

Treasurers Report

Annual Accounts 2022-2023

The accounts for the period 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 are attached. My thanks to Pete Seedhouse acted as our independent examiner. This is my 11th year reporting as Treasurer for the group.

Income

Receipts £31,969.05.

Subs are our largest income at £9,344.00.00, and this resulted in a nice Gift Aid claim of £3,546.99 – thank you HMRC!

Expenditure

It goes without saying that we have an amazing scout hut, but it does take a lot of running and maintenance - £7190.25 to be exact. We now have regular cleaners and a local gardener, which means we don't have to rely on volunteers. Electricity costs count for £1744.81- double that of last year, which is no surprise.

Reserves

We ended the year with a healthy balance sheet and £35,415.66 in the bank.

It was always our intention to keep at least £10k for our emergency fund, and over the last few months we have had to utilise that. As you are all aware of the 'Wall situation', the cracks which appeared have had to be rectified at a total cost of £10,442.80 to date. I would like to especially thank Sophie and Jim Smith and Carys who have gone above and beyond to sort this problem, consulting architects, insurers, engineers, councils and steel fabricators.

In fact, all our group committee members should be recognized and thanked for the extra work they have had to put in in solving this situation.

Turn2Us Scheme

As we are all aware the Cost of Living Crisis continues, so we are pleased to announce that we are continuing with our 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.

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

Tracey Loveland
Treasurer

Polesworth Scout Group		Statement of Receipts and Payment for the Year 1.7.2022-30.6.2023	
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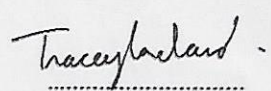
Bank Reconciliation for the Year Ended 30/06/2023

Bank Reconciliation for the Year Ended 30/06/2023

Balance as per current account bank statement 30.6.2023	£10,791.92
Balance as per savings account bank statement 30.6.2023	£24,623.74
	£35,415.66
Less unrepresented cheques/Direct Debits, etc	0
	£0.00

The above receipts and payment account was approved by the
Trustees on 4-10-2023 And signed on their behalf by:

Signed  Group Lead Volunteer

signed  Treasurer

Scrutineers report to the trustees of Polesworth (Abbey) Scout Group
I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 30 June 2023.
Respective responsibilities of Trustees and scrutineer.

As the Group's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that
neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is
my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to
report to you.

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the
account set out above and in my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and
comply with the constitution.

Name: Peter Schofield
Address: 914, SHARPE STREET
TAMWORTH
B77 3HZ



Scouting

It has been another busy Year in the Scout section at Polesworth. We've welcomed new members (so many in fact that we had to close our waiting list) and said goodbye to others who have progressed onto Explorers. We've even welcomed back some former scouts who have returned to us as Young Leaders.

During the year we've embarked on numerous camps, and returned mostly intact from all of them. Our survival camp saw our scouts building their own sleeping shelters in the woods and being completely self sufficient in terms of their own cooking and camp organisation. Our Group Camp was a great opportunity for the Scouts to make friends in the Beavers and Cubs sections as well as learn new skills like fencing, backwoods cooking and orienteering. They also did themselves proud by standing up to the worst weather I've ever experienced on a camp. The intense rain flooded several tents and saw some of our more veteran equipment reach the end of its days but the Scouts refused to be defeated and quickly pitched spare tents and managed to literally weather the storm. This year also saw us run our first ever canoe and kayak based expedition camp. Some of our older scouts journeyed along the canal for two days and covered several miles in their boats. They showed great team work and even managed to keep the paddling in a circle to a minimum.

The Scouts have also taken part in a scrap heap challenge this year where they had to design and build their own go karts. The races at the end were great fun and allowed the Scouts to adapt their designs and discover why it's so important that the wheels stay on. The Scouts have also had the opportunity to try some scuba diving and snorkelling over the last year and it was great to see how enthusiastically they joined in.

Overall the last year has been great one and the scouts should be proud not only of their accomplishments, the badges they've earned, the experiences they've shared and the obstacles they've overcome but also of how they've conducted themselves.

As we welcome new members joining us from Cubs and new volunteers joining the ranks we can look forward to a great year to come.

Polesworth Cubs June 2022 to July 2023

Summery

- 423 badges awarded total
- 2 Cubs Completed their Silver Award
- Activity Day out 2022
- District Cub Camp 2022
- Polesworth Carnival 2022 and 2023
- Polesworth group camp 2022 and 2023
- District Cub Bake Off 2023
- Indoor Crafts
- Outdoor activities

June to August 2022

Summer part 1 [April to May]

We have taken part in various activities such as Saving energy in the home; and protecting our environment and wild animals. Cubs have also learned about basic first aid and have used the resuscitation Anne dolls provided by Tamworth District Scouts.

Summer part 2 [June to July]

Soon coming back after half term, Cubs got stuck in with the Cleaning and Maintenance of Pooley Memorial as part of their community awareness badge. We then had four weeks of fun that included wide games; den building: kayaking; and archery.

On 2 July Cubs took part in the annual Polesworth Carnival alongside Beavers, Scouts and the Polesworth Community. They completed decorations for the "float" weeks prior to the parade, and sat on the float with Beavers, Scouts and Leaders.

Weekend 8 July, Cubs camped at Beaudesert Campsite with Tamworth District Cubs

September to December 2022

Part 1 [September to October]

we focused on going back to Scouting basics. We started off with welcoming new cubs with games and completing a code of conduct. The following two weeks cubs learned to pitch tents and camp basics; i.e setting up camp, keeping safe on camp, packing their bags. This is in preparation for the group camp. We then moved onto learning knots and pioneering basics and a night hike. We finished the half term with our annual Halloween party and pumpkin carving.

