scouts

Annual General Meeting, Friday March 8th, 2024



Highlighting the 2023 adventures of our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers



The Dittons Scouts, The Shack, Willowbank,
15 Claygate Lane, Thames Ditton
Charity No.1038983

Dittons Mission Statement *the Purpose of Scouting at the Dittons*

Our values are at the heart of all we do in Scouting:

Integrity - We're honest, we try to do the right thing (even if no-one's watching) and we stay true to ourselves.

Respect - We're thoughtful of people's feelings and values, treating everyone as we'd like to be treated ourselves.

Care - We're kind to others, looking after the world we live in.

Belief - We explore our beliefs and attitudes with wide-open minds.

Co-operation - We work with others to change the world for the better, making friends along the way.



Group Activity Report *by Suzan Baker, Dittons Group Scout Leader*

In this 2023 annual report we are particularly thrilled to highlight the incredible fun, camaraderie, and joy that our outdoor events, particularly camping, offer to all our Dittons scout sections. These events serve as a cornerstone of our scouting program, providing an invaluable opportunity for scouts to immerse themselves in nature, foster friendships, and create unforgettable memories. The Esher District experience enjoyed by so many at Escapade was a particularly cherished highlight of 2023, as it allowed scouts and adults alike to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and reconnect with the great outdoors - while basking in the heat wave sunshine!



During these camping adventures, scouts engage in a wide array of exciting activities, from hiking and map reading to campfire cooking and stargazing. These activities not only promote physical fitness and outdoor skills but also encourage teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving abilities. Moreover, the bonds of friendship forged around the campfire are truly special, as scouts and adults come together to share stories, laughter, and create a genuine sense of belonging to our group – the combined wearing of our splendid Dittons purple helps.

2023 was definitely the year for outdoor adventures on a grand scale. After Escapade we saw three of our Explorer Scouts head overseas with Surrey Scouts to join the **World Scout Jamboree in South Korea** (Ed) and to camp in **Flanders, Belgium** (Charlie & Catherine.) Plenty of scouting values were displayed on these adventures and it is through all these events that we strive to instill in our scouts of all ages a love for nature, a sense of resilience, a spirit of adventure, and a deep appreciation for the joys of friendship and camaraderie that scouting uniquely provides.

In the reports that follow each section details their activities and these words, combined with the pictures, show what make us all very proud of our Dittons volunteers and young people and I want, to say a big thank you to all our Leaders who have once again put in a great deal of hard work and freely given up a lot of their time to provide quality Scouting for this past year.

A massive thank you also to our 2023 activity planners, badge capturers, cake makers, nail hammerers, lift givers, question asking and OSM answering, bonfire building, BBQ burning, picnic making, uniform washing, sideline cheering, email reading, form filling in helpers from every **Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer at The Dittons** – we couldn't do it without you.



Enjoying Escapade – it definitely is for all!

The Group Trustee Board – *Annette Williams, Chair of Trustees*

The Group Trustee Board plays a vital role in the running of a Scout Group. Trustees make decisions and carry out administrative tasks to ensure that the best quality Scouting can be delivered to young people in the Group. Trustees must act collectively as Charity Trustees of the Scout Group. The committee also exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment.

All our volunteers get a lot back from their roles, we can tell this from the years of service awards handed out to all our volunteers, leaders and Trustees at the AGM.

Without these volunteers and their hard work and support, the group really would not be able to run.

The Trustees are legally and financially responsible for the running of The Scout Group, maintenance of the Shack, all The Dittons property and equipment along with the raising of funds and the administration of the group's finances. It is a vital role that enables the Leaders to run the activities. The group reserves policy, agreed by the Executive states that our policy is to build a fund which would enable The Dittons to purchase the freehold and to substantially improve our buildings. This will be reviewed in 2024.

- Membership is open to all through elections at the AGM or by co-option throughout the year.
- All Dittons Trustees are registered with the Charity Commission as Trustees of The Dittons.

Scouts is just a great place to volunteer.

- ❖ Every volunteer is welcomed.
- ❖ Every volunteer is valued.
- ❖ Every volunteer is supported.
- ❖ Every volunteer gains skills (and has fun!)

Trustees 2023	Group Scout Leader - Suzan Baker	Secretary - Louise O’Gorman	Treasurer - Diana Goodhugh
Paul Bartlett	Stuart Jack	Melanie Uzunoglu	Pamela Forsyth
Matt Davies	Julia Hawkins	<i>2 x vacancies</i>	
Chair - Annette Williams			

Smiles from our Trustees – could you join us?



Objectives of The Dittons Scout Group- Public Benefit Statement

The purpose of Scouting is to contribute to 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. Scouting uses a method, which is young people in partnership with adults: enjoying what they are doing; learning by doing; participating in varied and progressive activities; making choices for themselves; taking responsibility for their own actions; working in groups; taking increasing responsibility for others; taking part in activities outdoors; sharing in prayer and worship; and making and living out their Scout Promise.

Under the Charities Act 2006 The Scout Association is required to demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit. Our assessment is that we have met the public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings. The activities outlined in this report highlight the areas of work that achieves these aims.

**Anyone here from Dittons?
How loud do you think the YES was!**



**Fast Finishers at
District Cross Country**



Scouts & Explorers Camp for St George's Day



Poppies at Lynwood



'Il Crush Ye Barnacles!



More Escapade Adventures!



The Dittons Fair *by Rebecca Walker, Fair Chair*

Report on The Dittons Fair – Sunday 14 May 2023

After a shaky looking forecast, once again the sun emerged at just the right time and stayed with us all afternoon! The pigs stayed dry, the arena acts shone, the cakes flew out of the tent and the leaders stayed cool in 'Soak the Leader'. As our only annual fundraiser, the committee and the leader's smiles (and relief!) matched the sunshine as we worked from sunrise to sunset to entertain up to 5000 people at the largest community event of the year.



A huge thank you is due to each one of you for all your contributions towards making it a huge success: from promoting the Fair by programme selling to stall donations to volunteering on the day (over 200 of you!) – We just couldn't do it without all your effort and support. And please take a bow, **David Wickenden**, who is a dad that has been our sound man every year for many years, sitting in the white tent at the heart of it all, keeping the crowds informed and entertained. Many thanks also to our leaders, who work as volunteers week in, week out, for our children, but who also come out in force for the fair and are there from 7am until 7pm when we lock up the Green and head to the pub.

Finally a special thank you to the Committee who work really hard in the months before the Fair to bring in the sponsors, fill the arena, promote the event, confirm the stallholders and juggle all the logistics! Everyone really pulls together and we have a lot of fun along the way. It's great to have some fresh faces join our team this year. Thank you.

Plans for **Sunday 12 May 2024** are well under way and we're delighted that **John D Wood** has become our platinum sponsor once again. They really go above and beyond, not only becoming our largest sponsor and running a fabulous stall on the day, but also putting up as many advertising estate agent boards as we could sign up! Please do consider them if you're buying or selling a house.

This is our only fundraiser and the only 'volunteering requirement' we have of all the families that join The Dittons. It is this one day, of maximum effort, that ensures the continuation of The Dittons Scout Group. We keep our Dittons Membership Charge to a minimum and the Fair is therefore our main source of income to keep our beloved and unique Shack alive and well and scouting activities going strong!



1932 Committee *by Paul Bartlett, Chair of Committee & Estates Manager*



2023 has been another year of ad-hoc work, minor jobs and a lot of ongoing maintenance.

Our wonderful building, The Shack, which we are so fortunate to own outright, requires a lot of time, love and attention to keep it usable and intact.

Many hours of volunteer time are spent behind the scenes ensuring Scouting activities can continue safely for so many.

The long running saga of kitchen deliberations is finally coming to a close, as we have indicative plans and a builder selected. The aim is now to build a new kitchen within the footprint of the building.

We will remove the existing equipment and units, knock through into Uncle's Room and create a larger L-shaped kitchen. The intention is to fit it out with commercial grade stainless steel equipment, counters and cupboards, which will ensure its longevity.

A new serving hatch will be created into the hall, with removable panelling to retain the hall's character. We hope to install a full height fridge, freezer, commercial dishwasher and an on-demand water heater – no more washing up in cold water!

We continue to look forwards, and whilst we haven't started this project yet, we are thinking about future projects. Investigations are being made around a variety of options for our outdoor space – perhaps an air-rifle shooting range, given that we have now space available on the land we own at the rear of The Shack.

All volunteers at the Dittons continue to strive to provide the best facilities for the Group's young people and I thank everyone for their hard work.

If you would like to lend your time and skills to the preservation, remodelling and protection of The Shack we are actively looking to recruit new parents at our AGM to help with the '1932 Committee' – could it be you?



The kitchen has served its time at The Shack...

But, just like camping, there is always a new dawn!



Beavers by David Cooper

Montreal Colony Leadership Team for 2023

Section Leader - David Cooper

Toronto Colony Leadership Team for 2023

Section Leader - David Cooper

Section Assistant - vacant

Assistant Section Leader - Pamela Forsyth

Group Occasional Helpers - Lisa Jenkinson-Swayne, Jenny Ripley, Claire Appleyard, Jess Cresswell, Naomi Walsh, Hannah Malone, Nicola Riggs, James Walker & Michel Cerulli

Explorer Young Leaders: Orson Skittles & Drew Swallow

Group Occasional Helpers – James Green, Annette Williams, Kate Felton, Terezie Wickenden, Claire Marstin, Becky Lawson, Lee McCarthy, Chantal Pilbrow, Nicola Riggs & Amy Packer

Explorer Young Leader: Joshua Baird

Spring Term 2023

- Both Colonies held Burns' Night themed meetings, with caber tossing, sword dancing and lots of porridge oats! Both Colonies held St David's Day themed meetings.
- Both Colonies completed the Money Skills Activity Badge and Communicator Activity Badge & numerous Beavers took part in organised litter picks around Thames Ditton and Long Ditton this term and throughout the year.
- 43 Beavers attended the Esher District Beaver Party at Hinchley Wood School on 4th February – Cat's Grin Theatre Company performed Alice in Wonderland; Ten Pin bowling competitions at Hollywood Bowl, Tolworth were fab!
- Mother's Day Tea Parties on 8th & 9th March were a huge success – The Beavers performed on stage to their Mums and followed this up by singing on stage after the AGM on 24th March before closing the term with Easter Egg Hunts.

Summer Term 2023

- 33 Beavers attended the St George's Day Parade on 23rd April
- Our Beavers completed the Gardener Activity Badge, the Explorer Activity Badge, held Coronation themed meetings and attended Safari Adventure Golf in Hersham on 24th & 25th May. We followed this with Water Games on 14th & 15th June & Skipping and tug of war on 21st & 22nd June
- 40 Beavers & 12 adults attended Escapade at Walton Firs Activity Centre on 24th June.
- 48 Beavers attended a Pirates camp craft activity afternoon at the Shack on 15th & 16th July, 44 of whom camped overnight with parents in tents on the Shack field.
- Rounders matches versus parents (Beavers won both matches!) and family bbqs ended the term

Autumn Term 2023

- Our Beavers completed the Experiment Activity Badge, Global Issues Activity Badge & made bird feeders.
- 10 Montreal Beavers and 19 Beavers ran in the Esher District Cross Country Race around Oxshott Heath on 1st October. George Charman finished in second place in the race and the Toronto Colony regained the District Winning Team Shield.
- Both Colonies attended Sandown Ski Centre for sledging & mini ringos on 4th & 5th October
- We organised small fireworks displays for both Colonies and the Beavers held sparklers and ate hot dogs.
- 36 Beavers took part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade and service at the War Memorial on Giggs Hill Green
- We organised a Carol Concert for the families of both Beaver Colonies at the Shack on 10th December. The Beavers performed Christmas songs and poems on stage. Both Colonies held end of term Christmas parties on 13th & 14th December

11 Beavers from Montreal and **12 from Toronto** earned their prestigious **Chief Scout's Bronze Award**, the highest badge a Beaver can earn – Congratulations!



Cubs *by* Matt Davies & Aron Stewart

Mowgli Cub Pack Leadership Team for 2023
Section Leader – Aron Stewart & Suzan Baker from September

Zulu Cub Pack Leadership team for 2023
Section Leader – Matt Davies & Craig Behrens

Assistant Section Leader - Vacancy

Assistant Section Leaders - Renato Marchio, Stephen Wakefield

Section Assistants - Lloyd Smith, Simon Morris
GOH – Steve Audsley & from September: Charlie Balbirnie & Wing Yin Wong

Section Assistants - vacancy
GOH – Alasdair Young

Explorer Young Leaders – Ted Ferguson, Josh Baird & Orson Skittles

Explorer Young Leaders – Neve Davies, Catherine Bartlett & Lauren Widdowson

Cubs continue to learn new skills, take on amazing challenges and support the wider Thames Ditton community. We started off the year making rather impressive Newspaper bridges to make even Brunel envious. We worked with Pyro-pens to create lovely wooden drinks coasters. We've gained many new badges, including the Air Activities badge, learning about flight and flying our own Chinese lanterns. We've taken a dip in the Thames during our Watersports Day at Thames Young Mariners and loved our annual trip to the Lord Amory for yet more wet and wonderful water based fun. This exciting Docklands trip is always a fantastic trip, with all the cubs, leaders and parents enjoying themselves out on the water especially as we were treated to another warm sunny day. Our knot work has reached new heights, ending with building our own 'Walking Giraffes. Map reading to Orienteering to learning different methods of communication – cubs tackle a huge range of activities. Cooking with the cubs has always been a winner, from making pancakes and quesadillas and cooking sausages on a fire. We even finished off the year with making our own Christmas Cakes in mini baked bean tins – delicious!



