

# POLESWORTH (ABBEY) SCOUT GROUP

## Bank Reconciliation for the Year Ended 30/06/2022

Balance as per current account bank statement 30.6.2022	£21,122.39
Balance as per savings account bank statement 30.6.2022	<u>£7,623.74</u>
	<b>£28,746.13</b>

Less unrepresented cheques/Direct Debits, etc	0
	<b>£0.00</b>

I certify that the accounts detailed above are in accordance with the books and vouchers supplied to me and are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief

Date: 1/11/2022

Signed S. Ward

Name SARAH WARD FCCA

Signed [Signature] Chairman

Signed [Signature] Group Scout Leader

signed [Signature] Treasurer







**Polesworth (Abbey)  
Scout Group**



## Chair's Report

For our Section leaders, Leadership Teams and Executive Members the past years have proved to be very challenging from the impact of the pandemic to the current economic crisis. To provide a safe, active and balanced program in a suitable and safe environment has become part of the new normal and whenever the rules or requirements change, all the teams adapted. It is with much praise and appreciation that we thank these volunteers for their time, commitment and support that enables scouting to continue during such challenging times.

Financially the Group regularly reviewed and adapted its action plan, with everyone's safety as a priority and keeping expenditure to a minimum. The impact of the pandemic was first felt with the cancellation of rental bookings for the building and a reduction in the number of our young members. As the recovery from the pandemic has progressed, we see a return for the rental and use of the building and our membership of young members has returned to its maximum level in most sections, with a waiting list of young people wishing to join our Group. The Group recognizes the impact and hardships that maybe encountered by some of our young members and their families during this economic crisis. The group has implemented a hardship fund for those young members living through tough times, to ensure that these young members do not miss out on their scouting journey and experience.

The leadership team have again produced and delivered an exciting and adventurous program of activities from Birdbox building, Kayaking, Shooting, Archery, Sleepovers, Camping and for some lucky Mom's or Guardians receiving handmade Mother's Day presents and this list is just some of those activities completed.

The previous year has seen some changes to the Executive Committee and Senior Leadership teams. After many very successful years as Scout Section Leader, Justin Tweed has stepped down, continuing with scouting and the Group as assistant Scout Leader. Beaver Section Leader Steve Smith left the Group at Christmas, having been with the group for many years. Steve's previous positions within the Group had included Group Chair and as a supporter of our District Scouting team had taken on various roles and assisted with many of their activities and events.

Catherine Hillyard stepped down from her last Executive member role within the Group as Events and Booking manager. Cath is greatly missed having been involved with supporting the Group in many ways and for many, many years. During that time Cath had taken on nearly every role within the Executive Committee and had also helped as a leader and fundraiser. I thank them both for their exceptional hard work and I send them our very best wishes and every success with their next adventures.

This too is my last year with the Group as Chair and this my last yearly report. As I hand back the reins of the Group. I would like to thank all the Executive Committee Members, Section Leaders, Leaders, Assistant Leaders, our team of Young Leaders, Occasional helpers and the friends of the Group, both past and present, for their time, exceptional hard work, dedication and commitment in delivering such a high standard and an adventurous program of scouting on behalf of Polesworth (Abbey) Scout Group for over fifty-two years. I would also like to gratefully thank and acknowledge Tracey Loveland, Catherine Hillyard and Tracey Pratley for all their advice, assistance and support while in my role as Group Chair.

As my journey with the Group comes to an end, I have met so many exceptional people, made many friends, completed tasks and challenges which I would never have experienced and my advice to anyone thinking of volunteering, "Please, give it a go, you never know you might like it"; I have, very much so...

Polesworth (Abbey) Scout Group  
Chair  
Ian Mason

January 2023



## **Treasurers Report**

### **Annual Accounts 2021 – 2022**

The accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 are attached. My thanks to Sarah Ward who, once again, has acted as our independent examiner. This is my 10<sup>th</sup> year reporting as Treasurer for the group.

#### **Income**

Receipts are thankfully back up to pre-covid levels at £29,236.88.

Subs are our largest income at £9,504.00, and this resulted in a nice Gift Aid claim of £3,184.32.

