

XVII Colchester Sea Scout Group



Annual Report and Financial Statement, 2023-2024

Group Scout Leader's AGM Report 2023-2024

It is impossible to write a Group Scout Leader's report (as we are waiting on the final date for Transformation when my title will become Lead Group Volunteer) without acknowledging each and every volunteer who gives up untold hours to provide fantastic opportunities for the young people in our care.

The year started with the Cub section having their September Camp at Mersea. The Cubs undertook their DIY badge and went on a hike, as well as indulging in some great food! They also practiced their fire lighting skills and made their own pizzas. The beavers also held a sleepover at Mersea.

We held a Group Christmas Meal day at Thorrington, with the Beavers and Cubs having a craft session and a visit to the assault course and 3D maze, followed by a hot brunch. The Scouts and Explorers took part in various activities including the 3D maze and bouldering, followed by a 3-course Christmas meal.

As we moved into 2024, the Group celebrated its 90th year of delivering Scouting in Colchester. We held a badge competition which was won by Martha Simpkins and the badge now adorns everyone's uniform. We took a group photograph where all sections were represented, and thanks must go to the staff at the Corporal Budd VC Army Gymnasium for allowing us free use of the raked seating in the sports hall for this. In next year's report, we will have held a Group Camp at Gilwell Park, the home of UK Scouting as part of our 90th year celebrations.

Once again, we have had a good year of fundraising. Our main source of funds comes from the annual Plant Sale and huge thanks must go to Ben Green, Marleen Batchelor and Colin Batchelor and their team for organising, ordering, sorting and delivering the plants. Sara Cheeld and family also need thanks for their efforts with the Christmas pudding sale. If you are able to help with either of these events, we would very much welcome your help. Also, please help to support the events by buying even more plants and puddings!

In the spring, we sadly lost a longtime stalwart of the Group, Mary Francis. Mary was Akela at the 17th for 28 years before Jon Hay and remained as a Group Supporter and Vice President. Her memorial service was held at Layer-de-la-Haye Church and the Group arranged for a guard of honour to show our genuine appreciation for Mary's support over many years. She will be sadly missed.

This year we have added to our fleet with the purchase of a secondhand Colvic 20, to be renamed "Puffin" (whilst of course following the correct procedure to appease Poseidon and the 4 wind gods!). She is currently undergoing significant maintenance and rejuvenation, and we expect her to be in use for the 2025 season. Puffin will enable for longer water sessions to be run, as she is fitted with a sea toilet and a stove...lots of tea and cake please!

Our water programme will be detailed later in the report, but we had our largest turn out ever at the Group Sail Day who were given a taster session on the water and served some excellent food. At this event, we were able to present a number of awards. We also hosted a number of former 17th members in the evening as a reunion as part of our 90th year of Scouting.

Summer Camp this year was at the Essex International Jamboree, joining with approximately 8000 young people, leaders and staff in a field outside Chelmsford. The Cubs, Scouts and Explorers who attended took part in a plethora of activities throughout the week, ranging from using a TV green screen to present the weather forecast to setting up a sweet making business and everything in between! Lots of the group and unit were present as staff members too, with some impressive titles

such as Director of Safety. We played host to 2nd Fairview Scouts, a group from Nova Scotia in Canada. It's fair to say that they were blown away by the quality of food we have on 17th camps! After the previous Jamboree was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid, it was fantastic that an event like this was able to take place again.

At the end of the summer, we were able to support the Mersea Week dinghy races with 3 ribs and the launch, with the role of Safety Officer taken on by myself for the second year running. We have supported this activity for many years now and once again we were praised for our readiness, skills and professionalism. We were unable to support Mersea's Round the Island race by providing safety cover this year, due to running a sailing session for Lexden Guides. However, a team of leaders (George, Jasper, Danielle, Adam) took part in the race in the Group's Xenon and Wayfarer and came in a respectable 19th and 20th place out of 44. James Simpkins (Explorers) and his dad came in 28th place in their Mirror, improving their time from last year by an hour!