A total highlight for 2023 was the return of Esher District Camp - We camped with over 50 Cubs at Escapade. It was really wonderful to see so many of the Dittons cubs, scouts and explorers camping and enjoying themselves. Everyone was thoroughly exhausted when leaving on Sunday and we sent them all home hot, tired and smiling!

We have transferred older cubs onto the adventures of Dittons Scouts, as well as welcoming new Cubs transferring up from Beavers – we really enjoy watching young people of the Dittons progress through the sections, growing and maturing on their way. Mowgli said a sad but temporary farewell to Aron and in September welcomed Suzan as Monday night Cub Leader to hold the fort while he works in Azerbaijan – we think she quite likes it! We gained other parent volunteers who stepped up to help Mowgli and our Explorer Young Leaders are invaluable in both packs. Renato moved on from Zulu when his sons became Cubs – thank you Renato for your years of cub volunteering. Without all our help we wouldn't have been able to run as many Cub activities – we look forward to many more in 2024!



Scouts by Tony Butcher

Scout Troop (Wednesday nights) Leadership Team for 2023
Section Leader – Jackie Bourne & Tony Butcher

Scout Troop (Thursday nights) Leadership Team for 2023
Section Leader – Allen Widdowson

Assistant Section Leader
Will Kendrick

Assistant Section Leader
Jonathan Yates

Section Assistants - Vacancy
Group Helpers – Gavin Bacon & Martin Brown

Section Assistants
Richard Hunt, Martin Yates & Phil Hawkins

2023 has been a fantastic year of fun adventures for our Scouts and our Leaders too. We took our winning achievements to the ultimate level and brought home the Esher District Top Troop Trophy. We let you know about winning the Cross Country (and yes we did that) or winning the Night Hike (yes we did that too), but in Esher District against all the other wonderful Scout troops there is the ultimate prize of the combination of all these events. The Top Troop award is an impressive award now hanging in the Shack. Won in 2023 by The Dittons for the first time since 1979!



The Shack is a superb venue in which to teach our Scouts as it's full of history and tradition stretching back to the very early days of Scouting in the UK, but the main job of us Leaders is to get our Scouts out and about in the great outdoors and explore the Surrey countryside enjoying nature and learning how they can make a difference to this world.

As mentioned, The Dittons ran away with success at the Cross Country in Oxshott with William Brogden, Harrison Davey, Lucas White and Marlin Oxby all finishing in the top 10. The Night Hike was incredible this year with our teams coming home in 1st and 2nd place. Our Scouts have really demonstrated great determination, skill and dedication in all of the events they have taken part in 2023. Our Scouts were exemplary as they returned to Linwood care home to help the residents create a hand-made poppy wreath for the Remembrance Day event on Giggs Hill Green. Dedicated Leaders have sustained this link between the old and young and it's very fulfilling to see both generations gain so much from the experience.

This was a year for Escapade, an all section District camp, over the sunniest weekend of the year. There were enormous inflatables, camp fire songs, laser tag, crafts and water slides to enjoy. The music on the Saturday evening gave the whole field a festival atmosphere.

We took 10 Scouts sailing with Discovery Sailing Project (DSP) and were onboard the 60 foot clipper for 3 nights along the Solent learning to sail, navigate and moor the boat. It was amazing to see Scouts experience a new challenge and find the strength and fortitude for a hard-working weekend.

2023 also saw us award another **Chief Scout Gold Award - Robert Keenes** completed the remaining tasks to earn the award prior to moving onto Explorers. It's been a great year of Scouting and it's been a pleasure for the whole Leadership team to see Scouts enjoying their time outdoors experiencing new challenges and adventures.



Ditton Scouts Shooting Club *by Tony Butcher*

Dittons Scouts Shooting Club Leadership Team for 2023

DSSS Leader – Tony Butcher

DSSS Assistants – Phil Hawkins & Barry Walker

The Dittons Scout Shooting Club was established 4 years ago to give Scouts and Explorers the opportunity to learn Air Rifle Target Shooting. Air Rifle Target shooting is an Olympic sport which promotes core strength, balance, coordination, concentration and discipline. There are Group, District, County and National competitions for Scouts.

Last year finished on an incredible high with **Emily** winning the **Individual Country Final**. Emily joined the Inter-Counties team to travel to Aldersley, and compete at the National level again. Surrey took the Silver medal. We took our own momentum forwards into the summer and came second in the Scout District Shooting Competition. This was held at the Escapade Summer camp and our team of three competed against other Troops across Esher.

All of the 17 members of the club have joined us outdoors at the Shack garage or at our indoor winter training venue at the Surbiton Postal Rifle Club, which has been so important to helping our young people develop their skills. However, we need to find a new winter home. The redevelopment of the Surbiton Postal Rifle Club is making it necessary to find an all-weather solution closer to the Shack. This year has seen more Dittons Scouts join up with the County team at Bisley for practice. This is a great opportunity to learn pistol and Small-bore shooting under the guidance of the County Leadership team. As the members reach Explorer age they can join **ScoutShoot** and have the opportunity to learn more disciplines including full bore at 300 yards.

This year saw us enter the National Scout Championship in October. The 4 Scout team entered a variety of disciplines over the October weekend. We had an amazing performance from all of our entrants who did themselves and the Dittons proud. A special mention to: • • Later in the year we entered the County Team Finals, this is a team event for Scout aged members to submit their best scores. We maintained our great performance, scored more than last year and came 3rd. The best individuals were then invited along to Bisley once more to compete in the Individual County Finals for 2023. Emily, Andrej & Finley did really well. It is a very competitive County team this year and some talented Scouts from Fetcham were worthy winners.

As a reminder, our Leadership team for the club is made up of enthusiastic and knowledgeable adults to help run these sessions and train the Scouts to improve their skill. If you are a keen Target Shooter from the past or now, or you are interested in the sport and want to help out, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Tony.Butcher@DittonsScouts.com



Emily winning the 2022 Bisley Individual County Finals

Explorers *by Tom Wilkinson*

Explorers Leadership Team for 2023 - Section Leader - Tom Wilkinson with Julia Hawkins from November '23

Assistant Section Leader - Stuart Jack & Steve Baird

Section Assistant – Aidan McGuinness & Julia Hawkins

Group Occasional Helper & Network – Ro Guildford

In January several Dittons Explorers joined Tom and other District leaders on the first District Winter Activity Weekend since 2020. Very cold weather led to walking through a Terrain Zero winter wonderland and exploring Thor's Cave in Derbyshire before a proper caving trip on the Sunday.

We continued through the terms with a mixture of Explorer staples, such as a scavenger hunt around Thames Ditton, and a variety of Explorer led evenings. Particular highlights included the whimsical engineering of our Explorers dropping eggs from high heights, a miniature painting competition, Taskmaster (where they had to make a Fleur-de-lis from items at The Shack), axe throwing, and the ever-popular DittOlympics (random sports on an Olympic theme with Welly Wanging remaining a firm favourite!) At the start of summer, we attended the District camp, Escapade, alongside all other sections. Explorers participated in paintballing as well as activities on site at Walton Firs. It was a scorcher of a weekend and the sight of Drew on Parade wearing a Mexican Sombrero (well, they asked for hats!) was a special moment indeed. Outdoor adventures continued when in August we took a small contingent of Explorers to Parkwood campsite near Brighton for a summer camp with activities that included "Can't Cook, Won't Cook", hiking, canoeing/kayaking/paddle boarding, electric mountain biking and fish & chips by the seaside.



The Duke of Edinburgh award has continued to be a key part of our programme with practice and qualifying expeditions in Kent and the New Forest leading to **4 Bronze and 4 Silver Awards** this year. Four Explorers also undertook their Practice & Qualifying Gold award expeditions in 2023! A real success for The Dittons and the result of a lot of hard work by our young people, support from parents and a lot of hours of Dittons Leaders – we thank them all. 4 Explorers have started their Young Leader journey with us this year by starting the Young Leader training scheme. Finally, **Congratulations to Lauren** who achieved her **Young Leader Belt** by completing all the training on the **Young Leader Award Scheme**.



THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

Charity no 1038983

Receipts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Payments for the year ended 31 December 2023

Budget 2024	Subscriptions	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	Premises	Budget 2023	Actual 2023
23,000.00	Dittons membership charge	10,500.00	12,039.00	1.00	Field rent	1.00	1.00
8,720.00	UK, County and District membership fees	8,320.00	8,321.45	300.00	Water rates	300.00	266.77
14,280.00	Net receipt	2,180.00	3,717.55	1,400.00	Light and heating	1,000.00	1,293.16
	Rates			270.00	Elmbridge rates rebate	260.00	260.28
270.00	Elmbridge rate rebate (discretionary)	260.00	260.28	750.00	Refuse collection	700.00	716.33
270.00		260.00	260.28	350.00	Telephone/internet	350.00	284.82
	Investment income received			1,450.00	Insurance (buildings)	1,400.00	1,375.11
500.00	Bank interest	50.00	704.05	75,000.00	Repairs, renewals etc	5,000.00	2,879.14
100.00	NS&I interest	50.00	410.04	800.00	Grounds maintenance	800.00	352.80
600.00		100.00	1,114.09	4,000.00	Cleaning - labour / materials	1,500.00	2,592.00
	Donations			84,321.00	Administration expenses	11,311.00	10,021.41
200.00	General donations	200.00	1,110.92	30.00	Postage, newsletters etc	30.00	-
1,000.00	Surrey County Council/other grant	500.00	-	550.00	Website and IT facilities (OSM)	400.00	492.67
1,200.00		700.00	1,110.92	300.00	GSL and leaders' expenses	300.00	1,420.83
	Activities			1,700.00	Bank charges/admin fee	1,000.00	1,419.01
150.00	AGM and meetings	200.00	-	2,580.00	Activities	1,730.00	3,332.51
17,000.00	Section events/camp fees	15,000.00	33,743.10	4,000.00	Section support	3,000.00	1,450.00
17,150.00		15,200.00	33,743.10	1,000.00	Training	1,000.00	236.65
	Fundraising income			1,000.00	AGM and social events	1,000.00	898.30
27,000.00	Fair	27,000.00	30,707.16	17,000.00	Section expenses including camp	15,000.00	23,991.57
27,000.00		27,000.00	30,707.16	23,000.00		20,000.00	26,576.52
	Other income				Fundraising expenses		
1,500.00	Gift aid recovery	1,500.00	-	12,000.00	Fair	7,000.00	11,111.24
				12,000.00	Other expenses	7,000.00	11,111.24
				499.00	Archive expenses	2,000.00	-
				200.00	Charitable donations	-	65.00
				499.00	Purchases	2,000.00	65.00
	Sundry receipts			5,000.00	Equipment	5,000.00	10,810.47
400.00	T shirt receipts	200.00	204.00	500.00	T shirts	1,000.00	695.50
600.00	Miscellaneous income	700.00	204.00	1,000.00	Group badges	-	1,386.27
1,000.00				100.00	Sundries	100.00	-
				6,500.00		6,100.00	12,892.24
				47,640.00	Expenditure for year	48,141.00	63,998.92
63,000.00	Income for the year	47,640.00	70,857.10	128,900.00			134,144.57
	Balance as at 1 January 2023		127,286.39				

THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP Charity no 1038983

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December

	2023	2022
<u>MONETARY ASSETS</u>		
Bank current accounts	9,972.29	1,657.66
Bank deposit account - Group	68,904.55	71,230.93
NSI - land fund, or as required	53,407.13	53,000.76
Section funds in hand	513.03	512.92
Cash - Group	1,347.57	884.12
	<u>134,144.57</u>	<u>127,286.39</u>
<u>NON MONETARY ASSETS</u>		
T-shirt stock	2023	2022
Buildings and contents insurance value	598,550.00	553,700.00
Scouting equipment	48,345.00	20,832.00
	53,407.13	53,000.76
<u>FUNDS</u>		
Restricted funds		
Land fund, or as required	80,737.44	74,285.63
Unrestricted funds		
27000	<u>134,144.57</u>	<u>127,286.39</u>
Cash, bank and similar funds carried forward		


Notes

1. The Group Trustees own the freehold of the land on which the Shack is built, but not the surrounding land. No value is shown in these accounts.
2. The Land Fund is to enable the Group Trustees to purchase the remaining land inside the boundary if it becomes available. Rent of £1 per annum is currently paid for this facility.
3. The Elmbridge Rent Rebate is discretionary, and could be withdrawn.