Weekend of 30 September, Polesworth Beavers Cubs and Scouts took part in their annual group camp at Beaudesert. Everyone took part in various activities such as shooting, wide games, and climbing.

Part 2 [November to December]

Back after half term cubs got stuck in mastering their knots and lashings and having a go making a pioneering project. District Commissioner [DC] ran a CEOP evening for cubs covering online safety for the cubs and parents. We made use of the Tamworth District Activity Centre [DAC] new traverse wall and claymation. We finished the term with archery, badges and bowling.

January 2021 to March 2023

Part 1 [January to February]

January new year and we started off with 3 parts of the Skills badge of keeping healthy, learning about the human body, healthy eating and exercise. The second week we learned about the Scottish Burns night. We tried traditional Scottish food, danced, and made crafts. The final part of half term we completed our Astronomer badge. We made a solar system, used telescopes and learned about stars and planets

Part 2 [March to April]

We had a local group of volunteers to come and talk about Polesworth in the past. They spoke about how much the village has changed since they were young. They provided a powerpoint with old pictures and maps of what Polesworth used to look like. Cubs showed their knowledge on road safety and the green cross code. They learned about what different road signs mean, and spoke about the right manner to behave as a passenger in a car. We finished the term with various Team games and a trip to the go karting arena in Nuneaton.

April to July 2023

Part 1 [April to May]

First week back and the cubs have brought in cakes as entrants to the Tamworth District Cubs Bake Off. The theme was King Coronation and cubs had to make and decorate a cake or cupcakes based off the theme. There was 15 entries which had to be judged on decoration and taste. Thankyou to the parent volunteers who had the satisfaction of tasting every cake but the challenging task to pick 3. The winner was then put forward for the Tamworth Cub bake-off. Whilst the judging was happening cubs were presenting their hobbies / collections to the other leaders and young leaders. Cubs visited Atherstone Council to complete their local Knowledge badge. There they were shown around the history section and get to sit in one of the council meeting Chambers.

In May, we had a fun evening of playing games as a break for the cubs from badgework. We then moved onto our final safety badge, Home Safety, cubs pointed out various hazards in the kitchen, completed a fire drill, a learned about how to inform emergency services of an emergency scenario. We finished the half term learning about bike maintenance as a start to our cyclist badge, including fixing a puncture. Cubs also learned the importance of locking our bikes away correctly.

Part 2 [June to July]

Outdoor activities were upon us in the last half term. Cubs took part in a 3 week rotation of archery, kyaking, and backwoods cooking [fires]. Cubs also finished their cyclist badge by going on a short cycle ride around pooley park. For cubs not confident on a bike we had a group on scooters group who completed their skater badge. We finished the year with emergency aid.

1 July – Polesworth group took part in Polesworth Carnival. They decorated their float as Sword in Stone theme. Polesworth Scout Group won 1st place for the best float.

Weekend 7 July – Polesworth Group camp at Beaudesert. This camp we mixed up all 3 sections together into 4 groups during activities. They taken part in activities such as axe throwing, climbing, zip line, backwoods cooking and orienteering.

Beavers

Throughout the reporting period the Beavers colony has remained consistently at around 20 Beavers, with many waiting in the wings. A total of 237 badges have been awarded, including 10 Chief Scout Bronze awards, which is an impressive achievement given that the majority of these gaining the award would have started within scouting during the Covid restrictions.

The section leadership team have worked hard to produce a wide and varied programme, which was made more challenging by the enforced building works to our HQ. However, we saw this as a positive as it opened up new challenges and experiences which we may not have originally been considered, such as bolder walling and 999 emergency services calling, which was so realistic the Beavers were convinced that the police would be arriving outside at any moment! We would like to thank the Trustees for the quick and efficient response to the enforced building works. Their quick response has minimised the impact to the section to just a few weeks.

Amongst the Beavers highlights include, of course, group camp and the annual Christmas sleepover which returned to the DAC due to our building restrictions. The Beavers also helped decorate the carnival float in June which helped us to win 1st place. We've visited local community groups such as EdibleLinks food bank, where we all brought donations and found out about how they are stored and distributed and Polesworth Fire Station where they learnt about fire and water safety and got to use a fire hose.

Whenever we can, we look to utilise the lovely space and grounds of Pooley Country Park, which has allowed the Beavers to hike to the top of the mound, follow the poem trail along the canal and go on a bug hunt in the fields, where we have found a wild orchid, a dragonfly nymph and a toad!

I would like to thank the fantastic leadership team which consists of Tracey, Matt and Hadleigh (who are known within meetings as Willow, Birch and Pine) and our Young Leaders, Jess, Sophia and Violet for all their support with delivering such an engaging programme. We would like to highlight a couple of the personal highlights for the leadership team which reflects why we enjoy volunteering within scouting.

Hadleigh is the most recent addition to the leadership team and within the short time he has been with the section he didn't think that he would learn, see, and be a part of something so amazing. Camping was something that he hadn't personally done before and he wasn't sure what to expect. However, with gentle guidance he was soon learning about axe throwing, tree climbing and how to keep Beavers dry during the daddy of all thunderstorms. With growing confidence he has planned and led meetings, including a notable one where we all built birdhouses. What he enjoyed most from this was seeing that even though the young people thought that they couldn't make something like a birdhouse for themselves, at the end of the meeting every Beaver had pride on their faces when they ran to their parents to show what they made. With the extra bonus of seeing the pictures of some bird houses with birds in! Being able to provide these opportunities for the young people is just as much an enjoyable experience for us as volunteers, as it is for them.

Finally, we would like to thank the parents for all their support, many thanks to the parents who offer to open and close the gates, especially on the dark winter nights and those parents who have answered the call to help, sometimes at short notice, in whichever way they can. It is hugely appreciated and enables the Beavers to enjoy their scouting even more, and everyone involved should feel very proud of this.