The Group still meets in the Army Pavilion and we are grateful for our continued relationship with the Army and Sodexo who manage the Gymnasium and Pavilion. We are always looking out for a bigger venue and will keep you informed if we are able to find anywhere as a more permanent home. Our water base on Mersea continues to provide a home for our boating activities and we are always looking to improve and develop this amazing resource.

This report started with acknowledging the volunteers in the Group. They are an incredibly dedicated team of people, constantly striving to provide outstanding activities and experiences for young people. Their commitment to the Group and its young people cannot be underestimated. It is also worth noting that we are fortunate to have a fantastic group of young people who push, stretch, challenge and entertain us in equal measure. It has been a privilege to be the Group Scout Leader this year and I look forward to reporting to you next year of our continued success!

Ian Edgar
Group Scout Leader

Group Chair's AGM Report 2022-2023

I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to all our team members, volunteers, and supporters who have dedicated countless hours to provide exceptional opportunities for the young people in our care. Your commitment and passion have once again played a crucial role in another successful 12 months for the Colchester 17th Sea Scouts Group.

This year has been one of celebration and achievement, as we started our 90th year of delivering scouting in Colchester. The enthusiasm from all sections was incredible, and we commemorated this milestone with a badge competition, a group photo, and our group camp at Gilwell Park.

Across the sections, our young members engaged in a wide range of activities, from camps and hikes to community projects. The Cubs kicked off the year with their September Camp at Mersea, earning badges and developing skills in fire lighting and cooking. Our Beavers participated in various district and group events and enjoyed sleepovers that offered them memorable experiences. The Scouts had a fantastic year, highlighted by their attendance at the Essex International Jamboree, where they immersed themselves in a variety of exciting activities alongside Scouts from around the world. The Explorers, as always, excelled with their focus on water-based activities and continued to support the group in many ways, including their young leaders assisting with the younger sections.

We expanded our fleet this year, adding the Colvic 20, which we've named "Puffin." This new addition will allow us to run longer sessions, enhancing the water-based experiences.

Our summer camp was at the Essex International Jamboree, which brought together over 8,000 participants, and we were honoured to host a group from Canada. It was a great reminder of how international scouting creates opportunities for building friendships and cultural exchange.

Our annual Group Sail Day was hugely successful, with many young people trying sailing for the first time, and we're proud of our ongoing water program, which forms the backbone of what makes our group unique.

I would like to acknowledge the significant work of the team that supported our fundraising activities. The Plant Sale and Christmas pudding sale were once again key contributors to our funds. These events require immense effort, and I cannot thank enough all who helped organise, sell, and support us.

This year, we also celebrated the life and contributions of Mary Francis, a stalwart of our group for over 28 years. Her impact and legacy within our group will be felt for many years to come, and she will be greatly missed.

Finally, I want to recognise the dedication of our entire leadership team and volunteers. From weekly meetings to camps, and everything in between, it is their passion and energy that makes our program possible.

As I conclude, I want to reiterate how proud I am to serve as the Group Chair. The young people in our group inspire us all with their enthusiasm and resilience, and I am excited for what lies ahead as we continue our journey together. Thank you all for your contributions, big and small, in making this another successful year for the 17th Colchester Sea Scouts.

Ben Green
Group Chair

Treasurer's report financial year ending 31st March 2024

The financial year for 17th Colchester Sea Scouts runs from 1st April until 31st March. Our financial statements and accounts for the year 2023/2024 have been produced on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with the guidance from both The Scout Association and the Charity Commission.

The 2023/24 accounts show a healthy position at year end, being able to carry forward a surplus of £5,564 into the new financial year.

Income

Our income for the year to March 31st 2024 amounted to £65,346 in comparison to £71,734 in 2023, which was down to a reduction in grants and completion of the RYA courses in 2023.