The above accounts and accompanying statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on ___ March 2024 and signed on their behalf by


D Goodhugh
Treasurer


S Baker
Group Scout Leader


D Williamson
Independent Examiner



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

THE DIZZONS SCOUT GROUP

On accounts for the year ended

31st DECEMBER 2013

Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

08/03/2013

Name:

DEREN WILLIAMSON

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

FFA; FIPA.

(if any):

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Address:

GOODRICH ACCOUNTANTS
SPIRIT HOUSE, 8 HIGH STREET,
WEST MOLESBY, SURREY, KT8 2WA

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1038983

Accounts

Annual Report of the Dittons Scouts

Annual General Meeting March 24th, 2023



**Highlighting the 2022 adventures of our
Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers**



The Dittons Scouts, The Shack, Willowbank,
15 Claygate Lane, Thames Ditton
Charity No.1038983

Dittons Mission Statement *the Purpose of Scouting at the Dittons*

Our values are at the heart of all we do in Scouting:

Integrity - We're honest, we try to do the right thing (even if no-one's watching), and we stay true to ourselves.

Respect - We're thoughtful of people's feelings and values, treating everyone as we'd like to be treated ourselves.

Care - We're kind to others, looking after the world we live in.

Belief - We explore our beliefs and attitudes with wide-open minds.

Co-operation - We work with others to change the world for the better, making friends along the way.

Group Activity Report *by Suzan Baker, Dittons Group Scout Leader*

In 2022 we lost our Scouting Patron, Queen Elizabeth II. For seventy years, The Queen has stood at scouting's side, encouraging our volunteers and inspiring our young people to learn new skills, help others and shine brightly. Her sense of duty was an outstanding example to every single Scout. In 2011, at a Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, Queen Elizabeth II spoke these words from an Australian Aboriginal proverb:

"We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love...and then we return home."

I have reflected much this year on the nature of volunteering, of duty and inclusivity for all and of the difference we can make while **"passing through"**. Every November when we gather with our local community on Giggs Hill Green to commemorate Remembrance Sunday I am touched not just by the words we speak but by how many more of our local community join with us; it was a very great tribute to the inclusivity of The Dittons that we could, in September, provide a focus for families and lead the local community in remembering the life and role of Queen Elizabeth II, honouring her memory and promising as individuals, as a scout group and as a community to continue her values.

In the reports that follow each section details their activities and these words, combined with the pictures, show what make us all very proud of our Dittons volunteers and young people. I want, once again, to say a big thank you to all our Leaders who have once again put in a great deal of hard work and freely given up a lot of their time to provide quality Scouting for all this past year. A massive thank you also to our 2022 activity planners, badge capturers, cake makers, nail hammerers, lift givers, question asking and OSM answering, bonfire building, BBQ burning, picnic making, uniform washing, sideline cheering, email reading, form filling in helpers from every **Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer at The Dittons** – we couldn't do it without you.



St Georges Day camp - renewing promises and reflecting

The Group Executive Committee – *Kate Back & Annette Williams, Chair*

The Group Executive Committee plays a vital role in the running of a Scout Group. Executive Committees make decisions and carry out administrative tasks to ensure that the best quality Scouting can be delivered to young people in the Group. Members of the Executive Committee must act collectively as Charity Trustees of the Scout Group. The committee also exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment. All our volunteers get a lot back from their roles, we can tell this from the years of service awards handed out both to uniformed and also to all of the members of the Group Executive Committee at the AGM.

Without these volunteers and their hard work and support, the group really would not be able to run.

The Executive Committee members are legally and financially responsible for the running of The Scout Group, maintenance of the Shack, all The Dittons property and equipment along with the raising of funds and the administration of the group's finances. It is a vital role that enables the Leaders to run the activities. The group reserves policy, agreed by the Executive states that our policy is to build a fund which would enable The Dittons to purchase the freehold and to substantially improve our buildings. This will be reviewed in 2023.

- Membership is open to all through elections at the AGM or by co-option throughout the year.
- All Executive members are Charity Commission Trustees of The Dittons.

Scouts is just a great place to volunteer.

- ❖ Every volunteer is welcomed.
- ❖ Every volunteer is valued.
- ❖ Every volunteer is supported.
- ❖ Every volunteer gains skills (and has fun!)

Trustees 2022	Chair - Annette Williams	Secretary - Louise O’Gorman	Treasurer - Diana Goodhugh
Paul Bartlett	Stuart Jack	Norman Goldsmith	Fiona Ball
David Cooper	Pamela Forsyth	Craig Behrens	Matt Davies
Will Kendrick	Melanie Uzunoglu	Allen Widdowson	Jackie Bourne
Tony Butcher	Tom Wilkinson	Phil Guildford	Julia Hawkins
<i>Kate Back until September 2022 AGM – Thank you!</i>			
Suzan Baker – Group Scout Leader		<i>3 x vacancies</i>	



Objectives of The Dittons Scout Group- Public Benefit Statement

The purpose of Scouting is to contribute to 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. Scouting uses a method, which is young people in partnership with adults: enjoying what they are doing; learning by doing; participating in varied and progressive activities; making choices for themselves; taking responsibility for their own actions; working in groups; taking increasing responsibility for others; taking part in activities outdoors; sharing in prayer and worship; and making and living out their Scout Promise.

Under the Charities Act 2006 The Scout Association is required to demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit. Our assessment is that we have met the public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings. The activities outlined in this report highlight the areas of work that achieves these aims.

Mother's Day Tea



Cub Sausage Sizzle

Beavers at District Cross Country



Explorers in Wales

St George's Day Parade



Tuneful Beavers



Scout First Aid – of course!



Thanks for everything Phil!



Cub adventures in the dark!



The Dittons Fair *by Rebecca Walker, Fair Chair*

The Dittons Fair – Sunday 8 May 2022

As the 1pm opening time approached and the sun was out full, we all held our breath slightly, unsure of the numbers expect. But we shouldn't have doubted the local community. As we looked out onto Giggs Hill Green people were pouring in from all four corners. After two challenging years, our community was back together to celebrate, have fun and fundraise for The Dittons Scout Group. Many of us admitted to feeling just a little emotional.



in
to

Another huge thank you is due to each one of you for all your contributions towards making it a huge success, from promoting the Fair by programme selling to stall donations to volunteering on the day – we just couldn't do it without all your effort and support. I must give a special thank you to the Committee who work really hard in the months before the Fair to bring in the sponsors, fill the arena, promote the event, confirm the stallholders and juggle all the logistics! At times we were flying by the seat of our pants, but our meetings and evenings to sort through all the donations were packed with humour, everyone having each other's backs.

Plans for **Sunday 14 May 2023** are well under way and we're delighted that John D Wood has become our platinum sponsor for the second year running. They really threw themselves into the event last year, not only becoming our largest sponsor and running a stall on the day, but also putting up as many estate boards as we would sign up! Please do consider them if you're buying or selling a house.

This is our only fundraiser and the only 'volunteering requirement' we have of all the families that join The Dittons'. It is this one day, of maximum effort, that ensures the continuation of The Dittons Scout Group. We keep subscriptions to a minimum and the Fair is therefore our main source of income to keep our beloved and unique 'Shack' alive and well!



1932 Committee by Paul Bartlett, Chair of Committee & Estates Manager

2022 has been another year of ad-hoc work, minor jobs and a lot of ongoing maintenance. Our wonderful Shack building, which we are so fortunate to own outright, requires a lot of time, love and attention to keep its character useable and intact and so many hours of volunteer time were spent behind the scenes ensuring Scouting activities could continue safely for so many.

- July 24th 2022 saw the unexpected and unwanted visit of Surrey Fire Brigade to the Dittons Shack. A fire began in the wood storage area by the garages and quickly spread to the fir trees and grass at the back of the building. Volunteers who were working next door at the Miniature Railway, swiftly called 999 and two engines arrived. Over ten officers put out the fire and also stayed to check that the smouldering wood piles, trees and grass were all out before they left. The Chief Fire Officer said the Shack itself had a lucky escape (and also praised our new roof!). He advised us to clear the area behind the Shack of the remaining fir trees. Working parties with chain saws over two weekends subsequently took down the trees and now the whole area at the rear of The Shack has been dug over and cleared of fir trees, other dead trees, years of overgrown ivy as well as the fire damaged trees.
- This event has opened up a significant amount of space and the team are considering options as to future use of this land. As always we are very thankful for the generous parents who built the Shack in 1932 and gave Dittons the land.
- We have had architectural plans drawn up to refurbish and extend the kitchen. The aim is to create a 'cooking school style, commercially fitted out, facility', which will expand onto the field and merge into Uncle's Room. We are actively seeking builders to meet us and join in this **Uncle's Kitchen Project** and many hours have been spent in meeting building firms – we hope to have soon selected a firm quote and a building partner. You can see from the photos on the front of our 2022 Report a flavour of just how important cooking is to all our members and it would be great to leave a legacy of a new kitchen to future Dittons members.

There have been several people involved in all this behind the scenes essential work at The Shack, to whom I extend sincere thanks. However, I have to single out Stuart Jack, Rowena Guildford and Aidan McGuinness for extra special thanks and recognition for all the long and hard hours they have spent dedicated to working at the Shack.

All volunteers at the Dittons continue to strive to provide the best facilities for the Group's young people and I thank everyone for their 2022 hard work.

If you would like to lend your time and skills to the preservation, remodeling and protection of The Shack we are actively looking to recruit new parents at our AGM to help with the 1932 Committee – could it be you?

Dittons love FIRES but much prefer safe fires...



August 2022 - Team chainsaw and tree clearing



Beavers by David Cooper

Montreal Colony Leadership Team for 2022
Section Leader - David Cooper

Toronto Colony Leadership Team for 2022
Section Leader - David Cooper

Section Assistant - Ollie Bath (until July 2022)

Assistant Section Leader - Pamela Forsyth

Group Occasional Helpers - Dave Barnes, Andrew Thompson, Rachel Surgeoner, Hannah Malone, Naomi Walsh, Claire Appleyard, Michel Cerulli, James Walker
Explorer Young Leaders: Orson Skittles & Drew Swallow

Group Occasional Helpers - Jon O'Sullivan, Annette Williams, Tanya Donkin, Kate Felton, Anna Young, Claire Marstin, Becky Lawson, Chantal Pilbrow & Amy Packer
Explorer Young Leader: Joshua Baird

Spring Term 2022

- Both Colonies completed the Safety Activity Badge & Emergency Aid Badge (Stage 1)
- Ten pin bowling competitions at Hollywood Bowl, Tolworth on 9th & 10th February
- Themed meetings for Chinese New Year, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day and the Winter Olympics
- Visits to meetings by Kung Keep Fit (Martial Arts) and Irish Dancers
- District Cross Country Race on 20th March – Ned Stephenson (Toronto) was first individual Beaver but 1st Hinchley Wood won the Team Trophy with Toronto finishing a close second
- Mother's Day Tea Parties were a huge success and we enjoyed Easter Egg Hunts on last meeting of term



Summer Term 2022

- 36 Beavers attended the St George's Day Parade
- Both Colonies attended the Safari Adventure Golf in Hersham on 11th & 12th May.
- Our Beavers completed the Health & Fitness Activity badge over two meetings.
- 45 Beavers & 18 adults attended Bazzaz – Surrey County Fun Day at Merrist Wood on 21st May
- 54 Beavers attended a Cowboy camp craft activity afternoon at the Shack on 25th June, 50 of whom camped overnight with parents in tents on the Shack field.
- Water Games on 6th & 7th July with World Cup Football Tournaments on 13th & 14th July
- Rounders matches versus parents and family bbqs on 20th & 21st July

Autumn Term 2022

- Dittons Family Day at the Shack on 8th October
- Both Colonies attended Sandown Ski Centre for sledging & mini ringos on 12th & 13th October
- Our Beavers completed the Digital Maker (Stage 1) and International Activity badges.
- 40 Beavers took part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade and service at the War Memorial on Giggs Hill Green
- We organised a Carol Concert for the families of both Beaver Colonies at the Shack on 11th December. The Beavers performed Christmas songs and poems on stage.
- Both Colonies held end of term Christmas parties on 14th & 15th December

20 Beavers from Montreal and **17 from Toronto** earned their prestigious **Chief Scout's Bronze Award**, the highest badge a Beaver can earn – Congratulations!