My thanks go to all the parents who pay subs promptly. Ensuring all subs are paid is the job which takes up the majority of my time, along with the Gift Aid claim, so please could you pay during the first week back after a full term/half term break. I really hate having to personally chase parents. Reminders will be put out on our Facebook page.

#### **Expenditure**

It goes without saying that we have an amazing scout hut, but it does take a lot of running and maintenance - £5261.61 to be exact. Hut rental contributes to this cost, and this is something we wish to expand on. All other costs are roughly the same as pre-covid years.

#### **Reserves**

We ended the year with a healthy balance sheet and £28,746.13 in the bank.

Our recommendation is that we keep at least £10,000 as a float to cover the running costs of the hut, any unexpected repairs that may surface, and also to cover the rising costs of electricity, as our new contract began 1.11.2022 at a very much higher rate.

#### **Turn2Us Scheme**

As we are all aware we are all going through a Cost of Living Crisis, so we are pleased to announce that we have set up a fund to help parents who might be struggling to pay their subs, buy uniform or pay for trips. The aim is to help parents in need by paying a proportion of their subs and trips and by purchasing uniform on their behalf. However, this does depend on how many people apply and how much funds are available.

Please contact me directly if you wish to discuss this scheme. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Tracey Loveland  
Treasurer

## SCOUTS SECTION REPORT

Scouts during 2022 was an active year with a full programme of activities. We led the scouts through shooting and archery, some active mini olympics and kayaking sessions; as well as stretching them mentally with some brain teasing activities.

We awarded well over 300 badges to reward their hard work and skills that they learned or honed during the year. We ran a fundraising badge which saw two scouts get awarded a special award, the commissioners commendation. This award is only awarded to young people who have gone above and beyond and has only been awarded to a few scouts in Tamworth district.

The scouts went on several camps, we started the year with an expedition challenge in the Peak District exploring the hills above Ladybower reservoir where the Dambusters did their practice runs during world war 2, and then the shore of the reservoir itself.

We had our survival camp where the scouts slept in hammocks and cooked over open fires, without running water or toilets.

Then group camp where all sections camped and did activities together.

Andrew managed to secure some funding from the commonwealth games to enable us to purchase another two open canoes, which will be coming soon.

The year was finished off with a change in the leadership team, Justin stepped down from Scout Leader and took up an Assistant Scout Leader position, handing the Scout Leader role over to Sam.

This coming year has a fantastic programme planned, with another survival camp and an expedition camp on the water, where we will explore the canals and transport all our equipment for a weekend by kayak and canoe.

There will also be another group camp and a special camp for Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders and those scouts who will be filling the roles as older scouts move onto explorers. They will be learning skills to enable them to manage their patrols well.



## **CUBS SECTION REPORT**

We averaged between 30 to 40 cubs throughout the year, mix of both boys and girls. A Total of 653 badges were awarded, with 8 Chief Scout Silver Awards included. Cubs took part in pioneering, science experiments, fires, and various trips and visits.

### **June to July 2021**

During the summer, cubs were predominantly outdoors earning their green thumbs at gardening and making insect homes. We then progressed onto science experiments where cubs learned various things through exciting and safe experiments. In the later part of the term Cubs learned some camp basics including pitching tents and looking after themselves whilst away. We also got ourselves somewhat tangled in pioneering and learning how to make tracking symbols in the park. We finished the term burning off any leftover energy with a mini sports competition between the sixes. Everyone earned one or more medals.

### **September to December 2021**

Cubs had a cub camp for a weekend in September at Alfrey Activity Centre. This camp was mainly for Cubs who have been with us throughout lockdown and have not been on away on a camp before. There were various activities including climbing, Abseiling, fire lighting and lots of free time being kids playing outside. Cubs and Beavers had a joint visit to the Space Centre Museum where they could interact with space activities. We also sat in the observatory and watched a short documentary on how aspiring astronomers study and connect with each other.

Our first evening hike was around Pooley Park. Some newer cubs were nervous to begin with but were soon smiling and having fun by the time we returned. We had an exciting visit to the fire station where all Cubs got to meet fire fighters. They got to sit in the fire engine and have a go with the water hoses. We also had some fun with crafts and learning some knots. Ending midterm with a fun Halloween party.