Expenditure

Our expenditure was down by £10,949 compared to last year £70,731 in 2023-£59,782 in 2024. The higher expenditure in 2023 resulted from the purchase of a new trailer and the additional maintenance cost for Mersea HQ.

The continuous efforts and work from our volunteer leaders, helpers and parents is greatly appreciated and as a result the Group manages to secure additional funds through the running of sailing events, courses, supporting with Mersea Regatta, plant sale and other fundraiser events & gift aid etc.

The support from parents is of great importance to allow the Group to run a varied programme of events, invest in new equipment and keep up with increase in running costs.

It would be enormously helpful if this could be enhanced by any sponsorship or additional fundraising ideas from parents, including applying for grant.

17th Colchester Sea Scout Group

Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Total Receipts	65,346	71,734
Total Payments	(59,782)	(70,731)
Net Income / (expenditure) for the year	5,564	1,003
Cash, bank and invested funds b/fwd	39,774	38,772
Cash, bank and invested funds c/fwd	45,338	39,774

Statement of Monetary Assets and Liabilities @ 31st March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Barclays Group Account	14,974	23,582
Barclays Mersea Hut Account	16,519	10,431
Summer Camp Savings Account	13,010	4,933
Capitation Savings Account	647	628
	45,150	39,573
Petty Cash (Beavers)	43	43
Petty Cash (Cubs)	68	98
Petty Cash (Scouts)	77	60
Petty Cash (Total)	188	201
Total	45,338	39,774

0.00

0.00

17th Colchester Sea Scout Group

Income and expenditure breakdown for year ended 31st March 2024

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Subscriptions	7,079	Membership fees	(5,544)
Explorers Rent	1,071		
Gift Aid	-		
Activities		Cost Activities	
Summer Camp 2024 & 2025	5,593	Summer Camp 2024 & 2025	(5,024)
Summer Camp 2023	9,667	Summer Camp 2023	(7,903)
Courses	15,878	Courses	(7,692)
Sailing at Mersea	2,816	Sailing at Mersea	(3,484)
Clothing and Badges	343	Clothing and Badges	(262)
Other Activities (float)	3,033	Other Activities	(3,392)
Negative receipts (refunds)	(45)	Petty Cash	(13)
Equipment / Assets		Purchase Equipment / Asset	
Equipment		Equipment	(3,269)
Fundraising		Cost Fundraising	
Plant Sale	5,578	Plant Sale	(1,853)
Xmas Puddings	1,546	Xmas Puddings	(1,385)
Other/TBD	0	Other/TBD	(134)
Donations (incl Bridge Club Tea & Amazon	2,330	Donations	(191)
Grants	10,355	Grants	0
Interest			
Bank Interest	97		
		Running Costs	
		Meeting Venue (Pavilion)	(1,925)
		Storage	(1,404)
		Utility Bills	(2,153)
		Insurance	(5,745)
Maintenance Buildings	7	Maintenance Buildings	(1,577.01)
Maintenance Equipment	-	Maintenance Equipment	(6,833.00)
Total Income	65,346	Total Expenditure	(59,782.4)
Net Income/Expenditure			5,563.56

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

	£ 01/04/2023 Balance	£ In-year Movement	£ 31/03/2024 Balance
Monetary Assets			
Barclays Group Account	23,582	(8,608)	14,974
Barclays Mersea Hut Account	10,431	6,088	16,519
Petty cash	201	(13)	188
Summer Camp Savings Account	4,933	8,077	13,010
Capitation Savings Account	628	20	647
Monetary Assets	39,774	5,564	45,338