Cubs *by Matt Davies and Aron Stewart*

Mowgli Cub Pack Leadership Team for 2022
Section Leader – Aron Stewart & Will Kendrick

Zulu Cub Pack Leadership team for 2022
Section Leader – Matt Davies & Craig Behrens

Assistant Section Leader
Carol Hernandez – *until September 2022*

Assistant Section Leaders
Renato Marchio, Stephen Wakefield

Section Assistants
Lloyd Smith, Simon Morris **GOH** - Jamie Feaver

Section Assistants - vacancy

Explorer Young Leader – Ed Bartlett & Ted Ferguson

Explorer Young Leader – Neve Davies, Catherine Bartlett & Lauren Widdowson

Zulu Pack (Tuesday nights) & Mowgli Pack (Monday nights)

With the return of camps, climbing and canoeing in 2022 Cubs have taken on some remarkable and astounding challenges both at the Shack and out in the wider community. As leaders we have been very proud of their resilience and spirit, especially as many Cubs missed so much in Covid years and are now facing a steep learning curve in independence and personal responsibility. District Cub Camp was a real highlight and it was wonderful to see so many of the Dittons cubs from both packs camping and enjoying themselves, (the leaders even managed to get some sleep this year!) and we have never seen so many exhausted cubs on a Sunday afternoon...



Cooking remains a firm Cub winner from seeing how much sugar can be put on pancake to making quesadillas and cooking sausages on a fire and we have even mixed it up a bit in 2022 by experimenting with making our own ice cream, and we even tackled our own fire based pizzas! We trialed building miniature volcanoes (with coke and Mentos), learnt Makaton, deafened all volunteers with our bird box hammering and definitely invented a new firm favourite in an evening of **'I'm a Cub, Get Me Out of Here!** Cubs enjoyed water fights in the summer heat and gathered around the campfire when it has been cold (cooking the obligatory cubs favourites of smores, sausages, burgers!).

We have transferred older cubs onto the adventures of Dittons Scouts, as well as welcoming new Cubs transferring up from Beavers – we really enjoy watching young people of the Dittons progress through the sections, growing and maturing on their way. Thank you for your parent support in 2022, we said a sad farewell to our leaders Will and Carol but gained other parent volunteers and Explorer Young Leaders. We must pay special thanks and give a huge thank you to **Melanie Uzunoglu** whose behind the scenes organization is greatly appreciated. Without all your help we wouldn't have been able to run as many activities – we look forward to many more in 2023!



Scouts by Tony Butcher

Scout Troop (Wednesday nights) Leadership Team for 2022
Section Leader – Jackie Bourne & Tony Butcher

Scout Troop (Thursday nights) Leadership Team for 2022
Section Leader – Allen Widdowson

Assistant Section Leader
Will Kendrick

Assistant Section Leader
Jonathan Yates

Section Assistants - Vacancy
Group Helpers – Gavin Bacon & Martin Brown

Section Assistants
Richard Hunt, Martin Yates & Phil Hawkins

2022 has been a year of new adventures, some continued success and an amazing Scoutabout at the South of England Showground in Ardingly. The Dittons joined Ajax Scouts for our inaugural Polyapes camp over the St. George's Day weekend. This very well attended camp provided the Scouts with opportunities to sleep in bivouacs, cook on open fires, test their pioneering and work with axes. We then joined together at day break on the Sunday morning to collectively renew our Scout promise in the shadow of the Lord Robert Baden Powell War memorial statue.

We are delighted to report the successes of previous years were to be continued into 2022:

- The Dittons once again won the Day Hike around the Box Hill area, expertly navigating their way around the 9 mile route answering questions along the way. We also saw victory in the Cross Country at Oxshott as well as even more success in the Night Hike around the Holmwood area. Our Scouts have really demonstrated great skill, commitment and dedication in all of the events they have entered in 2022.
- The highlight of the year though must be the Scoutabout camp in Ardingly. This event had been delayed from its original date due to Covid and it was fantastic seeing Scouts from across the County joining together to enjoy a weekend of activities, adventures and music. Scouts drove cars, enjoyed zip-wires, water-bungee slides, space hopper races, escape rooms, and literally hundreds more activities run by the various groups in attendance. There was a festival vibe on the Saturday evening with a music concert and it was great to see so many young people, and a few older leaders, having the chance to enjoy themselves under the Surrey stars.
- Another important return to our Scouting programme was the return to Linwood care home. We visited in November to help the residents create a hand-made poppy wreath for the Remembrance Day event on Giggs Hill Green. Dedicated Leaders have created this link between the generations and it's very fulfilling to see both young and old gain so much from the time spent together.
- Leaders have supplemented the programme with new activities on Stokes Field learning about What3Words, completing a treasure hunt around Thames Ditton, learning communication techniques on Oxshott Common and helping pull some pines on Esher Common.

We all love the history and traditions built into the very fibres of our Shack, but it's great to get our Scouts out and about in the Surrey countryside enjoying nature and learning how they can make a difference to this world.

2022 also saw us award another **Chief Scout Gold Award**. Kai Butcher completed the remaining tasks to earn the award prior to moving onto Explorers. It's been a great year of Scouting and it's been a pleasure for the whole Leadership team to see Scouts enjoying their time outdoors experiencing new challenges and adventures.



Ditton Scouts Shooting Club *by Tony Butcher*

Dittons Scouts Shooting Club Leadership Team for 2021

DSSS Leader – Tony Butcher

DSSS Assistants – Phil Hawkins & Barry Walker

For those who have not heard of us, **The Dittons Scout Shooting Club** was established in 2019 to give Scouts and Explorers the opportunity to learn Air Rifle Target Shooting. . Air Rifle Target shooting is a sport which promotes core strength, balance, coordination, concentration and discipline. There are Group, District, County and National competitions for Scouts

2022 ...Wow!

Honestly, when a number of Leaders at the Dittons began planning how we could establish this new club and give Scouts a new sport to learn and accomplish I don't think many of us thought it would transpire into the year we've had.

We have 13 Scouts all earning their Master at Arms Scout badge and 2 Explorers using the opportunity as their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Skill. All of the members of the club have joined us outdoors at the Shack garage or at our indoor winter training venue at the Surbiton Postal Rifle Club, which has been so important to helping our young people develop their skills.

The 2022 season has been very busy indeed. We sent 2 Scouts to **Scoutshoot**, which is an opportunity for older Scouts to try multiple pistol and rifle disciplines at various distances; it's a really fun-packed day at Bisley.

This year saw us enter the **National Scout Championship** for the first time. The 10 Scout team entered a variety of disciplines over the October weekend. We had an amazing performance from all of our entrants who did themselves and the Dittons proud.

A special mention to:

- Drew, finishing 8th in Field Target
- Emily, finishing 7th in 6yd Pistol and 6th in the overall Chief's Prize.

We hope to be challenging for the medals in the very near future.

One final competition the team entered in December 2022 was the County Team Finals. I'm delighted to say our result improved from 5th in 2021 to 2nd in 2022. The best individuals were then invited along to Bisley once more to compete in the Individual County Finals for 2022. Emily, Kai & Gregory did very well. We are delighted to congratulate **Emily who won the Individual County Final**, with Kai 4th and Gregory 13th. This was a superb result for the club and everyone involved is exceptionally proud of all the members and what they've achieved this year.

As a reminder, our Leadership team for the club is made up of enthusiastic and knowledgeable adults to help run these sessions and train the Scouts to improve their skill. If you are a keen Target Shooter from the past or now, or you are interested in the sport and want to help out, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Tony.Butcher@DittonsScouts.com



Emily winning the 2022 Bisley Individual County Finals



Explorers *by Tom Wilkinson*

Explorers Leadership Team for 2021 - Section Leader - Philippa Guildford then Tom Wilkinson, Steve Baird

Assistant Section Leader - Stuart Jack

Section Assistant – Aidan McGuinness & Julia Hawkins

Group Occasional Helper & Network – Ro Guildford

In 2022 we dipped a little below thirty Explorers but we were also joined by Olena and Vlad, Ukrainian refugees who were being hosted by our Group Scout Leader and who found Explorers a respite from homeland worry, a place to learn English as well as a complete adventure when Dittons generously funded their participation in the Explorer Summer camp. At the end of the summer 2022 term Phil stepped down as our Explorer Section Leader after 9 years. A role that it has taken both Tom & Steve to fill! The Dittons community offer huge thanks to Phil for her years of hard work. We are thankful for all our volunteers who allow us to run such a large Explorer unit and also give each Leader the chance to step back some weeks when work or other commitments require – flexibility (and food!) are definitely the key to successful Explorers!



2022 saw a full return to face-to-face scouting and we have made an effort to hand over more control of the programme to our Explorers themselves. Activities have ranged from campfire building alongside axe and saw skills to ice skating at Hampton Court. Following on from 2021's successes in District events we were able to retain the 2022 District Explorer Scope Trophy. **Summer camp in North Wales** saw the opportunity for more adventurous activities from trampolining in a cave to hiking to coastering.

The Duke of Edinburgh award has continued to be a key part of our programme with practice and qualifying expeditions in Kent and the New Forest leading to **4 Bronze and 2 Silver Awards** this year. Six Explorers will be doing both their Practice & Qualifying Gold award expeditions in 2023! A real success for The Dittons and the result of a lot of hard work by our young people, support from parents and a lot of hours of Dittons Leaders – we thank them all. Finally congratulations To Drew and Orson who both achieved their Young Leader Belts by completing all the training on the **Young Leader Award Scheme**.



You're in charge
No, you are...!



Explorer Camp 2022

THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

Charity no 1038983

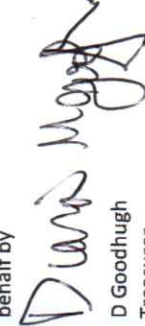

Receipts for the year ended 31 December 2022

Budget 2023	Subscriptions	Budget 2022	Actual 2022
10,500.00	Membership subscriptions	10,500.00	12,800.00
8,320.00	Less Capitation paid	8,275.00	8,274.85
2,180.00	Net receipt	2,225.00	4,525.15
Rates			
260.00	Elmbridge rate rebate (discretionary)	238.08	238.08
260.00		238.08	238.08
Investment income received			
50.00	Bank interest	10.00	35.15
50.00	NS&J interest	10.00	52.95
100.00		20.00	88.10
Donations			
200.00	General donations	200.00	-
500.00	Surrey County Council/other relief grant	1,000.00	2,667.00
700.00		1,200.00	2,667.00
Activities			
200.00	AGM and meetings	200.00	-
15,000.00	Section subscriptions including camp fees	12,000.00	22,473.27
15,200.00		12,200.00	22,473.27
Fundraising income			
27,000.00	Fair	25,000.00	32,238.19
27,000.00		25,000.00	32,238.19
Other income			
1,500.00	Gift aid recovery	1,500.00	-
1,500.00		1,500.00	-
Sundry receipts			
200.00	T shirt receipts	200.00	114.00
500.00	Miscellaneous income	1,200.00	-
700.00		1,400.00	114.00
47,640.00	Income for the year	43,783.08	62,343.79
	Balance as at 1 January 2022		118,660.07
			181,003.86

Payments for the year ended 31 December 2022

Budget 2023	Premises	Budget 2022	Actual 2022
1.00	Rent	1.00	1.00
300.00	Water rates	260.00	303.46
1,000.00	Light and heating	1,000.00	742.80
260.00	Elmbridge rates rebate	238.08	238.08
700.00	Refuse collection	600.00	655.61
350.00	Telephone/internet	350.00	227.82
1,400.00	Insurance (buildings)	1,400.00	1,061.52
5,000.00	Repairs, renewals etc	5,000.00	2,947.43
800.00	Grounds maintenance	800.00	2,627.00
1,500.00	Cleaning - labour / materials	600.00	97.99
11,311.00	Administration expenses	10,249.08	8,902.71
30.00	Postage, newsletters etc	30.00	-
400.00	Website and IT facilities (OSM)	400.00	488.37
300.00	GSL and leaders' expenses	300.00	403.12
1,000.00	Bank charges/admin fee	1,000.00	988.80
1,730.00	Activities	1,730.00	1,880.29
3,000.00	Section support	3,000.00	1,260.00
1,000.00	Training	1,000.00	34.50
1,000.00	AGM and social events	800.00	1,073.80
15,000.00	Section expenses including camp	12,000.00	23,889.07
20,000.00		16,800.00	26,257.37
Fundraising expenses			
7,000.00	Fair	7,000.00	10,893.38
6,500.00	Other expenses	6,500.00	10,893.38
2,000.00	Archive expenses	2,000.00	-
	Charitable donations		42.00
2,000.00	Purchases	2,000.00	42.00
5,000.00	Equipment	5,000.00	2,680.87
1,000.00	T shirts/Group badges	300.00	1,080.85
100.00	Sundries	100.00	1,980.00
6,100.00		5,400.00	5,741.72
47,641.00	Expenditure for year	42,679.08	53,717.47
	Balance as at 31 December 2022		127,286.39
			181,003.86

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December

	2022	2021	Notes
MONETARY ASSETS			
Bank current accounts	1,657.66	5,863.49	
Bank deposit account - Group	71,230.93	57,165.35	
NSI - land fund, or as required	53,000.76	52,947.81	1. The Group Trustees own the freehold of the land on which the Shack is built, but not the surrounding land. No value is shown in these accounts.
Section funds in hand	512.92	2,626.29	2. The Land Fund is to enable the Group Trustees to purchase the remaining land inside the boundary if it becomes available. Rent of £1 per annum is currently paid for this facility.
Cash - Group	884.12	57.13	3. The Elmbridge Rent Rebate is discretionary, and could be withdrawn.
	<u>127,286.39</u>	<u>118,660.07</u>	
NON MONETARY ASSETS			
T-shirt stock	269.00	112.08	
Buildings and contents insurance value	553,700.00	501,995.00	The above accounts and accompanying statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 19 March 2023 and signed on their behalf by
Scouting equipment	20,832.00	18,667.00	 D Goodhugh Treasurer
			 S Baker Group Scout Leader
FUNDS			
Restricted funds			
Land fund, or as required	53,000.76	52,947.81	
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	74,285.63	65,712.26	
	<u>127,286.39</u>	<u>118,660.07</u>	
Cash, bank and similar funds carried forward			


D Williamson
Independent Examiner



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
THE DIZZONS SCOUT GROUP

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2022
Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date: 15/03/2023

Name: DEREN WILLIAMSON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

FFA; FIPA.