In the later part of term Cubs looked into what makes different people unique and learning about disabilities. They learned about brail, using one arm or no arms to complete a task. We also finalised their pioneering badge by completing a mini project. We also finalised their naturalist badge which took them a whole year to complete. For our christmas Outing the cubs took part in bowling and mini golf.

### **January to April 2022**

New Year started with some team building games. Cubs completed the first set of their teamwork badge whilst getting to know their peers, new and current. We then "travelled" to China learning about the Chinese New year, learning about the festivities and activities. Cubs then got into making puppets and scenery which they then presented the following week to parents.

Over February half term cubs had an online drumming session. They learned about rounds and different beats using simple words. They earned their musician level one badge.

Over the second half term cubs got stuck into cooking with their groups. They learned cooking basics such as hygiene and cooking methods. Over a 3 week rotational period cubs cooked 2 course meals. The other 2 sessions over the rotational weeks cubs learned about money management, and fire lighting / backwoods cooking. We had a little parent help over these three weeks and it would have been unachievable without their help, so thank you.

### **April to July 2022**

Cubs began with Environmental Conservation, it's a large topic looking into being eco friendly with waste and energy. Part of this badge cubs need to complete a community project, they assisted cleaning the war memorial on Pooley Lane and some litter picking. Cubs got handy and learned some basic first aid as part of their level 2 badge. We had 2 volunteers come in and teach the cubs first aid. They also learned about the recovery position and had a try on the resuscitation Ann dolls. After some serious weeks we ended the half term playing wide games in the local park.

The second part of term Cubs completed some more outdoor activities including kayaking, den building and archery. This was done over a 3 week rotation, with parent help and qualified volunteers running the kayaking.



## Beavers Section Report

At the start of 2022 the Polesworth Beaver section increased its young person membership from 24 to 30. This allowed the section to extend the benefits that scouting can bring from an early age to more young people whilst also helping to ease some of the pressures of a very long waiting list. The expansion of the Beaver section was only made possible by the growth of the sections leadership team. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Matt Taylor, who is also a parent, for coming forward and supporting the request for more leaders and joining leadership team.

Throughout the last reporting period the Beavers enjoyed a wide, varied and balanced program, here are some of the highlights;

Polesworth Beavers has always supported opportunities for the Beavers to learn about themselves and gain independence. With this in mind the Beavers have attended 3 sleep overs in the last 12 months. 15 Beavers enjoyed an eventful distinct event at Ash End Farm, where they could mix with other beavers from across the district as well as come up close to the wide variety of creatures kept at Ash End. If the Beavers were not tired out by the day activities, they had free roam of the Play Barn for the evening before eventually settling down to sleep(?) between the soft play equipment. In September the Beavers joined the cub and scout sections on our Group Camp and thoroughly enjoyed a weekend full of adventurous activities including a 1st for the beavers - axe throwing! Whilst in December the beavers joined with Beavers from Kingsbury for the annual Beaver Christmas Sleepover.

Earlier in the year, a number of beavers took to the water for the District run Paddlesports event whilst in July the whole section helped to decorate the groups carnival float to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee which was finally back following the pandemic. A large group of Beavers joined other sections in fancy dress on the float. The Beavers finished off the year with a visit to the Snow Dome Fun Play which saw the Beavers wrapped up warm to brave the snow and slides.

Overall through the course of delivering the beaver program a total of 214 badges were awarded in 2022. This was made-up of 3 Bronze Chief Scout awards, 49 challenge badges, 74 activity badges and 88 stages badges.

I'd like to thank the whole Beaver leadership team for delivering the beaver program, these are Steve Smith, Tracey Pratley and Matt Talyor along with our Young Leaders Harry Chesters, Charlie Ashbury-Richardson and William Banes. Without their time, flexibility and supportive mindset we couldn't run the high quality Beaver section that we do today.

Finally, I'd like to thank Steve Smith, who at the end of 2022 decided to take a break from scouting, for his dedication and time within the section. Steve has many years experience within scouting and has held many roles within the Polesworth Group. His experience, leadership and drive has been a big factor in the continued success of the section and will no doubt take sometime to adjust to the change.