Non-Monetary Assets	Estimated Value 1/4/23	Additions/Disposals/Change in value	Estimated Value 31/3/24
Mersea HQ	250,000	0	250,000
Mersea HQ - Contents	5,832	(583)	5,249
Zodiac 4.7m RIB with 40HP outboard	4,287	(214)	4,073
XS 5m RIB with 50HP outboard	8,574	(429)	8,145
Topaz Xenon x 2 c/with launching trolleys	4,287	(214)	4,073
Dagger Kayaks x 10	4,021	(201)	3,820
Topaz Uno Sailing Dinghies x 7	7,716	(386)	7,331
18ft Oyster Sailing Dinghes x 3	1,617	(81)	1,537
Canadian Canoes x 2	857	(43)	815
Trailers and misc boat equipment	2,572	(129)	2,444
Motor Launch and 10HP Inboard Engine	5,787	(289)	5,498
XS RIB with 70HP outboard	17,148	(857)	16,290
XS RIB with 40HP outboard	12,861	(643)	12,218
Topaz Vibe Sailing Dinghies x 1	2,143	(107)	2,036
Kyoti 4WD ATV	8,110	(1,622)	6,488
Wayfairer Dinghyx1	475	(24)	451
Taz Trolley	878	(22)	856
GB856 Black Trailer	4,816	(963)	3,852
Xeonon Launch Trolley	1,844	(31)	1,813
Non-Monetary Assets	343,825	-6,808	335,173

Vehicles - 20% depreciation

Mersea HQ - Contents - 10% depreciation

Mersea HQ - 0% depreciation

Boats - 5% depreciation

Reserves policy:

It has been agreed at Executive Committee level that the Group will maintain minimum cash reserves of £10,000. This was historically the figure needed to replace an outboard engine allowing the Group to continue functioning if an outboard was lost or stolen. It is also the estimated figure needed to refund payments for a summer camp if this event had to be cancelled at short notice. This figure will be reviewed by the Executive Committee on an annual basis, taking into consideration current pricing and likely impacts of inflation.

Bank account details:

The Group currently operates 4 bank accounts (deposits at 31/03/24)

- Group current account (£14,974)
- Mersea HQ current account (£16,519) – restricted fund, to be used for Mersea income and expenses only
- Capitation savings account (£647) – restricted fund, to be used for payment of the Scouting HQ membership fee for all youth members
- Summer Camp savings account (£13010) – restricted fund, to be used for payments for the purpose of the Group's Summer Camp each year

Beaver Scout AGM Report 2023-2024

Beaver Scout Leaders: Ellie Pavey, George Cheeld

Assistant Beaver Scout Leader: Gill Murgia

Section Sssistants: Aidan Burrell-Saward, Will Cleminson

The colony has been low on numbers since April. We are steadily climbing back up, our current number being 16. We are aiming to get back up to around 20-24 by the end of the year.

We currently have quite a few names on the waiting list, both boys and girls, and at the moment are able to take in all those who are old enough to join.

We have put a lot of effort into increasing the number of badges achieved and all those who have moved up to cubs recently have been achieving their bronze awards. We have been attending district and group events and have even attended and organised sleepovers as well. This includes the next district beaver sleepover in October.

We have presented all sorts of badges the past few terms including sports, nautical skills, hobbies, space, and quite a few challenge awards as well.

We have done a good range of indoor and outdoor activities over the summer, and plan to continue this throughout the winter.

George and I want to thank all of our leaders and helpers, including our young leaders and those who have now gone off to university. Also, those who helped at various points throughout the year and those not even in our group. We would not have been able to run the section without you.

Ellie Pavey and George Cheeld
Beaver Scout Leaders

Cub Scout AGM Report 2023-2024

Cub Scout Leader: Jonathan Hay

Assistant Cub Scout Leader: Emma Hopkins, Simon Hurley, Danielle McClean, Aaron Traynor

We started the year with 25 Cubs in the Pack and ended it with 26. 8 went on to the troop, 1 left Scouting and we have had 11 Beavers join us over the year and 2 from the waiting list.

The leadership team now comprises 5 warranted leaders. Due to external commitments, we do not enjoy a full quota of leaders every week, but we plan for this and have managed with the valued help over the year of the Explorer Scouts Martha Simpkins, Oscar Parker & Declan Capp.