(if any):

--

Address:

GOODRICH ACCOUNTANTS
SPIRIT HOUSE, 8 HIGH STREET,
WEST MOLESBY, SURREY, KT8 2WA

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

--

THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1038983

Accounts

Annual Report of the Dittons Scouts for the year 2021

**Annual
General
Meeting**



**8th
October
2022**



The Dittons Scouts, The Shack, Willowbank,
15 Claygate Lane, Thames Ditton
Charity No.1038983

Dittons Mission Statement *the Purpose of Scouting at the Dittons*

Our values are at the heart of all we do in Scouting:

Integrity - We're honest, we try to do the right thing (even if no-one's watching), and we stay true to ourselves.

Respect - We're thoughtful of people's feelings and values, treating everyone as we'd like to be treated ourselves.

Care - We're kind to others, looking after the world we live in.

Belief - We explore our beliefs and attitudes with wide-open minds.

Co-operation - We work with others to change the world for the better, making friends along the way.

Group Activity Report *by Suzan Baker, Dittons Group Scout Leader*

Nobody involved in Scouting would claim anything other than that 2021 was a difficult year for young people.

A curious mixture of online and face to face scouting, initially outdoors and then finally back inside The Shack, was a tricky combination from which to deliver Scouting! I must commend our whole volunteer team for navigating these constraints and succeeding in offering our members as much of a normal Scouting programme as possible. Each section details their activities in the reports that follow and these words, combined with the pictures, show what make us all very proud of our Dittons volunteers and young people.

The 2021 annual census shows that Dittons membership has, despite Covid difficulties, grown with nearly 180 Dittons members this year (including adults.) Why is that? I believe passionately that it is because scouting helps young people feel great about themselves. Feeling great is not a badge but comes from a deep feeling of self worth that lasts. Scouting offers **Skills for Life** for young and old.

I want to say a big thank you to all of Leaders who have once again put in a great deal of hard work and freely given up a lot of their time to provide quality Scouting for all this past year. Navigating the changing regulations, bringing in new Risk Assessments and ensuring the health and safety of our members has been incredibly hard work. This was recognized by the award to the group of a Commissioners Commendation which I was delighted to accept on behalf of the Dittons in September 2021. All our volunteers get a lot back from their roles, we can tell this from the years of service awards handed out both to uniformed and also to all of the members of the Group Executive Committee at the AGM. Without these volunteers and their hard work and support, the group really would not be able to run. The indispensable roles of the members of our Executive Committee (all trustees of the Dittons Scouting charity) are also detailed in this report.

A **massive thank you** then to our 2021 activity planners, badge capturers, cake makers, nail hammerers, lift givers, question asking and question answering, bonfire building, BBQ burning, picnic making, uniform washing, sideline cheering, email reading, form filling in helpers **from every Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer at The Dittons** – we couldn't do it without you.

Playing your part...



...starts by being part of a team



The Group Executive Committee - *Kate Back, Chair of the Dittons Executive*

The Group Executive Committee plays a vital role in the running of a Scout Group. Executive Committees make decisions and carry out administrative tasks to ensure that the best quality Scouting can be delivered to young people in the Group. Members of the Executive Committee must act collectively as Charity Trustees of the Scout Group. The committee also exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment.

The Executive Committee members are legally and financially responsible for the running of The Scout Group, maintenance of the Shack, all The Dittons property and equipment along with the raising of funds and the administration of the group's finances. It is a vital role that enables the Leaders to run the activities.

Membership is open to all through elections at the AGM or by co-option throughout the year. All Executive members are Charity Commission Trustees of The Dittons.

Scouts is just a great place to volunteer.

- ❖ **Every volunteer is welcomed.**
- ❖ **Every volunteer is supported.**
- ❖ **Every volunteer is valued.**
- ❖ **Every volunteer gains skills (and has fun!)**

Trustees 2021			
David Cooper	Aileen Widdowson	Paul Bartlett	Matt Davies
Suzan Baker	Fiona Ball	Anthony Edwards	Pamela Forsyth
Norman Goldsmith	Julia Hawkins	Melanie Uzunoglu	Craig Behrens
Stuart Jack	Diana Goodhugh	Allen Widdowson	Will Kendrick
Kate Back	Pamela Forsyth	Louise O’Gorman	Phil Guildford
Annette Williams	Tony Butcher	Tom Wilkinson	Jackie Bourne



Objectives of The Dittons Scout Group- Public Benefit Statement

The purpose of Scouting is to contribute to 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. Scouting uses a method, which is young people in partnership with adults: enjoying what they are doing; learning by doing; participating in varied and progressive activities; making choices for themselves; taking responsibility for their own actions; working in groups; taking increasing responsibility for others; taking part in activities outdoors; sharing in prayer and worship; and making and living out their Scout Promise.

Under the Charities Act 2006 The Scout Association is required to demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit. Our assessment is that we have met the public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

The Dittons Fair – sadly, Covid stopped our fundraising fair for 2021 so instead here are more photos of the fun the Dittons enjoyed in spite of restrictions



1932 Committee by Paul Bartlett, Chair of Committee & Estates Manager

2021 has been a year of ad-hoc work, minor jobs and a lot of ongoing maintenance. Many hours of volunteer time were spent behind the scenes ensuring Scouting activities could continue safely for so many.

- The camp store has had a much-needed refurbishment. The walls were painted, new lighting installed, the floor resin coated, and with the racking sorted and re-stacked in an ordered way, it has provided a more usable camp store.
- The huge top loft over the main hall and the loft above the Cub room were both emptied, cleaned and a huge amount of rubbish thrown away.
- Following the successful replacement of the Shack roof, new steel roofs were also installed on the garages and sheds.
- Following this much needed roof work, we scheduled an asbestos survey and the report now states that **the Dittons site is completely free from asbestos**. A very comforting report to receive.
- The garages and sheds have been re-organised and, again, we have disposed of a significant amount of historic junk.
- We have had architectural plans drawn up to refurbish and extend the kitchen. The aim is to create a 'cooking school style, commercially fitted out, facility', which will expand onto the field and merge into Uncle's Room.

There have been several people involved in all this behind the scenes essential work at The Shack, to whom I extend sincere thanks. However, I have to single out Stuart Jack, Rowena Guildford and Aidan McGuinness for extra special thanks and recognition for all the long and hard hours they have spent dedicated to working at the Shack.

All volunteers continue to strive to provide the best facilities for the Group's young people.

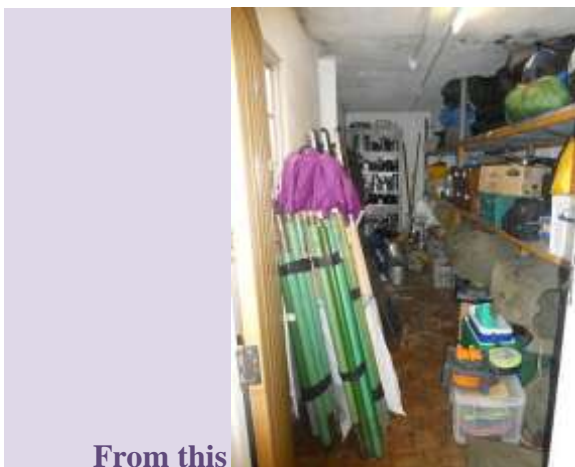
Paul oversees all fire safety, locks and alarms for our building.



Thanks to Paul all wiring in the Shack uses qualified electricians!



Dittons love camping...Camping requires Kit...Camp Kit is now stored... immaculately!



From this



To this

“Voluntary Hours” - Leadership Team Hours for the Dittons

The Charity Commission requires a statement of the cost of our volunteer’s time if charged at a cost of £10 per hour. For 2021 our volunteers freely gave the following time:

Group Scout Leader	Suzan Baker	350 hours
Beavers	David Cooper, Pamela Forsyth & Beaver team	2350 hours
Cubs	Will Kendrick, Matt Davies & Cub team	2500 hours per Pack
Scouts	Allen Widdowson, Jackie Bourne, Tony Butcher & Scout team	2800 hours per Troop
Explorers	Phil Guildford & Explorer team	3000 hours
Quartermaster Assisted by	Stuart Jack Aiden McGuinness & Ro Guildford	800 hours 300 hours
1932 Chair of Estates	Paul Bartlett	200 hours
Executive Committee Chair	Kate Back	75 hours
Treasurer	Di Goodhugh	200 hours
Secretary	Louise O’Gorman	150 hours
Executive Committee members		150 hours

These voluntary hours total an incredible **18,475 hours** from wonderful volunteers to run Dittons Scout group for our members and if charged would equal a cost of **£184,750**
Thank you to all our volunteers – you are priceless!

Ro & Aiden:
stripping Camp Store ceiling
for refurbishment



Not all
volunteering is visible

Tom:
leading Explorer hike on Box Hill



Beavers on bikes!



Beavers by David Cooper

Montreal Colony Leadership Team for 2021

Section Leader - David Cooper

Toronto Colony Leadership Team for 2021

Section Leader - David Cooper

Section Assistant - Ollie Bath

Assistant Section Leader - Pamela Forsyth

Group Occasional Helpers - Dave Barnes, Neena Bimbrah, Andrew Thompson, Jay Bimbrah, Rachel Surgeoner, Hannah Malone & Claire Apleyard

Group Occasional Helpers - Jon O'Sullivan, Annette Williams, Tanya Donkin, Kate Felton, Louise O'Gorman, Anna Young, Claire Marstin, Becky Lawson & Adam Barrigan

Spring Term 2021 - all meetings took place online via Zoom and incorporated several guests in conjunction with the following Activity Badges -

- Builder Activity Badge – presentation by Ed Cookson about his design of a ride at Chessington World of Adventure
- Air Activities Badge – presentation by the Army Flying Museum
- Photographer Badge – video prepared by Danny Bishop about his job as a film camera operator
- Photographer Badge – presentation by Neil Roseworn about underwater photography
- Global Issues Badge – presentation by Kirsty Marchio about her job as a Sky Weather presenter
- Disability Awareness Badge – talk by David Fraser about his life in a wheelchair
- Disability Awareness Badge – mouth painting demonstration by Rob Trent
- Animal Friend Badge - presentation by Blue Cross Animal Welfare
- Animal Friend Badge – presentation by Reptile Wild Life Road Show

Summer Term 2021 saw the resumption of face to face meetings on the Shack field in April and the Beavers enjoyed a range of outdoor activities throughout the Summer, including

- Skipping and tug of war
- Scavenger Hunt
- Highland Games
- Obstacle Courses
- Water Games
- Euro 2020 Football Tournament
- Visit to the Safari Adventure Golf in Hershaw
- Family BBQ and rounders match against the parents



Unfortunately, the planned Beaver Sleepover with parents at the Shack had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Autumn Term activities - the focus of our meetings was towards badge work, both inside the Shack and outdoors, including

- Cyclist Badge – parents organised the required activities on a Sunday afternoon at the Shack for over 20 Beavers
- Explorer Badge – following a flour trail through the woods
- Experiment Badge and Global Issues Badge

The Beavers also took part in sledging and mini ringos at Sandown Ski Centre, held small fireworks displays and each Colony held a Christmas Party. Another brilliant Beaver year – thanks to all who helped.

In 2021, **11 Beavers from Montreal** and **9 from Toronto** earned their prestigious **Chief Scout's Bronze Award**, the highest badge a Beaver can earn – Congratulations!