Attendance is excellent and the Cubs participate in all the activities with great enthusiasm. This year three Chief Scout Silver Awards were presented; the highest award achievable in the Cub section and are to be congratulated and many are well on their way to doing the same. We have also awarded a further 102 other badges over the year plus 20 joining in badges. We were also pleased to 'promote' Holly McDermott to the role of Senior Sixer, a job that she did with great enthusiasm.

In September 16 members of the Pack attended our annual Pack camp down at our HQ at Mersea. The Cubs took part in various activities towards their Chef's badge, as well as hiking into camp along the sea wall, pitching tents, building shelters, fire lighting, cooking on rockets stoves and teamwork skills.

In the Autumn term the Cubs covered various activities both individually or as part of a team in their Sixes:

Mini pioneering / teamwork

Emergency aid

Air activities badge

Skills challenge badge including ironing scarves, brushing shoes, changing light bulbs.

We also covered some knot tying and made Christmas tree decorations

The Pack was well represented at the Christmas craft/brunch day down at Mersea.

The new year saw us cover the Local Knowledge badge, the Skills challenge badge and we also enjoyed a pancake night and teamwork challenge evenings. The Explorers ran a couple of evenings including honey tasting and the Cubs got involved in running games too!

The Pack was represented at the annual St. Georges Day parade and they all looked very smart.

May camp down at Mersea traditionally for the youngest Pack members was a success covering DIY, beach art, crabbing and a visit to the Lifeboat station given to us by Simon Hurley (Baloo), himself a member of the Lifeboat crew. We welcomed the previous Baloo, Michael Francis and he presented a cheque to Mersea Lifeboat station in memory of his late wife Mary who was Akela for 28 years.

During the Summer term we were taken out on the water in various boats by Explorer Scouts & Scouts. There are too many to name, but BIG thanks go to all involved as the Cubs had a great time igniting their enthusiasm for sailing and giving them a taste of things to come.

Although we finished at the tail end of July, 1 of the older Cubs joined the Scouts and Explorers and attended Jamboree in Chelmsford. They had a great week taking part in a huge array of activities

ranging from Abseiling to presenting the weather on TV! All concerned had a great week and once again were a credit to themselves and a pleasure to spend a week with.

My thanks once again over the last year go to the leadership team in no particular order for their friendship & support:

Emma Hopkins

Simon Hurley

Aaron Traynor

Ian Edgar (Scouts)

Steve & Paula Deighton

George Cheeld

Ellie Pavey

Adam Skull

Jasper Smith

.....and a big 'thank you' to the Cub Scouts and their parents for their continued enthusiasm.

Jonathan Hay

Cub Scout Leader

Scout AGM Report 2023-2024

Scout Leader: Ian Edgar

Assistant Scout Leader: Paula Deighton, Sarah Gibson, Adam Skull, Jasper Smith, Cameron Whyte

Scout Section Assistant: Chris Dorrian

Group Skills Instructor: Jack Kellett

This year has been another successful and enjoyable time for the Scout section. The Scouts had a varied programme in the autumn term with Pavilion nights including completing their Hobbies badge. They also completed their Model Maker badge, support by the free Warhammer resources provided by Games Workshop. Unfortunately we had to cancel our planned backwoods weekend due to the weather forecast. We rounded off the term with a trip to Go Bananas.

In addition to the usual Wednesday night activities, Scouts attended other group events. A number of Scouts attended the Christmas meal and activity day held at Thorrington. The Scout section helped raise money through selling Christmas puddings. The Scouts helped serve tea, sandwiches and cakes at a Bridge Club Tea.

The spring term 2024 saw the Scout programme host Royal Navy Youth Engagement team in a joint meeting with the Explorers. We also hosted the Essex Therapy Dogs as we learned about their charity and the services they provide. We had a pancake night and a Zoom pizza cooking night. The Scouts also attended the St George's day parade. Several Scouts completed their RYA Level 1 Powerboat qualification.