Cubs *by* Matt Davies & Craig Behrens

Mowgli Cub Pack (Monday nights) Leadership Team for 2021

Section Leader – Craig Behrens & Will Kendrick

Zulu Cub Pack (Tuesday nights) Leadership team for 2021
Section Leader – Matt Davies

Assistant Section Leader

Carol Hernandez

Assistant Section Leaders

Renato Marchio, Stephen Wakefield

Section Assistants

Aron Stewart, Lloyd Smith, Simon Morris

Section Assistants

Cathy Oxby

Zulu Pack & Mowgli Pack

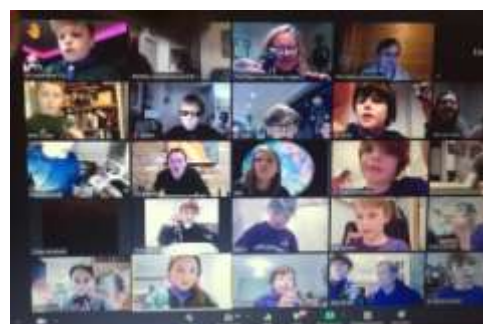
Spring term: From January 2021 we continued on zoom, working on our Environmental badge and continuing with the World Challenge badge. We certainly challenged the Cubs with online escape rooms, Lego builds, plasticine models, and drawing. We enjoyed a joint session online with Steve from Art for Everyone, an artist who worked in plasticine. All the cubs (and leaders!) created plasticine models; we were all impressed with everyone's creations.

Cubs also worked towards the Team Work Challenge badge

Summer term: it was a shame there was no Esher District Cub camp, but in April we were back at the shack meeting in person and soon returned to the usual, well loved scouting activities: den building, making water filters, mini pioneering tasks, through to making shelters at Horseshoe Clump woods and venturing away from the Shack to go on a scavenger hunt around Thames Dittons. We played lots of games to ensure lots of fun. We capped off the term by visiting Skywalk Adventure at Sandown and many Cubs completed our Team Work Challenge badge.

Autumn Term: we were back in full flow with our usual activities (with the exception of the Docklands trip which couldn't happen), we completed the Backwoods Cooking badge, Emergency Aid, cooking and Skills badge and learned how to navigate and put our skills into practice with a fire hydrant orienteering activity around the local area. Cubs cooking skills greatly improved as they made quesadillas with guacamole.

Thank you for your parent support in 2021 both online and in person, it is greatly appreciated and without your help we wouldn't have been able to run as many activities.



Scouts by Tony Butcher

Scout Troop (Wednesday nights) Leadership Team for 2021
Section Leader – Jackie Bourne & Tony Butcher

Scout Troop (Thursday nights) Leadership Team for 2021
Section Leader – Allen Widdowson

Assistant Section Leader

Assistant Section Leaders
Jonathan Yates

Section Assistants

Section Assistants
Remi Rasenburg, Richard Hunt, Martin Yates & Ben Davies, Phil Hawkins

2021 carried on where we had left off in 2020 with virtual meetings online via Zoom. The Scouts kept up their enthusiasm and participation with the wide variety of ever increasing, eccentric activities the Leaders thought up. We had Scouts learning Pi, drinking pints (of water) in record time and making pizza at home. It is fair to say that all of the Scouts and Leaders breathed a sigh of relief when the lockdown finally ended and we were able to return to the Shack!

Invigorated with the prospect of returning to our Scouting program we packed in some familiar activities as well as some new items. The Dittons took to the Surrey Hills with maps and compass and swept away the competition to win the District Day Hike. Our Scouts continued in the same direction and showed they were just as comfortable navigating in darkness by winning the October District Night Hike too. This hike consisted of a challenging navigational exercise over 8 miles around the Ranmore area of Surrey with an emphasis on traditional map and compass skills.

This land based success meant we had to look to the water for more challenging adventures. We took Scouts on their first sailing day trip setting off from Southampton for a return trip across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. We also returned to the Thames and our friends at the Dittons Skiff and Punting Club educated our Scouts on their boat handling skills, it was indeed “Oar-some!”

Evenings at the Shack allowed us to return to some of our traditional activities and helped the Scouts to learn axe work, axe throwing, and pioneering along with caving, games on the common and learning how to propel a water rocket high into the Dittons sky.

2021 was a special year for a group of three Dittons Scouts who became the first Dittons Scouts for rather a few years to earn their **Chief Scout Gold Award**. Having completed all the hard work of the various challenge badges and peppering their arm with more activity badges, they just had the remaining task of completing their expedition. Starting in Guildford on a bright Saturday morning they navigated the Wey Navigations and following a camp site stopover near the M25, strolled into the Molesey Boat Club late on Sunday exhausted yet victorious. Drew, Orson and Will were then invited to the County presentation evening to be handed their certificates by the County Commissioner.



It's been a wonderful return to proper Scouting and it's been a pleasure for the whole Leadership team to see Scouts enjoying their time outdoors experiencing new challenges and adventures.



Ditton Scouts Shooting Club *by Tony Butcher*

Dittons Scouts Shooting Club Leadership Team for 2021

DSSS Leader – Tony Butcher

DSSS Assistants – Phil Hawkins & Barry Walker

For those who have not heard of us, **The Dittons Scout Shooting Club** was established in 2019 to give Scouts and Explorers the opportunity to learn Air Rifle Target Shooting.

Within just a few short months of starting Covid restrictions meant we had to pack the kit away but we could finally return in 2021 following the lifting of lockdowns. Air Rifle Target shooting is a sport which promotes core strength, balance, coordination, concentration and discipline. There are Group, District, County and National competitions for Scouts to train for and compete in.

In 2021 we had 15 Scouts as members of the club when we returned to our range at the garage by the Shack, with 3 Scouts participating as part of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Scheme to use shooting for their skill requirement.

Our 2021 season saw us run our club competition in the autumn, where under the fading light Harry Straw won a very tight competition with a total of 166 out of 200. This led to the club sending 4 Scouts to the County competition final in December at Bookham Rifle Club. We had a wonderful result on our inaugural entry having all 4 Scouts finish in the top 11 and the team finished 5th in the County. All the Scouts earned their Marksman activity badge and some Scouts were invited to join up with the County Scout training evenings at the National Shooting Centre in Bisley, Woking.

We finished the 2021 season under the warm and dry cover of the indoor range at the Surbiton Postal Rifle Club which provides an excellent facility to continue practicing without the threat of wind, snow and rain at the Shack. Our Leadership team for the club is made up of enthusiastic and knowledgeable adults to help run these sessions and train the Scouts to improve their skill.

If you are a keen Target Shooter from the past or now, or you are interested in the sport and want to help out, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Tony.Butcher@DittonsScouts.com



Aiming high starts by shooting straight



Explorers *by Tom Wilkinson*

Explorers Leadership Team for 2021 - Section Leader - Philippa Guildford

Assistant Section Leader - Tom Wilkinson, Steve Baird & Stuart Jack

Section Assistant – Aidan McGuinness, Julia Hawkins

Group Occasional Helper & Network – Ro Guildford

In the year January to December 2021 we had a **full house of thirty Explorers**.

Seven Explorers moved on at the end of this year and we will be taking on four this September. This puts us at twenty seven Explorers. In 2019 the Explorer team put out a plea for more leaders owing to the growth created by such demands and the recognition that Explorer numbers would continue to grow. I am happy to report that in August 2021 Steve joined the Leadership team and that in October 2021 Julia stepped up from an Occasional Parent Helper to be a uniformed Section Assistant allowing us to continue to provide for an Explorer section of this size.

Compared to 2020, 2021 was a much more exciting year for the Explorers as we were able to meet face-to-face again, initially outdoors and then in The Shack once more. With the Explorers having missed out on so many outdoor activities we focused on hikes, campfires and other outdoor scouting activities. We even managed to return to camping with a short summer camp at Boiderhurst near Box Hill.

District activities also started up again and we managed to win both the fishing competition (taking home this rather snazzy wicker fish trophy – right!) and the cooking competition which was held at Claygate. This hopefully puts Explorers in a good position to hold onto the Scope Trophy in 2022.

As restrictions lifted, we have once again been able to send Explorers on Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions with both Silver Practice and Qualifying expeditions held in the New Forest.

Nine Explorers have also been able to return to participating in the Young Leader scheme. This works well as the Service section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award while providing much needed support to the younger sections and **The Dittons Scout Shooting Club**.

We look forward to many more Explorers taking on the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards as we move into 2022 and beyond!



Explorers 2021



THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

Charity no 1038983


Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December

	2021	2020
MONETARY ASSETS		
Bank current accounts	5,863.49	9,795.14
Bank deposit account - Group	57,165.35	48,660.11
NSI - land fund, or as required	52,947.81	52,942.52
Section funds in hand	2,626.29	2,160.03
Cash - Group	57.13	394.13
	<u>118,660.07</u>	<u>113,951.93</u>
NON MONETARY ASSETS		
T-shirt stock	2020	2020
Buildings and contents insurance value	501,995.00	477,636.00
Scouting equipment	18,667.00	18,667.00
	52,947.81	52,942.52
FUNDS		
Restricted funds		
Land fund, or as required	65,712.26	61,009.41
	<u>118,660.07</u>	<u>113,951.93</u>
Unrestricted funds		
General funds		
Cash, bank and similar funds carried forward		

Notes

1. The Group Trustees own the freehold of the land on which the Shack is built, but not the surrounding land. No value is shown in these accounts.
2. The Land Fund is to enable the Group Trustees to purchase the remaining land inside the boundary if it becomes available. Rent of £1 per annum is currently paid for this facility.
3. The Elmbridge Rent Rebate is discretionary, and could be withdrawn.

The above accounts and accompanying statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 7 June 2022 and signed on their behalf by


D Goodhugh
Treasurer


S Baker
Group Scout Leader


D Williamson
Independent Examiner



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 DECEMBER 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1038983

Set out on pages

(Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: 

Date: 12/09/2022

Name: DARREN WILLIAMSON

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FAIA; FIA; FIPA.

Address:

GODDARD ACCOUNTANTS - SPIRIT HOUSE,
8 HIGH STREET, WEST MOLESLEY
SURREY, KT8 2NA

THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1038983

Accounts



The Dittons Scout Group

Report to the Annual General Meeting

9th July 2021

The Dittons Scouts, The Shack,
Willowbank, 15 Claygate Lane, Thames Ditton
Charity No. 1038983



Dittons Mission Statement

The Purpose of Scouting at the Dittons

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. As Scouts we are guided by these values:

Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.

Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.

Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.

Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.

Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

Group Activity Report | Review of the Dittons in 2020

By Kate Back, Dittons Executive Chair & Suzan Baker, Dittons Group Scout Leader

As we said last year, a wise man once said: if you want something done you ask a busy person. That is STILL totally true of our volunteer team here at the Dittons. We cannot put into words how amazing our team has been during what has been an incredibly difficult time for all of us. Even with this dreadful pandemic, week in and week out, our incredible Leaders and helpers, ALL who are volunteers, have kept the Dittons running ensuring that we kept some form of routine and normality and activities for our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers in the face of so many rules and regulations.

Each of our Sections outlines their activities in detail in the following reports. The 2020 annual census show our numbers and how that Dittons continue to flourish. We both want to say a big thank you to all of Leaders who have once again put in a great deal of hard work and freely given up a lot of their time to provide quality Scouting for all your children this past year, and also to all of the members of the Group Executive Committee without whose hard work and support the group really would not be able to run. Their roles are also detailed in this report. So it's a massive thank you to our 2020 activity planners, section greeters, badge capturers, cake makers, nail hammerers, lift givers, question asking and question answering, bonfire building, BBQ burning, picnic making, uniform washing, sideline cheering, email reading, form filling in helpers from every Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer at The Dittons – we couldn't do it without you all. As we said - If you are a busy person you can always find time to fit it some Dittons fun!



The Group Executive Committee

By Kate Back, Dittons Executive Chair

The Group Executive Committee plays a vital role in the running of a Scout Group. Executive Committees make decisions and carry out administrative tasks to ensure that the best quality Scouting can be delivered to young people in the Group. Members of the Executive Committee must act collectively as Charity Trustees of the Scout Group. The committee also exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment.



The Executive Committee members are legally and financially responsible for the running of The Scout Group, maintenance of the Shack, all The Dittons property and equipment along with the raising of funds and the administration of the group's finances. It is a vital role that enables the Leaders to run the activities. Membership is open to all through elections at the AGM or by co-optation throughout the year.

All Executive members are trustees of The Dittons:

Trustees 2020		
David Cooper	Philippa Guilford	Charlotte Barker
Suzan Baker	Fiona Ball	Louise O'Gorman
Norman Goldsmith	Julia Hawkins	Melanie Uzunoglu
Stuart Jack	Louise McDonagh	Allen Widdowson
Kate Back	Paul Bartlett	Diana Goodhugh
Jackie Bourne	Tony Butcher	Craig Behrens
Matt Davies	Aileen Widdowson	Pamela Forsyth



Objectives of the Dittons Scout Group

Public Benefit Statement

The purpose of Scouting is to contribute to 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. Scouting uses a method, which is young people in partnership with adults: enjoying what they are doing; learning by doing; participating in varied and progressive activities; making choices for themselves; taking responsibility for their own actions; working in groups; taking increasing responsibility for others; taking part in activities outdoors; sharing in prayer and worship; and making and living out their Scout Promise.