The summer term 2024 saw our usual Mersea sailing nights. We completed the Forester badge with planting at Mersea and visiting Thorrington to learn about coppicing and forest management. A large number of Scouts attended the sailing weekends. We also pitched tents ready for summer camp. The Scouts completed their Athletics badge at the Pavilion.

Summer Camp this year was held at the Essex International Jamboree in Chelmsford which 15 Scouts attended – see report above.

There are currently 25 Scouts in the troop. The leadership team for this year will be Ian Edgar, Paula Deighton, Adam Skull, Jasper Smith, Chris Dorrian, Dan Smith and Jack Kellett. There are currently 4 Explorer Scout young leaders working with the section.

Ian Edgar

Scout Leader

Explorer Scout AGM Report 2022-2023

Explorer Scout Leader: Hannah Smith

Assistant Explorer Scout Leaders: Steve Deighton, Pete Bartholomew, Phil Bartholomew, Clare Hurley, Roland Victory, Richard Nunn

We are a District based Explorer Scout Unit and also, importantly, in partnership with the 17th Colchester Sea Scout Group. We place a strong emphasis on water-based activities, as well as enjoying many shore-based events. We meet at the Colchester Garrison Pavilion and at the 17th Colchester's HQ at Mersea on Tuesday nights between 7.30 and 9.30pm.

We wear the Sea Scout uniform with ties, although we still wear the scarf of the 17th Colchester for other less formal activities. The 17th Colchester Sea Scout Group is Royal Navy Recognised, and the Explorer Unit shares that recognition. It is one of the few Explorer Scout Units to carry this prestigious recognition with such numbers as we have.

Membership of the Unit is available to both boys and girls aged between 14 and 18 years old.

Autumn 2023

This term we worked on an International project which contributes towards the young people's ongoing award work. We also carved pumpkins, made Diya lamps to celebrate Diwali and painted glasses to reflect on Remembrance day. We joined the district for a Christmas bowling outing.

Spring 2024

This term focused on expedition training, in order to be prepared for future Platinum, Diamond and King's Scout award expedition opportunities. A group completed their Diamond expedition in the South Downs at the end of March.

Summer 2024

The paddleboards were used alongside sailing and kayaking opportunities throughout the summer term. We also completed a lot of crafting and general preparing of EIJ. The term was concluded by a water fight and BBQ. During the holiday, the majority of the explorer unit attended EIJ, either as participants or staff.

Young Leaders

Members of the Unit regularly assist with all the other sections within the 17th Group. This secures the relationship with younger members of the Group, providing them with an insight into the opportunities offered in joining the ESU – the best type of promotion for future recruitment.

Awards

Badges awarded this year include 6 Platinum Awards, Hikes, Musician, Nautical Skills, Physical Recreation, Racquet Sports and Water Activities badges.

Currently we have a large leadership team however last year was tricky with lots of leaders being unavailable due to work or personal reasons. Numbers remained steady with 15 on the books at the end of the Summer term.

Hannah Smith
Explorer Scout Leader

Mersea HQ AGM Report 2022-2023

RYA Centre

A very busy year for our volunteer instructors and the support from the often-needed logistics team. The new Powerboat Instructors have been operating on Courses. We held Level 2 Powerboat Courses in September and finished off 2023 with a RN Sea Scout Explorer Course Weekend, this saw Explorer Scouts from all over the UK attending to undertake sailing & powerboat courses. We held a further RYA First Aid Course making sure our explorers keep their training up to date.