Under the Charities Act 2006 The Scout Association is required to demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit. Our assessment is that we have met the public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.



Financial Statement

By Diane Goodhugh

Owing to the Covid pandemic, we were not able to run our annual Fair, a notable event in our community calendar, which has generated significant additional income for our Group over the years. We were eligible for local council grant support to continue to meet our running costs.

We were successful in our application in 2019 for Community Infrastructure Levy funds for a grant to replace our aged Shack roof. This project was started later than originally intended because of Covid. The build timetable was extended and by the end of the year the roof was nearly complete – it is now.

In addition, our volunteers erected two shelters in the grounds, so that our sections could meet outdoors, when permitted, and we purchased additional lighting and equipment to support this change.

The Group's reserves policy is to build reserves to buy the field adjacent to our Shack, if it becomes available for sale, and otherwise hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short.

The Group Executive monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received. As interest rates remain at an historic low, we have maintained our current banking/deposit facilities with Lloyds/NSI.

Our Scout Group is a trust established under rules common to all Scout groups. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.



Dittons Fair Committee

By Kate Back, Dittons Executive Chair

Our Fair has been running since 1956 and on Giggs Hill Green since 1964. It was a huge blow to us all that due to the pandemic we had to cancel. Not only is the Fair the way we keep our funds topped up, but it is a huge community event bringing together families, local businesses, young and old alike as well as all of the Dittons.

This is our only fundraiser and the only ask we have of all families that join The Dittons. It is this one day, of maximum effort, that ensures the continuation of The Dittons Scout Group. We keep subscriptions to a minimum (less than £1/week) and the Fair is therefore our main source of income to keep our beloved and unique 'Shack' alive and well! None of us know when we will be able to hold a Dittons Fair again. Can I please ask the Fair Committee to stay with us, we can't do anything without you!!!

The wonderful Marianne Pearson stepped forward as Chair of the Fair committee in 2019 but has unfortunately moved from the area so we are looking for a new Chair for the Fair committee. We have all our sponsors and everybody in place as well as an amazing committee so let's hope that the Dittons Fair returns to Giggs Hill Green as soon as possible.

Here's to making our next Dittons Fair, whenever that may be, a roaring success!!!



1932 Committee

By Paul Bartlett, Chair of Committee

The Shack Roof

During 2019 our application for funding from the Elmbridge Borough Council 'Community Infrastructure Levy' (CIL) was successful and we were awarded £45,000 towards the £67,500 cost for replacing The Shack pitched roofs, flat roofs, fascias, barge boards, soffits and guttering. 'Telson Roofwise' started work in August 2020 and, due to challenges presented by the weather, materials constraint and COVID-19, completed work in March 2021. Insulating the flat roofs, led to a corresponding rise in roof height, which meant that the main hall, single pane, Crittall windows had to be replaced with double glazed units, adding more insulation to the hall.



Field Shelters

Matt Davies; his family, with help from Leaders, constructed two field shelters to allow The Dittons to carry on with section meetings outside, in socially distanced bubbles. Suzan Baker found a supplier of picnic benches made from recycled plastic. Great appreciation and thanks to both!



The Kitchen

The Executive Committee and Leaders have had discussions leading to a defined set of requirements for a replacement kitchen. Currently, there are two potential options: develop; refurbish the existing kitchen by knocking through into the office next door and extending the footprint onto the field by 3m; convert the Cub Den room into a kitchen and change the existing kitchen to a store room. Both options are being discussed with building contractors for quotes. The Dittons will need to seek funding to deliver either option, so a variety of avenues will be explored to raise money. If you have experience in raising funds or simply know of organisations that make charitable donations, please contact me.

Whilst it has been a slow and long year, we have continued to make progress and we continue to strive to provide the best facilities for the Group's young people.



Voluntary Hours

Leadership Team Hours for the Dittons

The Charity Commission require us to state what the cost of Leaders and Helpers time would be if charged at a cost of £10 per hour.

For 2020 the Leaders stated their voluntary hours to be in total of 12,030 which if charged would equal a cost of £120,300.

2020	
Beavers	2725
Cubs	2750
Scouts	3500
Explorers	1875
Quatermaster	130
Group Scout Leader	550
Exec	500



Beavers

By David Cooper

The year started so well! We were pleased to welcome Pamela Forsyth back in her role as Assistant Leader for the Toronto Colony in January, after a year's absence to care for a family member. Both Colonies had teams of Section Assistants and Occasional Helper in place to assist David Cooper to provide fun filled meetings at The Shack. Ollie Bath, Jamie Feaver, Dave Barnes and Adam Barrigan supported the Montreal Colony, whilst Annette Williams, Cathy Oxby and Louise O'Gorman were regular helpers at Toronto Colony meetings.

36 Dittons Beavers attended the **Esher District Beaver Party** at Hinchley Wood Secondary School on Saturday 8th February. The theme of the party was The Wizard of Oz and amongst the activities the Beavers made Tin Man Hats, painted rainbow money boxes and decorated 'Toto' dog shaped biscuits. The party finished with a performance by the Cat's Grin Theatre Company. I thank Martin Cooper for standing in as Master of Ceremonies at the party.



At our meetings in February we organised activities for the Beavers to complete the Experiment and Health & Fitness Activity Badges. Linked to the latter, Craig Oxby organised three training sessions on Saturday afternoons in February, to prepare the Beavers for the **District Cross**

Country Race. This encouraged 34 of our Beavers to enter the race on Oxshott Heath on Sunday 8th March. The Beavers Race was very competitive but with top ten placings for Austin Feltham (2nd), Alex Felton (3rd), Marlin Oxby (5th), Jake Sims (7th) and Cillian Auckland (8th), The Dittons retained the Beaver Team Trophy (for the thirteenth time in fourteen years).

Ten of our Beavers took part in **organised litter picks** around Thames Ditton Village on 18th January, and 15th February to earn the Community Impact Badge (stage 1).

Just as we were preparing for The Dittons Fair the world changed, as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic! Our last face to face meetings (prior to lockdown 1) took place on 12th and 13th March. The planned Mother's Day tea parties the following week had to be cancelled, much to the disappointment of Beaver Mums, but at least we were able to

distribute their plants and cards. Unfortunately, our planned sledging and mini ringo activities at Sandown Ski Centre also had to be cancelled.



Over the Easter weekend, Beavers took part in a **Camp at Home** event where they either camped in tents in their gardens or constructed dens indoors to sleep in.



Esher District organised an online party for all Beavers on Saturday 18th April, which many of our Beavers attended. This Zoom meeting was followed by a virtual **St George's Day** service on Sunday 26th April when our Beavers renewed their promises.



In support of the **'Clap for Carers'** initiative, our Beavers stood on their doorsteps each Thursday evening to make as much noise as possible with saucepan lids and wooden spoons!

Our Beavers also took part in the Scout Association's **'Hike to the Moon'** challenge, in support of the BBCC's Children in Need Big Night In Appeal in April.

Like many other Scout Leaders across the country, David Cooper had no idea how to organise online meetings for our Beavers. Fortunately, Ben Davies (a Dittons Explorer Scout) had the relevant knowledge and with his considerable support and guidance, we were able to put together an exciting programme for the Summer term.



Our first **Zoom meetings** took place on 22nd and 23rd April and over the following weeks the Beavers enjoyed a range of online games and activities, including bingo, odd socks challenge, Kim's Game, Musical Statues, Thames Ditton local knowledge quiz, Identify the sounds quiz, a Kid's quiz, i-spy, Hangman and 'David says'.

We organised a competition to design a poster to commemorate the **75th anniversary of VE Day** and invited a great grandmother to come online to talk to the Beavers about her memories of VE Day and to judge the amazing posters.



We sought volunteer Beavers to produce **keep fit videos** of different exercises in the style of Joe Wicks. Ben Davies produced the clips into one video which was shown to the Beavers during keep fit meetings. It was great watching the Beavers, their siblings and even a few parents joining in with the exercises online.

As the lockdown continued, we were unable to organise our annual Sleepover at the Shack. We therefore held a virtual **Cowboy and Cowgirl camp** over the weekend of 4th and 5th July. Beavers and their parents erected tents in their gardens and created their own ranches and haciendas. They dressed in appropriate costumes for the opening Zoom meeting and then took part in a number of Cowboy activities including making a wanted poster and sheriff's badge, knot tying, corn hole game, gold digging in their gardens, tin



can shooting and Cowboy Grand National with hobby horses around specially constructed garden courses. After cooking their own Cowboy suppers, the Beavers came online for another Zoom meeting to check on their progress. Each Beaver, with parental help, then took part in Cowboy bath time, where they were videoed being soaked with a bucket of water, before throwing another full bucket of water at an imaginary Beaver sitting next to them. (The clips were subsequently spliced together by Ben Davies to produce an amusing video). We held another late night Zoom meeting where Beavers sat around their own campfires for a few Cowboy songs and entertainment, before setting off to bed in their tents. On Sunday morning the Cowboys prepared their own breakfasts, completed any of the outstanding activities and helped parents take down the tents. During our closing Zoom meeting it was apparent that the Cowboys and Cowgirls (and their parents) had had a great time.



The lockdown restrictions did not lift in time for face to face Colony meetings at the Shack during the Summer term, but we were given permission to hold a series of small ceremonies on the Shack field on 21st July for eight recipients of the **Chief Scout Bronze Award** and twelve Beavers who were **Moving On** to the Cub Packs.

During the Summer break numerous risk assessments were completed and protocols were established to enable face to face meetings to resume on the Shack field in September. Two large shelters were constructed at either end of the field and they were equipped with heavy duty picnic tables and benches.

The Autumn term programme included making **nature collages, tree identification, a scavenger hunt, lighting fires and eating marshmallows**. The Beavers also completed the **Communicator Activity Badge**. On 4th November the Montreal Colony enjoyed sparklers and a small fireworks display. Unfortunately, the introduction of the second lockdown the following day postponed the Toronto Colony fireworks.

The annual **Remembrance Day** service at the Shack, the parade to Giggs Hill Green and service at the War Memorial had to be cancelled, but a small deputation from The Dittons Scout Group spontaneously joined other members of the local community to pay their respects at the War Memorial. The Beavers helped to make crepe paper poppies for The Dittons' cascading garland of poppies that was affixed to the War Memorial and also created their own poppies at home for subsequent display in our online gallery.



With lockdown re-instated, we returned to Zoom meetings for the second half of the Autumn term. The Beavers completed the **Space Activity Badge** over two weeks, including a guest appearance from Troy Wood (a Queen's Scout who designed the badge for Tim Peake's Space Mission). Troy was a very inspirational young man.

Each Colony managed one final face to face meeting in December, where Montreal Colony Beavers toasted marshmallows and Toronto Colony Beavers enjoyed their postponed sparklers and a fireworks display.

During 2020 a total of twelve Beavers were awarded the **Chief Scout's Bronze Award**.

The year proved very challenging for the Beaver leadership team, but all of the team played an active part in planning and putting together exciting activities, both online and at the Shack. I am incredibly grateful for all their help and support. I also pay tribute to Emma Pericas Sims and Sian Headley, my parent representatives for Montreal and Toronto Colonies respectively. The online meetings certainly generated a considerable increase in the number of emails and Whatsapp messages that were circulated each week.



Cubs

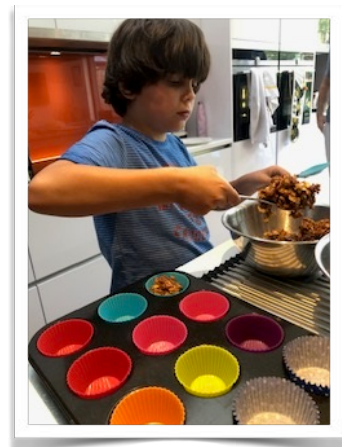
By Craig Behrens & Matt Davies

In the winter of 2020 for Cubs had a fairly typical start of the year until the pandemic caught up with us. We had to cease in person meetings in March. Rather quickly, leaders adapted to new technology and moved to online meetings from April to July. When autumn arrived, we were able to return to outdoor in person meetings at the Shack. With the help of the shelters we were able to continue until end of the term except for the mini-lockdown in November when we had to return to Zoom due to Covid restrictions. Nonetheless, we improvised and continued to teach the Cubs new skills.

Mowgli Pack

Over the winter months we celebrated **Chinese New Year and Pancake Day**. A highlight was inviting **Tom's Talking Reptiles** to teach the Cubs a bit about conservation and giving them a hands on experience. The Cubs made origami boxes with chocolates as **Mother's Day gifts**.