Into 2024 & we held two more RN RYA sessions, the first one was for adult Leaders to gain powerboating qualifications; the second in June was for safety boat courses. We held a RYA Powerboat Level 1 course for the Scouts, further Level 2 Courses in May and finished up with our annual Whitsun Course week for the Scouts & Explorers. Members of the Group also achieved their VHF Qualifications

Kayak & paddleboarding

Following the acquisition of the paddleboards, we have now managed to get 9 adults qualified across both kayaking & paddleboarding. We have been able to offer these activities when tides and conditions do not always allow the access for sailing.

Fleet

As always, the fleet is kept in tip top shape, this takes many hours of work and effort and a fair bit of money! We have decided to sell the vibe, the boat was not used as much as it should be. We have purchased a cabin motor boat, she is a Colvic 20. She is currently undergoing an extensive re-paint and general update, she will be called Puffin, look out for her next season!

Headquarters

The headquarters whilst quite old is in good condition, the grounds outside are maintained by John. We have had a number of residential weekends for other groups and also 3rd party agencies. We have also had a number of daytime hires during the period.

Group sailing

We ran four sailing weekends over the summer period, all of which were fully subscribed. We also took a large number on day sail basis each time; it is so good to see everyone fully back to normal. There have been taster sessions for the Beavers & Cubs, and both the Scouts and Explorers have managed evenings in the summer term.

Community

To help assist with the financing of the Mersea facility we offer on the water experience sessions to other Scout Groups, from Beavers through to Explorers. They can also rent the accommodation for residential stays. Since the last report we have offered a lot of sessions - made a lot of young people smile, a few even managed a scream(!!) and, importantly, only a couple did not enjoy the experience. We have taken out 188 people for these experience sessions from other Scout & Guide Groups over the review period.

The team have offered support to Mersea Island Rowing club for their annual Gig meet with launching and safety boat support. We have worked closely with Dabchicks Sailing club in use of facilities and other joint ventures.

Ian Edgar has led the team for safety boat support for Mersea Week as Safety Officer, with some amazing reviews and thankyou's.

Kayaking

7 members of the group undertook their King Scout Expedition, 4 days & 3 nights in canoes down the river Wye

Teamwork

None of the above just happens - the level of programme we are offering requires serious support. Over the year we have welcomed new faces to assist with the running of these sessions - some are from the Group and others are from out of the Group who just like to be on the water and are prepared to work whilst doing it. We are also seeing the dividends paying off in the young people we have been training who, in turn, are now all able to offer instruction to others. We continue to wear the water team clothing with some pride!

Costing

The more the equipment is used, the more it requires upkeep. A few volunteers work round the clock to ensure boats are available for every session and this costs large sums of money. But thanks to the commitment from the youngsters and the volunteering to take others out (instructors, safety boat, etc) we have seen Mersea HQ become a financially viable asset, whilst keeping costs to our Group at, what I believe to be, a very affordable rate when compared to all other centres offering this type of activity. It should be noted that the RN Scheme sessions brought in a lot of revenue; these have now ceased as the Scheme finds some re-direction.

Now to the "Thank You's" ...

To name everyone would take forever - so to all the people who have assisted myself with the successful running of the Mersea facility, I thank you on behalf of every person you have made smile this year. It should be also noted that this is all done by volunteers.

To the Adults that ensure the residential weekends happen and run smoothly, I offer special thanks (we can't even guarantee you a bed now). And finally to John, who diligently attends the HQ, often to remove rubbish and sort 'odd jobs', cut the grass (which looks superb), sort out the fire alarm when trips on, and get sails repaired at very short notice, the Group offers their sincere thanks and gratitude.

Steve Deighton

Assistant Group Scout Leader

Principal 17th Colchester Sea Scouts RYA Centre

Mersea Activity Co-ordinator

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of XVII Colchester Sea Scout Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the XVII Colchester Sea Scout Group for the year ended 31st March 2024.

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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement:

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

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

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

Signed:



Name: Claire Gray

Professional qualification: FCA

Address: Unit 3, Upp Hall Farm, Salmons Lane, Colchester, Essex CO6 1RY

Date: 31st Jan 2025