For the first half of the Summer term we joined forces with Zulu and held joint online meetings. Mowgli meetings resumed in June. The Cubs filmed themselves in a number of **taskmaster challenges**, played games and continued to learn about scouts. In July, we managed to hold a socially distanced in person moving up ceremony and awarded some Silver awards.



In September, we returned to the Shack for socially distanced meetings. We learned some new ways to play **familiar games, tied knots, painted conkers, and roasted marshmallows**. Most importantly, we **made poppies** to be included in the display on the war memorial. When we returned to online meetings, we learned about US states, did puzzles, escape rooms, and lots of quizzes.

Craig Behrens continued for a third year as Cub Scout Leader and Will Kendrick joined in running and planning pack meetings. Other returning leaders include Carol Hernandez, Linda Huxley, Simon Morris, Lloyd Smith, and Aron Stewart. We appreciate everybody's contribution and thank all of the parents for their support.

Mowgli - 3 Chief Scout Silvers since last AGM

Zulu Pack

Over the summer term we worked towards the **Our World Challenge badge** and **digital safety** along with a number of taskmaster style challenges

The Autumn term arrived and we started we guest speaker Halie from the **forensics experience**, talking about finger prints and we continued with the world challenge badge, our last in person meeting we all made **paper poppies** for the Dittons cascade. Unfortunately due to Covid we had to go back to in Zoom meetings, but we managed to complete the **astronomy badge** by the end of the year

From January this year we continued on zoom, working on our **environmental badge** and continuing with the world challenge badge. We had a joint session with Mowgli cubs where we created plasticine models, we were all impressed with everyone's creations

This term we are working towards our **teamwork challenge badge**, unfortunately there will be no camp this year.

Zulu Cub Scout Leader Matt Davies led Zulu pack for a fourth year supported by Steve Wakefield, Renato Marchio. Thank you to all the parents that have helped as well, it really is greatly appreciated and without your help we wouldn't have been able to run many activities.





Scouts

By Allen Widdowson

The year started as fairly normally during those heady days of face to face meetings in the shack we had a term of varied activities like making **"Breads of the World"**, cooking pancakes, practicing navigation skills. We even managed to squeeze in a **District Day Hike** competition and, with the rest of the Group, managed a clean sweep at the **District Cross Country competition**. But already the signs of what were to come were on us.

Unperturbed, and following the Easter Break, the Scout Troop Zoomed into action to provide a virtual alternative to our Scouting experience. We slipped out of hiking boots and into Kahoots, put aside our pioneering dreams and watched the Scouts develop **Camouflage skills, create Memes & movie scenes** and take on **Extreme Housework challenges**. The dodgeballs were left in Uncle's room and instead we **hiked to the Moon**, and created amazing trick shots. We abandoned our Master Chef tasting forks in favour of an Exquisite Corpse! We even managed to fit a virtual camp in over the summer.

Here are some of the highlights from the year...

District Competitions - The Troop won the Cross Country competition for Scouts with a convincing first and third place. We also squeezed an entry into the Day Hike competition before lock down, entering two competing teams who both did really well.

Capt Tom 100th Birthday Card - We were amazed as we watched the heroism unfold supporting the NHS applause and creating a Captain Tom 100th Birthday Card.



Camp at Home - The highlight for the Scouts and Leaders was the Camp at Home. A packed weekend of a scavenger hunt, cooking meals, camping, knife work, painting with natural beetroot ink and having fun on the weekend of the Summer Solstice. This was very well attended by Scouts and it was wonderful to see siblings and parents in the photographs having just as much fun as the Scouts themselves. It was the epitome of the reasons many of the Scout Leaders joined the Dittons.



Remembrance Day Poppies - We were not able to meet for our normal moving remembrance day parade but the Scouts (and leaders) had a memorable evening teaching Scouting knots online to prepare Parachord poppies to lay on the day.

Online Activities - Our activities continued throughout the year and ranged from making Ravioli, Cooking Pizzas, Learning about recycling, Preparing Shakey Sorbets, an introduction to sign language as well as learning (and inventing) some new online games. Our version of Online Monopoly still needs a little work but is really showing promise, and who would have thought you could play Virtual Dodgeball. And throughout the year our Scout version of Taskmaster where Scouts rose to the many challenges we presented from the best camouflage and reveal to the best recreation of a movie scene.



It has been an unusual Scouting year made great by the enthusiasm and involvement of our fantastic Scouts and Leaders. They provide suggestions and ideas to keep the leadership team designing newer and better activities to do on our Evenings. Our thanks go to all of them for the untiring support for the Group.



Explorers

By Tom Wilkinson

In the year Jan – Dec 2020 we had 22 Explorers. 5 have moved on at the end of this year and we will be taking on 7 this September. This puts us up to 24 Explorers.

Given this increase in numbers we still need more Leaders to effectively run the unit. We are still looking for new Explorer Leaders and the Unit cannot grow any larger without further adult help. Typically, the Explorers being teenagers, do not want their parents involved so if there is anyone out there with children in the younger sections who would like to get back into Scouting then then we would be delighted to get you involved.

In 2020 we **won the Esher District Explorer Scope Trophy** for the second year running. This trophy goes to the Unit with the most points from 6 activities with the best 5 counting towards the total score - Cross Country, Raftless Race (cycling, paddling, scavenger hunt and quiz), Indoor Shooting, Backwoods Cooking (cooking on altar fires) and Indoor Games.

Congratulations to Jonty who yet again came first in the District Cross Country.

We attended the **2020 Esher District Winter Activity Weekend** in January. This was held at Plas Dolygaer in the Brecon Beacons and was once again a massive success amongst the Explorers. It was also a lot of fun, but tiring, for us leaders. Saturday involved hiking in the winter sunshine and Sunday morning featured climbing while Tom did some practice micro-navigation towards his Mountain Leader qualification.



After having to curtail our first term of 2020 due to the pandemic we then moved online for a variety of activities in the Summer Term and most of the Autumn Term. The whole team pulled together to move our activities onto Zoom. Massive thanks to Ben D for helping facilitate all this. Activities run online included: board games, Taskmaster, knots, and the

Minecrafter Badge. One group created a Discord bot to help calculate carbon footprints earning their **Digital Maker Stage 5 badge.**



We resumed face-to-face meetings for a few weeks in the Autumn term and the ES revived their fire lighting, cooking and map-reading skills.

During the year, we have done a wide variety of activities on Zoom or face-to-face, delivering a varied programme mixing fun activities, building on skills, and working towards higher awards. Our ultimate goal is to have Explorers achieve the Queen's Scout Award as (or just after) leaving the unit at 18.

Again, due to the pandemic, all Duke of Edinburgh awards expeditions were put on hold as staying away overnight was not permitted. As more and more Explorers in the District are signing up for the DofE at all levels, 4 ESUs (The Dittons, 1st Claygate, 1st Oxshott, 1st Weston Green) have set up Dragons DofE for expeditions. We are hoping expeditions will resume in 2021.



The opportunity has been taken to chase up on paperwork for the skills, sport, and service sections so we are in a good position to continue to deliver DofE awards once we return to face-to-face scouting.

In conclusion, it has been a busy year and a challenging one. The Explorer leadership team has adapted to the challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic and continued to deliver a range of activities remotely. The leaders are all looking forward to a return to safe, face-to-face scouting in 2021.



THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

Charity no 1038983

Receipts for the year ended 31 December 2020

Budget 2021 Subscriptions

Budget 2020

Actual 2020

11,200.00	Membership subscriptions	12,000.00	10,450.00
8,250.00	Less Capitation paid	8,230.00	8,230.50
2,950.00	Net receipt	3,770.00	2,219.50
	Rates		
238.08	Elmbridge rate rebate (discretionary)	250.00	234.36
238.08		250.00	234.36
	Investment Income received		
10.00	Bank interest	30.00	24.25
150.00	NS&I interest	400.00	378.43
160.00		430.00	402.68
	Donations		
200.00	General donations	200.00	-
44,000.00	Surrey County Council/other grant (Covid bus. rates)	45,000.00	21,334.00
44,200.00		45,200.00	21,334.00

Activities

200.00	AGM and meetings	200.00	-
15,000.00	Section subscriptions including camp fees	15,000.00	5,912.00
15,200.00		15,200.00	5,912.00

Fundraising Income

-	Fair	20,000.00	2,300.00
	Other income		
3,000.00	Gift aid recovery	4,000.00	-
3,000.00		4,000.00	-

Sundry receipts

200.00	T shirt receipts	200.00	66.00
1,200.00	Miscellaneous income	1,200.00	1,266.92
1,400.00		1,400.00	1,332.92

67,148.08 Income for the year

Balance as at 1 January 2020

90,250.00

33,735.46

127,927.86

161,663.32

Payments for the year ended 31 December 2020

Budget 2021 Premises

Budget 2020

Actual 2020

1.00	Rent	1.00	1.00
260.00	Water rates	260.00	183.83
1,000.00	Light and heating	1,000.00	1,165.48
238.08	Elmbridge rates rebate	250.00	234.36
600.00	Refuse collection	600.00	346.01
350.00	Telephone/internet line	350.00	276.30
1,400.00	Insurance (buildings)	1,400.00	1,205.47
45,000.00	Repairs, renewals etc	79,500.00	30,167.09
800.00	Grounds maintenance	500.00	832.80
750.00	Cleaning - labour / materials	750.00	398.05
50,399.08	Administration expenses	84,611.00	34,810.39
30.00	Postage, newsletters etc	30.00	-
350.00	Website and IT facilities (OSM)	250.00	408.96
300.00	GSL and leaders' expenses	300.00	72.38
1,000.00	Bank charges/admin fee	1,000.00	432.28
1,680.00	Activities	1,580.00	913.62
3,000.00	Section support	3,000.00	-
1,000.00	Training	1,000.00	-
800.00	AGM and social events	800.00	-
15,000.00	Section expenses including camp	15,000.00	4,104.14
19,800.00		19,800.00	4,104.14
	Fundraising expenses		
-	Fair	6,500.00	7.49
6,500.00	Other expenses	6,500.00	7.49
2,000.00	Archive expenses	1,000.00	-
-	Charitable donations	-	1,040.00
2,000.00	Purchases	1,000.00	1,040.00
5,000.00	Equipment	5,000.00	6,340.64
700.00	T shirts/Group badges	700.00	495.11
100.00	Sundries	100.00	-
5,800.00		5,800.00	6,835.75
86,179.08	Expenditure for year	119,291.00	47,711.39
113,951.93		113,951.93	113,951.93
161,663.32		161,663.32	161,663.32

Balance as at 31 December 2020

THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

Charity no 1038983

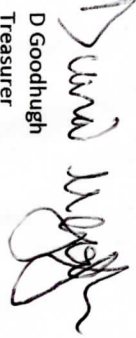
Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2020

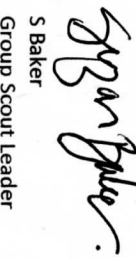
	2020	2019
MONETARY ASSETS		
Bank current accounts	9,795.14	4,824.99
Bank deposit account - Group	48,660.11	69,138.36
NSI - land fund, or as required	52,942.52	52,564.09
Section funds in hand	2,160.03	1,297.65
Cash - Group	394.13	102.77
	<u>113,951.93</u>	<u>127,927.86</u>
NON MONETARY ASSETS		
T-shirt stock	2020 526.06	2019 460.11
Buildings and contents insurance value	477,636.00	463,724.00
Scouting equipment	18,667.00	17,802.00
FUNDS		
Restricted funds		
Land fund, or as required	52,942.52	52,564.09
Unrestricted funds		
General funds	61,009.41	75,363.77
Cash, bank and similar funds carried forward	<u>113,951.93</u>	<u>127,927.86</u>

Notes

1. The Group Trustees own the freehold of the land on which the Shack is built, but not the surrounding land. No value is shown in these accounts.
2. The Land Fund is to enable the Group Trustees to purchase the remaining land inside the boundary if it becomes available. Rent of £1 per annum is currently paid for this facility.
3. The Elmbridge Rent Rebate is discretionary, and could be withdrawn.

The above accounts and accompanying statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 28 June 2021 and signed on their behalf by


D Goodhugh
Treasurer


S Baker
Group Scout Leader


D Williamson
Independent Examiner



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name THE DITTONS SCOUT GROUP

On accounts for the year ended

31 DECEMBER 2020

Charity no (if any)

1038983

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
• the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: [Signature]

Date: 22/06/2021

Name: Peter Williamson FAIA; FFA; RIPA

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

FAIA ; FFA ; RIPA.

Address:

GOODARDS ACCOUNTANTS
SPIRIT HOUSE 8 HIGH STREET, WEST MOLESLEY
SURREY, KT8 2NA

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

		Report to the trustees of members of
103422	Charity no (if any) 31 December 2010	On accounts for the year ended
		Set out on pages
		Responsibilities and basis of report
		Independent examiner's statement
Date: 21/10/2010	Signed: [Signature]	Signed:
	Name: [Name]	Name:
	Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): [Qualification]	Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):
	Address: [Address]	Address: