

1ST MERTON PARK SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 267800

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1974-07-10

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

Contact

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Mitcham
Surrey
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Website www.1stmertonparkscouts.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE 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

Activities: Scouting activities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources
- **What:** Education/training, Amateur Sport
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Merton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£28,424	£25,231	-	-
2023-12-31	£27,364	£25,932	-	-
2022-12-31	£26,000	£30,000	-	-
2021-12-31	£17,247	£17,017	-	-
2020-12-31	£17,482	£7,569	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
LISA LERNBORG	Chair	2025-10-14
Dr Emma Tamsin Maddison		2019-11-08
Geoffrey James Clayden		2024-05-14
JOHN GARRETT		2011-04-10
Jane Clark		2023-06-17
Jessica Josephine Dahlstrom		2020-11-19
Jonathan Reeks		2024-11-07
Laura Anne Gilbert		2025-05-21
Laura Crosby		2024-05-14
MRS KATHY DI FRANCO		
MRS VICKY TULLETT		
Mark Leonard Steggles		2025-05-21

Accounts



Scouts



1st Merton Park

Annual Report 2024 - 2025

#SkillsForLife

Chair's Welcome

Thank you all for making the 1st Merton Park Scout Group such a great Group to be part of. 2024 has seen a number of new changes in the Group, from the adoption of new ways of working and a new membership system across the UK Scouts Association to a changing of the guard across a number of key roles within our Group.

As always, we are thankful for all the volunteers whose hard work and effort keeps the Group running and provides so many wonderful opportunities for our young people. Whether it's turning up to run weekly sessions, running admin behind the scenes or shepherding cold/wet/tired/overexcited young people round a challenge course in the early hours of the morning, we couldn't do it without you and we are very grateful.

We have had another great year with all of our Sections, and we remain incredibly popular as a Group. We have been fortunate to welcome some new members of the volunteer team this year, but have also said goodbye to those moving on to new roles. We are still looking to recruit more hands to spread the load, so if you can spare us some of your time please do have a conversation with Jonny, myself or another member of the volunteer team about what you'd be interested in getting involved with.

We have opportunities to help out with weekly meetings and also with administration behind the scenes, depending on skills and preference of our volunteers. We look for specific roles when there is a particular need, however we can always find ways for people to help out, so if there's a special skill set you feel you can offer please do let us know.

Emma Maddison
Chair

Group Lead Volunteer's Report

It's been a year of change, growth, and continued adventure for our young people, and I'm pleased to share some reflections on our progress and achievements.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the change in leadership within the group. I took over as Group Lead Volunteer in October 2024, and I want to thank the previous leadership team for their dedication and hard work in keeping the group running smoothly. Stepping into this role has been both an exciting and rewarding challenge, and I am grateful for the support from our amazing team of volunteers from the Group as well as the District.

All of our sections continue to thrive, providing fantastic opportunities for our members. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and energy, and I want to thank our section volunteers for their ongoing commitment. The activities and experiences they provide are making a significant impact, giving our members a fantastic experience in Scouting.

Across all sections, from Squirrels to Scouts, our young people have had an action-packed year. We've seen fantastic badge work, engaging weekly meetings, and some incredible trips and camps. Some of the highlights include:

- Our annual summer camp, where Scouts tackled adventurous activities and built new friendships.
- Our Cubs paintballing day with the District, which challenged them to test their skills and aim.
- Squirrels enjoying their exciting outings and hands-on activities.
- Beavers working hard on their Skills Challenge Badge and developing essential skills for life with many working towards their Chief Scout Bronze Award.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated team of volunteers. From our uniformed leaders to our trustee board and parent helpers, I want to say a huge thank you. Your time, energy, and commitment make a real difference in the lives of our young people, and I deeply appreciate everything you do.

Looking ahead, we have big plans for the coming year. We are focusing on growing our leadership team, developing our programme further, and ensuring we continue to offer the best possible experiences for our members. We are always looking for new volunteers, whether to help run a section, support events, or assist behind the scenes – if you're interested, please do get in touch.

Group Lead Volunteer's Report Cont.

Finally, I want to thank all the parents and carers for your continued support. Scouting is a partnership, and your involvement – whether helping with transport, attending events, or simply encouraging your child's participation – is invaluable. Here's to another fantastic year of Scouting at 1st Merton Park!

Yours in Scouting,

Jonny Reeks
Group Lead Volunteer
1st Merton Park Scout Group



Scouts

1st Merton Park

Squirrels

Squirrels Section Team Report

This past year has been quite a remarkable journey for our Squirrels group. We have seen the original cohort of twelve Squirrels, who started with us when we opened, climb up to Beavers, paving the way for new members to join. As we welcome a fresh group of Squirrels, we are optimistic about reaching that milestone of twelve members once again. This growth in our group signifies the importance of Scouting in our community, and we are excited about the new adventures this cohort will bring.

Throughout the year, we engaged in a variety of meetings that enriched our Squirrels' experiences. From active games and creative activities like milkshake making and really getting their hands dirty with planting flowers to culturally insightful events during Diwali and Lunar New Year, our programme has truly embraced fun and learning. Noteworthy moments included our obstacle course and camping sessions, which helped build teamwork and resilience among the Squirrels. These activities, coupled with our regular meet and greet sessions, played a vital role in fostering friendships and creating a supportive environment for all.

Looking back at our past events, the Summer Group Camp and Remembrance Sunday stood out as significant occasions. These events offered valuable opportunities for further development and community involvement, allowing our Squirrels to forge deeper connections with each other and with the wider community.

As we look forward to the coming year, we are keen to increase outdoor activities and plan hikes to local parks, creating more opportunities for our Squirrels to explore and appreciate nature. We are also excited about the potential for more collaborative events within the district, reflecting the growth of the Squirrel program.

It is with gratitude that we thank our leaders for their tireless support over the year. A special mention goes to Sam, who has been an invaluable helper during his time with Squirrels. We are thankful for his contributions and are pleased that he will continue to support us as he moves up to Beavers. Additionally, we welcome new leader Ricky, who joined us this term along with his son, bringing new energy and perspective to our group.

In closing, I would like to extend my appreciation to all the children for their enthusiastic participation and to the parents for their unwavering support. Acknowledging our volunteers who work behind the scenes is equally important, as they play a fundamental role in making our group a success. We look forward to another year filled with adventure, camaraderie, and personal growth in Scouting.

Kerry, Marilia and Ricky
Squirrels Section Team



Scouts

1st Merton Park

BEAVERS

Beavers Section Team Report

Over the past year, we've had a packed schedule with various meetings and events. We've had activities, games and badge work, included a visit from a Doctor (and parent), trips to local parks and the church, litter picking, fire lighting, whittling, cooking, Remembrance Sunday and Mothers' day church parades and more. In 2024 we awarded 9 Chief Scout Bronze awards (every Beaver who swam up to cubs).

District events included the St George's day parade, a district Beavers camp fire, laser tag and in 2024, a Wimbledon and Wandle District Beavers camp, which saw 1st Merton Parks beavers camping outside under canvas for the first time.

With the other sections of 1st Merton park we collaborated with Squirrels for our Christmas party, and all sections for the Sausage sizzle and Group Camp at Frylands Wood.

Numbers have been a little lower than capacity, at between 18 and 22. We have an enthusiastic and reliable team of volunteers, but as always, need to have an eye on recruiting new adult volunteers.

Andrew, Josephine, Victoria, Sam and Marilia
Beavers Section Team



Scouts

1st Merton Park

cubs

Cubs Section Team Report

During the past year, the Nelson Cubs Pack has engaged in a variety of activities aimed at enriching the experience of our members. We have held numerous meetings that covered a range of topics, from earning badges such as the Cyclist and Gardener badges to practical skills in backwoods cooking and emergency aid. Special occasions were celebrated with events like Father's Day, Mother's Day, and our Cubs Got Talent evening, which provided opportunities for the Cubs to showcase their talents to their peers.

The Cubs also took part in various exciting events throughout the year. Notable experiences included trips for Group Camp, a fun Swimming Gala, and the Cubs Paintballing day, all of which contributed to building friendships and instilling teamwork among the members. Community involvement was another highlight, with the Cubs participating in events like Remembrance Sunday and visits to local institutions, including the Mitcham Fire station. The enthusiasm of the Cubs was palpable during trips, such as the Christmas outing to Clip & Climb, ensuring a memorable conclusion to the year.

This year, we were pleased to present eight Chief Scout Awards, which are a significant achievement, reflecting dedication and commitment among our Cubs. It's always rewarding to see the hard work paying off for those who strive towards their scouting goals.

Looking to the future, there are exciting district events and camps planned for the coming year. These opportunities will not only help our Cubs develop new skills but also create lasting memories as they explore the great outdoors and challenge themselves.

As we look ahead, we offer our heartfelt gratitude to all leaders for their tireless efforts in making this year successful and enjoyable. Your commitment to our Cubs has created a nurturing environment where they can learn and grow.

Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to the Cubs themselves; your enthusiasm makes every activity rewarding for everyone involved. We also appreciate the parents for your continuous support and all volunteers who help behind the scenes to ensure the smooth functioning of our group. Here's to another wonderful year of Scouting!

Jane, Tony, Geoff, Julianne and Jonathan
Nelson Cubs Section Team



Scouts

1st Merton Park

SCOUTS

Scouts Section Team Report

The scouts had a very busy and exciting 2024, which resulted in a significant increase in challenge badges awarded within the group, reflecting our members' dedication and hard work. A total of twenty challenge badges were awarded throughout 2024. Notably, Tristan Green and Athena Katzanos achieved their Gold Scout Awards, making them the first scouts in several years to earn this prestigious award. Their accomplishment is a positive sign of the great potential within our group, and we anticipate even more top awards being earned in the upcoming year.

We are proud to report that we now have 30 scouts on roll, with an average of 25 attending each week. This consistent turnout indicates a growing interest in scouting activities and values. Additionally, we have been fortunate to have the ongoing assistance of Nic Katzanos, who has played a vital role in supporting our activities, as well as Andrew Maddison, who has stepped in when needed to assist the section. Their contributions ensure that we can continue to offer engaging and rewarding experiences for our young members.

Throughout the year, many meetings were held that focused on various skills, themes, and badges; including movie making, environmental awareness with the Environmental Badge, and practical skills like baking, whittling, and first aid. The meetings provided opportunities for scouts to develop essential life skills while also fostering friendships and teamwork. Additionally, the scouts had the chance to participate in numerous adventurous activities, such as climbing at the boardroom, a fun athletics night, and a bell ringing event, all of which contributed to a diverse and enriching scouting experience.

Our group also participated in various district events that further enhanced the scouting experience. Scouts took part in activities ranging from paintballing to night hikes, as well as a District Skills Day, which allowed them to learn from members across the district. These events not only promoted camaraderie among the scouts but also provided new challenges and opportunities for growth.

As we prepare to say goodbye to Mark Renton, who has run the scouts section for many years, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for his unwavering commitment and dedication to the group. His contributions have made a lasting impact, and he will be greatly missed.

In closing, we extend our thanks to the children for their enthusiasm and participation, which make our activities enjoyable for everyone involved. We also appreciate the parents for their continuous support and the volunteers who work diligently behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of our group. Looking ahead, we are excited for what the next year has in store, with more opportunities for growth and achievement in scouting.

Luke, Mark, Nic, Adrian, Charles and James
Scout Section Team



Treasurer's Report

1st Merton Park Scout group
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2024

2023		2024	
£	p	£	p
17,655.43	Opening Balances	19,088.27	
	Receipts		
7,386.22	Jumble Sales	8,413.00	
13,698.55	Subscriptions	12,969.16	
6,005.34	Camps	6,502.24	
274.32	Other	540.00	
27,364.43	All receipts	28,424.40	
45,019.86	Total of receipts and opening balances	47,512.67	
	Less Payments		
3,536.24	Rent and Hall hire	3,554.78	
1,550.00	Hut expenses	1,754.17	
713.93	Insurance	774.83	
1,769.82	Equipment	649.88	
800.00	Uniforms, Training and Books	800.00	
200.00	Admin, Stationery, Printing		0.00
9,977.15	Camps and Activities	12,435.55	
3,315.00	HQ Membership (Note 3)	3,906.00	
52.50	Donations	0.00	
1,208.45	Jumble	1,355.71	
2,808.50	Explorer subs	0.00	
25,931.59	All payments	25,230.92	
19,088.27	Closing Balance	22,281.75	

2023	Opening Balances	2024
£ p		£ p
11,374.53	National Westminster Bank Limited	3,761.50
6,223.87	Lloyds Bank	15,269.74
57.03	Cash	57.03
17,655.43		19,088.27

2023	Closing balances	2024
£ p		£ p
3,761.50	National Westminster Bank Limited	7,916.84
15,269.74	Lloyds Bank	14,307.88
57.03	Cash	57.03
19,088.27		22,281.75

Liabilities

None

2024	
Opening balance	£19,088.27
Surplus (deficit)	3,193.48
Closing balance	£22,281.75

2023	
Opening balance	£17,655.43
Surplus (deficit)	£1,432.84
Closing balance	£19,088.27

2022	
Opening balance	£22,196.21
Surplus (deficit)	-£4,540.78)
Closing balance	£17,655.4



Scouts

1st Merton Park

Volunteer!

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to help us run our weekly sections or if you want to help behind the scenes, there is a role for you!

Visit 1stmertonparkscouts.org.uk or reach out to hello@1stmertonparkscouts.org.uk to find out more about our open roles.

#SkillsForLife

1ST MERTON PARK SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 267800

Accounts

Annual Report

2023 - 2024



A message from the chair

Thank you all for your ongoing support of 1st Merton Park Scout Group. For those who don't know me, my name is Emma Maddison and I have been interim Chair of the Trustee Board since November 2023. I have a son in Scouts and a daughter just moving into Cubs, my husband Andrew is the Beaver Section Leader and we have been helping out with 1st Merton Park since 2017.

In the last year we have adopted changes to the composition of the Group as requested by the UK Scouts Association - including changing from an Executive Committee to a Trustee Board.

The responsibilities of this Board remain largely as they were, in that we have the responsibility for ensuring good governance is followed in the management of the Group. I would like to thank our previous Chair, Jan Keen, and vice-chair, Sarah Drinkwater, for their support of 1st Merton Park. I would also like to thank all the members of the Trustee Board and our uniformed volunteers for all their hard work in keeping the Group running day to day.

We have had another great year with all of our Sections, and we remain incredibly popular as a Group. Our limiting factor remains the capacity of our adult volunteers and as such we are looking at various options to recruit additional members of the volunteer team.

We have opportunities to help out with weekly meetings and also with administration behind the scenes, depending on skills and preference of our volunteers. If you think you could spare some time to help share the load please do get in touch and have a conversation with us about what you would find interesting.

It is with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to our Treasurer, John Garrett, in the next year and we are incredibly grateful for all the hard work he has put into the Group over several years of service. We are therefore specifically looking for a new treasurer this year. A job description will be included with the AGM materials, if you (or anyone you know) is interested, please do get in touch with any questions you may have about the role.

Emma Maddison - Chair of Trustees

Group Scout Leader's Report

What another amazing year we have had here at 1st Merton Park. We have seen growth through all our sections and an ever growing waiting list of people wanting to join us. This year we have celebrated the Squirrels section's 1st birthday. Seeing this section and all of our sections grow is a real testament to our volunteers who I am always amazed with for all the work they do for our young people.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new leaders to the group and we are looking forward to getting to know them and seeing all the fun adventures they will help bring to the group. I would also like to give a huge thank you to Kate and Mark Renton for all they have done for the group over the last few years. Both Mark and Kate have taken on different roles within scouting now and we wish them all the best. Mark will be staying on with it as an Assistant Section Leader in the Scouts Section.

Throughout the year we have seen many amazing events ranging from camps to sports day. As a group we have also attended a few parades including the district St. Georges Day parade in Wimbledon. It's amazing to see all of our young people getting the chance to do activities that they might not be able to do without scouting and as a group this is something that we want to do more of to help give young people the skills for life. We will be having your annual group camp in July and it's not too late to sign up.

I would also like to thank everyone involved in our Jumble Sales as this is an event that is fundamental to the group's survival as it helps cover costs and keeps our pricing down. So to all that helped out a huge thank you! We will need your help again and more to help keep this event going strong for another 60 years. It's important to know that this would not be possible without Kathy who has been the mastermind behind the sale for many years.

This year I would like to make the group more transparent in what's going on and why we are doing what we do. We are in the final stages of creating a group development plan that will be shared to everyone. Like anything I would happily take feedback and suggestions of what you think we do well or what you think we could do better or different.

Let's make 2024 a year to remember and use 2023 as a year to improve on but what an amazing year 23 was for the group.

Zak Clark - Group Scout Leader

Squirrels

Section Team

Section Leader

Kerry Sheehan

Assistant Section Leaders

Sam Warren

Marilia Gomez

Squirrels Section Report

What an amazing year we have had doing Squirrels within the district. We celebrated our 1st birthday and saw some of our original Squirrels swim up to Beavers. We went on our first day trip to the group camp where we got to do grass sledding. And we are looking forward to seeing what this year brings.

We have also been invited to many District Beaver events that we have been amazed with and have enjoyed.

We have achieved over 4 chief scout acorn awards with the highest expectations that all of our Squirrels will have this before they move to Beavers. We are looking at planning a sleepover this term to help the Squirrels transition to Beavers where they spend the night at group camp.

Beavers

Section Team

Section Leader

Andrew Maddison

Assistant Section Leaders

Jonathan Attley

Alec Cooper

Lara-Jane Sharpe



Beavers Section Report

We've had a good year in Beavers. We've attended 2 camps, the Group camp in July, and in a first for Merton Park, a Beavers only camp in May.

We've attended district events, including Laser tag in February, Sports day in May and the District Beavers camp fire at Frylands Wood in October.

We've run a full programme, and every one of the 15 beavers who swum up to cubs in 2023 and 5 in 2024 have achieved their Chief Scout Bronze awards. Programme highlights include scouting staples such as firelighting, hiking and navigation, as well as some adventurous activities such paddle boarding with Dave Bixby, the District Commissioner, and whittling. The Assistant District Commissioner for Beavers came to witness the whittling, the Beavers behaved perfectly and all left with the same number of fingers they arrived with.

We have some challenges, specifically numbers are down, with 18 Beavers (maximum colony size is 24), 3 adult leaders and 1 youth leader. We need to reinvigorate our waiting list, both for beavers and as one source of volunteers.

Cubs

Section Team

Section Leader

Jane Clark

Assistant Section Leaders

Tony Giordani

Geoff Claydon

Section Assistant

Adrian Kee



Cubs Section Report

This year has been another busy year for the cubs and leaders. I would like to start by thanking two leaders Kate and Mark for all of their hard work and dedication to the pack and to say that they will be missed after deciding to step down.

This year we can celebrate every Cub that has moved up to scouts and have all succeeded in achieving their silver awards.

Our cubs have done a lot of work towards many badges. The cubs have had great fun working towards these and the leaders have planned fantastic programs to achieve the badges.

We have attended church parades during the year, we have done a chip shop hike, Wimbledon Common and Wandle trail (half in the dark) hikes which I think have been highlights for the cubs. We had summer camp again, great fun for all the leaders. We really enjoy seeing the confidence build within the Cubs as individuals and as a team.

We tried to do something different this year to celebrate fathers day. Our cubs invited their fathers or grandads to come to Cubs for a pizza made by them on a most enjoyable evening. We have had some wonderful evenings led by visitors, the reptile man coming in to show the cubs snakes and a bearded dragon there were so many questions. We have had the police and a local politician again with lots of questions from the Cubs. The Cubs have camped for an evening at the RAF museum, an amazing experience for all involved.

We went to camp and once again a great time was had by all, we were at a new site so they really enjoyed exploring and new activities and great new skills learned. Another summer camp has been planned so all looking forward to that.

The summer term ended with our yearly sausage sizzle, a brilliant evening with all the sections.

The summer term is also full of adventure and fun for all of us.

I would like to thank the parents for their continued support, but more importantly the great leadership team that I owe a great deal of thanks to as without them none of this would have been possible.

Scouts

Section Team

Section Leader

Mark Renton

Assistant Section Leaders

Nic Katzanos

Lara-Jane Sharpe

Charles Green

Bob Voller

Scouts Section Report

The Scout section had an exciting year in 2023. We took part in several district activities, from Rafting to 5-a-side, and ran our first camp since lockdown – a successful cycle camp where the scouts ride from Guildford to Worthing over the course of 2 days. From a programme perspective, we managed to get out to Wimbledon Common for some Geocaching, started our electronics badge learning about electronic circuits, spent a night paddleboarding and brushed up on our First Aid and Navigation. We enjoyed a summer 'sausage sizzle' with the cubs and beavers and ended the year with a fun night bowling at Tolworth.

A full year of District & County events were run in 2023, and we took advantage of as many as we could, taking part in the County Night Exercise and Incident Hike competitions, district 5-a-side and Sports Day events and had some fun rafting on the Wandle.

The diverse programme we have run over the past year resulted in 49 badges being awarded to our scouts, including badges for Expeditions, Hikes and Communication.

We have seen our membership numbers remain stable at about 18 regular attendees out of 20 registered members.

Maintaining the Leadership team remains a key activity, and we're really pleased to have had the support of our GSL to recruit and support the scout team. We had 4 regular leaders throughout the year, which allowed us to run the diverse programme and support so many county events. I would like to thank them for their fantastic support and enthusiasm throughout the year.

This has all been made possible through the fantastic support we receive from our trustees, part funding all of the events we run, and of course the parents who are an important part of the group, allowing their children to attend and supporting our various activities.

Merton Park Explorer Unit

EXPLORERS
Merton Park

Explorer Unit Report

The end of 2022 and the start of 2023 saw some big changes in the Unit. We had been steadily growing over the last couple of years and had outgrown the Scout Hut in St Mary's Church Hall Car Park. We had been hoping to move into the Church Hall but all the evenings were taken, and this led us to look locally for another venue. We were lucky to find that Merton Park Primary School's main Hall was available, and they were open to allow us to use this space to continue meeting as a Unit locally.

Throughout 2023 the Unit has continued to grow, with new Scouts coming up from the Troop, as well as young people wishing to join us from outside the Scout Group. In the Summer we were sad to see some of our older Explorers leave the unit and move on to Network Scouts to continue their scouting journey. By the end of 2023, we were still able to maintain numbers at our Census count of 17 young people.

In this period there has also been a change to the Leadership Team, with Vicky Tullett stepping down and Alex Whiting becoming the new Explorer Scout Leader. We have also been joined by several new leaders, including Josh Bennett, Sophie Moore, and most recently Vinnie Renton. Lastly, Clive Tullett, who has been a Venture Scout and then Explorer Scout Leader for over 40 Years has now stepped down as a warranted leader and retired from the Unit.

Throughout the year we have completed some exciting activities, in the evenings they have included 'Stop Motion Pictures', Chip Shop Surveys, Survival Skills, Para cording, as well as the usual Scouting 'Stuff'. In addition to these, the Unit also took part in activities which included District 'Let's Cook', Paintballing, Ice-Skating, Gang Show participants, and going to see it performed.

A big part of the Unit focus is on completing adventurous activities. We have been able to include different camps throughout the year, from the Group Camp with the Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, to the joint District camp in Kent with Royal Kingston District. I think most would agree the big one for last year was when the Unit had 5 Explorers taking part in the World Scout Jamboree in Korea (a Scout Leader also went as a Unit leader). They all had a wonderful time, creating memories that will stay with them for a lifetime.

We are continuing to grow and have many adventures planned for 2024, these would not happen if not for the adult help the Unit gets. This is from the Leadership Team and all the adult helpers who give up their time to support us in many different ways. If you fancy getting involved please get in touch, all are welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in supporting our Explorer Scouts, enabling them to gain #Skills For Life

Alex Whiting

Explorer Scout Leader - Merton Park Unit

Trustee Board

Group President

Clive Tullet

Group Chair

Emma Maddison

Group Treasurer

John Garrett

Group Secretary

Jessica Dahlstrom

Trustee Board Members

Kathy Di Franco

Hannah McDonald

Ex-officio Members

Zak Clark

Ben Clark

Jane Clark

Kerry Sheehan

Mark Renton

Treasurer's Report

1st Merton Park Scout group

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2023

2022		2023	
£	p	£	p
22,196.21	Opening Balances	17,655.43	
	Receipts		
7,812.48	Jumble Sales	7,386.22	
6,870.45	Subscriptions	13,698.55	
10,427.34	Camps	6,005.34	
1,023.86	Other	274.32	
26,134.34	All receipts	27,364.43	
48,330.34	Total of receipts and opening balances	45,019.86	
	Less Payments		
2,509.83	Rent and Hall hire	3,536.24	
1,597.88	Hut expenses	1,550.00	
564.51	Insurance	713.93	
867.92	Equipment	1,769.82	
631.23	Uniforms, Training and Books	800.00	
897.26	Admin, Stationery, Printing	200.00	
15,131.92	Camps and Activities	9,977.15	
2,698.00	HQ Membership (Note 3)	3,315.00	
866.36	Donations	52.50	
1,682.00	Jumble	1,208.45	
3,228.00	Explorer subs	2,808.50	
30,674.91	All payments	25,931.59	
17,655.43	Closing Balance	19,088.27	

2022		2023	
£	p	£	p
22,139.18	Opening Balances	11,374.53	
	National Westminster Bank Limited		

0.00	Lloyds Bank	6,223.87
57.03	Cash	57.03
22,196.21		17,655.43

2022	Closing balances	2023
£ p		£ p
11,374.53	National Westminster Bank Limited	3,761.50
6,223.87	Lloyds Bank	15,269.74
57.03	Cash	57.03
17,655.43		19,088.27

Liabilities

None

2023	
Opening balance	£17,655.43
Surplus (deficit)	£1,432.84
Closing balance	£19,088.27

2022	
Opening balance	£22,196.21
Surplus (deficit)	(-£4,540.78)
Closing balance	£17,655.43

2021	
Opening balance	£21,965.73
Surplus (deficit)	£230.48
Closing balance	£22,196.21

We received two giftaid payments this year because the one that was supposed to arrive in 2022 came in January 2023. It was for £1,500, so really we broke even in 2023.

2023 AGM Minutes

MINUTES OF 1st MERTON PARK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM ON TUESDAY 4 May 2023

1. Welcome

The Chair of the meeting, Ray Donovan-Hill, welcomed those present including those who had joined the meeting online.

Present in person were:

Ben Clark
Jane Clark
Zak Clark
Jessica Dahlstrom
Kathy Di Franco
Ray Donovan-Hill
John Garrett
Jan Keen
Tim Kerridge
Hannah MacDonald
Emma Maddison
Jonny Reeks
Kate Renton
Mark Renton
Vinnie Renton

Jessica Dahlstrom, Secretary, took the minutes of the meeting.

The Chair welcomed those attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and explained changes to be made during 2023 to the governance of Scout groups. An outline was provided of the functions of the AGM.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 27 April 2022

The minutes of last year's AGM were approved.

4. Matters arising

Further to minute 11 of the 27 April 2022 meeting, a Squirrels section had now been opened and a report from this section was included in the papers for this meeting.

5. Consideration of the Report of the Group Executive

The AGM considered the reports from the different sections and thanked the leaders of the sections for their hard work during the pandemic and recovery. A verbal update on the Explorers section was provided.

6. Consideration of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

This was the first full year after the Covid-19 period. There had been a decrease in the financial balance of around £3,000, which was due to sections being able to recommence activities post Covid-19, with associated expenditure. The Group's bank account had been switched to Lloyds. An overview of jumble sale proceeds was provided.

7. Appointment of Group President

Clive Tullett was appointed as 1st Merton Park Scout Group President. This was an honorary post which would involve ceremonial duties.

Clive was nominated by Zak Clark and seconded by Jane Clark.

8. Appointment / Election of Group Chair

A brief overview of the role of the Trustee Board as per the new Scout governance arrangements was provided by the outgoing Chair. It was noted that the Trustee Board was a team of volunteers who worked together, as charity Trustees, to make sure the Scouts was run safely and legally. At the heart of their role was a focus on strategy, performance and assurance. The Trustee Board would also provide any necessary support to the Group Scout Leader, when required, to assist the opening, change, merging or closing of sections in the Group.

Attendees noted that the full details for the Chair role could be found in Chapter 5 of the Scouts Policy, Organisation and Rules document.

The Group Scout Leader thanked Ray Donovan-Hill for his 16 years of service.

The Group Scout Leader nominated Jan Keen for the role of Group Chair and Jan was appointed. The Group Scout Leader nominated Sarah Drinkwater for the role of Group Vice-Chair and Sarah was appointed.

The new Group Chair and Group Vice-Chair provided an overview of their professional background.

9. Election of Group Treasurer and Group Secretary

Treasurer: John Garrett was nominated by Zak Clark, seconded by Emma Maddison and elected as the Treasurer.

Secretary: Jessica Dahlstrom was nominated by Zak Clark, seconded by Mark Renton and elected as the Secretary.

10. Appointment / Election of Members to Group Executive

The composition of the Trustee Board was outlined. It was made up of the Group Chair and Vice-Chair, the Group Secretary, the Group Treasurer, the Group Scout Leader, persons with a Section Leader role and the Explorer Leader. In terms of Section Leaders, it was noted that Andrew Maddison would not be on the Trustee Board, and Vicky Tullett would represent the Explorers.

Parent members of the Trustee Board were Emma Maddison, Hannah MacDonald and Hannah O'Donogue. It was agreed that additional parents could be co-opted as members of the Trustee Board during the year.

Ben Clark and Kate Renton were nominated as members of the Trustee Board by Zak Clark, and seconded by Jane Clark.

Kathy Di Franco was co-opted as a member of the Trustee Board, nominated by Zak Clark and seconded by Vicky Tullett.

10. Election of Independent Examiner

Marco Di Franco was nominated by John Garrett, seconded by Mark Renton and elected as Independent Examiner.

11. Any Other Business

Members of the Trustee Board noted that information on the composition and operation of the Trustee Board had been circulated, as part of the Scouts Policy, Organisation and Rules document.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.

And finally, Thank You!

Thank you all for all that you do for 1st Merton Park Scouts! It means the world to all of us what you do week on week and continue your amazing commitment to our young people.

Accounts

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Scouts

1st Merton Park

Annual Report 2023

#SkillsForLife

Chair's Welcome

I am delighted to write the forward to the Annual Report for the 1st Merton Park Scout Group.

Another exciting year has passed, and I have had great pleasure in seeing our scout group grow in both popularity and size. All the leaders and supporters have played a role in ensuring the success of our group, but it would be remiss of me not to specifically mention Zak Clark as Group Scout Leader, who was appointed to his role in April 2022, and who has since driven forward numerous improvements across the board, and who was instrumental in the opening of a Squirrels Section.

Although the Annual Report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2022, some of the activities reported by the Section Leaders are obviously more recent, but I am pleased to include them, as they reflect the enormous positivity and productivity with which we continue to move forward.

Along with Zak, I'd like to thank all the leaders and supporters for their incredible work in running our Scout Group. Every one of them deserves more than just a pat on the back!

On a personal note, I've been with the scout group for over 16 years, having started by making drinks for the Beavers, then moving on to train as a uniformed leader, then latterly acting as the Chair of the Executive. Both my son and daughter have been through all the scouts' sections, from Beavers to Explorers, and I have seen first-hand how scouting has played a significant part in their successful growth and development. However, it's now time for me to hand over the reins, so sadly this will be my final report as Chair of the Executive.

Yours in Scouting,

Ray Donovan-Hill
Chair of the Executive/Trustees

Group Report

It's been another amazing year here at 1st Merton Park Scout Group. I am amazed with how quickly my first year as a Group Scout Leader has gone and it has been made ever easier by our amazing volunteers.

Over the last year, I've been settling into the role of GSL, getting to grips with how the group runs and working on ways to bring us into the future and keep pushing the group forward. I'm amazed with the popularity of scouting in Merton Park - we have over 100 people sitting on our waiting list, wanting a space within the group, and I wish I could give every young person the chance to join scouting but it takes time to get them into a section, and this is something we are working on.

After we met last year at the AGM, the group held the first group summer camp since the Covid pandemic. This camp was held at Walton Firs camp site. We had over 90 young people with us for that weekend, ranging from Beavers to Explorers. Every young person that attended that camp in my opinion, and in the opinion of the leadership team had an amazing weekend where they could do adventurous activities, push themselves out of their comfort zones and have time in nature. This year, we have decided to change things up and will be going to a different campsite, new to the group, to keep pushing boundaries, and having all young people enjoying their scouting experience.

September 2022 will also be an important moment in our history as we welcomed our newest section, Squirrels. Squirrels is the youngest section within the scouting movement for 4 to 6-year-olds. The popularity of this section with people is amazing. We have over 30 young people on the waiting list and have decided to expand the section from 12 to 16 young people. It's also amazing that we have a completely new volunteer leadership team down in the section. We welcomed back scouts from years past to run the section and have a parent step up into leadership roles as well. It's also important to notice that we are the only scout group in our scouting district to operate a Squirrel Dray. The progress within the section is amazing. We had two young people already moved up to Beavers who achieved the chief scout acorn award which is the highest award you can get within the section.

Group Report Cont.

Over this last year, we have gained and lost members of our leadership team. I would like to welcome Rebecca Fairclough, Ben Clark, Kerry Sheehan, Lara-Jane Sharpe, Marilia Gomes, Sam Warren, Vinnie Renton, Alec Cooper, Jonathan Attley, and Jonny Reeks. I am always amazed by volunteers - without them the scout group would not run, and our weekly meetings would be impossible to achieve. We are always in need for more volunteers, especially within a Scout Section, Beaver Section and Explorer Scout Section.

This year we have started on a new Journey with a new website being launched and with the opening of a new section, and the amazing growth we are seeing in all our sections. I am looking forward to what this scouting year will bring as we have some amazing activities planned and camps booked, and we are always looking at doing more. None of this would be possible without our amazing volunteers and I am always grateful for the amazing volunteers we have at 1st Merton Park Scout Group.

I am pleased and happy to congratulate all our leadership team that have achieved awards over the last year, and who completed the training to become a full wood badge leader. Scouting is not just about the young people- it's also about our volunteers.

I would also like to take this time to thank Ray Donovan-Hill who has been part of the group for over 16 years and has been an amazing Group Chair. His support over my first year as GSL has been amazing and I am extremely grateful for his help.

Yours in Scouting,

Zak Clark
Group Scout Leader



Scouts

1st Merton Park

 Squirrels

Since opening up Squirrels back in September 2022, We have had a great response from all parents. We opened up with 3 Nests and 12 children and moving into the summer term we now have 4 Nests 16 children with our waiting list up to 28 and growing.

The main focus for the start of the term was to build friendships and bonds and get to know each other better as many of these children have never spent time without their parents due to COVID 19.

We had a very active start doing many different creative activities we also celebrated Diwali and designed and decorated greaseproof paper so the children could then air dry to a candle and takehome. All children were given their individual small pumpkins and painted their own designs and took them home in time for halloween to put them in the windows which they was very excited about. We also had 2 weeks of covering Science experiments where we all talked and learnt about Sinking & Floating, Skittles experiment, Pencil in the bag and also made a lava lamp explosion with food colouring, then finished our term with a Christmas party with some nibbles which all children really enjoyed!!

When starting back for the autumn term we saw that new Disney badges were making their way to the Scout stores so we didn't want to miss the opportunity so we started towards the Moana Disney badge. We done this over the 2 weeks by first decorating our own glow TeFiti Stones and then the children had the fun job of taking part in an indoor assault course where the went under tables, walked a plank of wood, crawl under blankets, jump through hoops to then be able to retrieve their stone in the cove (tent) at the end of the course.

We did our first hike outside to St John Inns Park which was a huge success.

Squirrels were also part of Mother Sunday which was exciting and very new for them as this was a first group event while carrying our very own Red Squirrel flag.

Next term we are planning to complete our Digital Citizen Badge as we will be going out a lot more and will be doing lots of different map readings. Vinnie one of our new leaders will be doing this badge with the children. We have an evening planned at DHQ for wall climbing and Bug hunting which is the first time for many of the children. We also have Deen City Farm booked for Saturday 26th June which should all be great fun and get us all exploring more of the outside but doing it together.

Overall we have covered 6 Activity badges with a Disney badge as well. All the children were rewarded a LVL 1 Hike Badge.

All 12 children have been awarded 3 challenge badges this term we will be covering the 4th one to then they will have earned their Chief Acorn Badge, we had 2 squirrels climb up to beavers which had received their Acorn badge in time.

Yours in Scouting,

Kerry
Section Leader (Squirrels)



Scouts

1st Merton Park

BEAVERS

We're generally full – currently 23 out of a max of 24 Beavers, but we have a healthy waiting list, so expect to be full again soon.

Charles and Rob have stepped down as regular leaders, many thanks to both Charles and Rob for all their help over the years.

1 Wood badge leader for the past year (Andrew)

Lara joining this summer term (moving up from Squirrels)

4 Section assistants

We always have an eye on leaders who plan to leave when their children swim up from Beavers, and so need to be on the lookout for where our next leaders will come from. Section assistant (5 training modules) or Full wood badge are both useful. Squirrels may provide a pipeline of leaders. It's good to have leaders who intend to stay in Beavers for a longer stint than 2 years.

Parents

Our parents are good at helping when needed and requested (thanks).

We've had 2 regular youth leaders, and had a third for a 3 month stint. Youth leaders come from Explorers or Duke of Edinburgh. We have a couple of requests for new youth helpers to start shortly.

Beavers attended 2022 group camp and will be at 2023 group camp.

First time organising a Beavers only camp this coming May (also Andrew's nights away ticket assessment camp).

Attended several district events, such as a campfire at Frylands last October, Laser tag this spring, and Sports day coming up in May.

In the past year we've awarded 10 chief scout bronze awards, and all Beavers who completed a full 2 years at Beavers have achieved chief scout bronze. We've run a good, varied programme, awarding 290 badges in total according to OSM (Online Scout Manager).

Yours in Scouting,

Andrew Maddison
Section Leader (Scouts)



Scouts

1st Merton Park

cubs

This year has been a busy year for the cubs and leaders. I would like to start with congratulating Mark and Tony for achieving their woods. Congratulations also need to go to our 2 cubs who achieved their silver awards.

Our cubs have done a lot of work towards many activity badges a total of 319 have been awarded, 77 challenge badges have been awarded and 87 u shape badges have been awarded this year. The cubs have had great fun working towards these the leaders and our wonderful explorers have planned fantastic programs to achieve the badges.

We have attended church parades during the year, we have done a chip shop hike which I think was a highlight for the cubs. We had summer camp again great fun for all the leaders really enjoy seeing the confidence build within the cubs as individuals and as a team. Some of the cubs attended the district chess competition where they played exceptionally well.

We have celebrated the Queens jubilee during our summer term by have our own little street party. We ended our summer term with our sausage sizzle. During the winter term we did six activity badges in one night every cub and leader were amazing and we found out that some have interesting hobbies. We ended our winter term in style with our cubs have talent and they most definitely do. Our spring term was interesting with our cubs learning about the environmental conservation making bird feeders and doing their gardening badge hopefully they still have their sunflower seeds growing nicely to plant by the scouts hut this term.

We have another summer camp to look forward to. The reptile man is coming back to see us this is always a great hit. We are going paddle boarding again and some other great adventures for the cubs to get stuck into.

I would like to thank the parents for their continued support, but more importantly the great leadership team that I owe a great deal of thanks to as without them none of this would have been possible.

Yours in Scouting,

Jane Clark
Section Leader (Cubs)



Scouts

1st Merton Park

SCOUTS

The Scout section had a successful year after coming out of lockdown in 2021. We managed to start some activities away from the hall, with trips to Wimbledon Common, Frylands Wood (for air rifles) the local fire station (for fire safety training), we went paddle boarding in Ravensbury Park, built fires at the scout woodlands – Patches – in Leatherhead, visited the RAF museum and for our last meeting of the year we went karting at Gravity in Wandsworth.

District events started again in 2022, and we took part in the Incident Hike on Wimbledon Common. Sadly we could not raise a full team, but our scouts helped other teams complete the hike. We also competed in the district cyclocross event for the second year.

We welcomed Stephen Hammond to the troop to celebrate parliament week and made homemade mozzarella.

The diverse programme we have run over the past year has resulted in 69 badges being awarded to our scouts, including badges for communication, Community Impact and Physical Recreation.

We have seen our membership numbers drop off after the pandemic, with around 20 scouts regularly attending through the year.

Maintaining the Leadership team remains a key activity, and we're really pleased to have the support of Zak to recruit and support the scout team. We now have 4 regular leaders, which allows us some more options with the programme.

This has all been made possible through the fantastic support we receive from our executive, part funding all of the events we run, and of course the parents who are an important part of the group, allowing their children to attend.

Yours in Scouting,

Mark Renton
Section Leader (Scouts)



Scouts

1st Merton Park

Group Accounts

1st Merton Park Scout group
Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2022

2021		2022	
£	p	£	p
21,965.73	Opening Balances	22,196.21	
	Receipts		
0.00	Jumble Sales	7,812.48	
10,343.32	Subscriptions	6,870.45	
5,396.92	Camps	10,427.34	
1,507.56	Other	1,023.86	
17,247.80	All receipts	26,134.13	
39,213.53	Total of receipts and opening balances	48,330.34	
	Less Payments		
1,105.46	Rent and Hall hire	2,509.83	
1,451.19	Hut expenses	1,597.88	
532.53	Insurance	564.51	
0.00	Equipment	867.92	
1,050.00	Uniforms, Training and Books	631.23	
273.98	Admin, Stationery, Printing	897.26	
7,542.16	Camps and Activities	15,131.92	
2,432.00	HQ Membership (Note 3)	2698.00	
1,000.00	Donations	866.36	
0.00	Jumble	1,682.00	
1,630.00	Explorer subs	3,228.00	
17,017.32	All payments	30,674.91	
22,196.21	Closing Balance	17,655.43	

2021	Opening Balances	2022
£ p		£ p
21,908.71	National Westminster Bank Limited	22,139.18
57.03	Cash	57.03
21,965.73		22,196.21

2021	Closing balances	2022
£ p		£ p
22,139.18	National Westminster bank Limited	11,374.53
	Lloyds Bank	6,223.87
57.03	Cash	57.03
22,196.21		17,655.43

Liabilities

None

2022	
Opening balance	£22,196.21
Surplus (deficit)	(-£4,540.78)
Closing balance	£17,655.43

2021	
Opening balance	£21,965.73
Surplus (deficit)	£230.48
Closing balance	£22,196.21

2020	
Opening balance	£12,051.89
Surplus (deficit)	£9,913.84
Closing balance	£21,965.73

The giftaid payment of just over £1,500 we should have received in 2022 didn't arrive until January 2023, so really we are £3,000 down on the year.



Minutes of AGM for 2022

Meeting Date:

04/05/2023

20:00

DRAFT MINUTES OF 1st MERTON PARK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM ON TUESDAY 4 May 2023

1. Welcome

The Chair of the meeting, Ray Donovan-Hill, welcomed those present including those who had joined the meeting online.

Present in person were:

Ben Clark

Jane Clark

Zak Clark

Jessica Dahlstrom

Kathy Di Franco

Ray Donovan-Hill

John Garrett

Jan Keen

Tim Kerridge

Hannah MacDonald

Emma Maddison

Jonny Reeks

Kate Renton

Mark Renton

Vinnie Renton

Jessica Dahlstrom, Secretary, took the minutes of the meeting.

The Chair welcomed those attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and explained changes to be made during 2023 to the governance of Scout groups. An outline was provided of the functions of the AGM.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 27 April 2022

The minutes of last year's AGM were approved.

4. Matters arising

Further to minute 11 of the 27 April 2022 meeting, a Squirrels section had now been opened and a report from this section was included in the papers for this meeting.

5. Consideration of the Report of the Group Executive

The AGM considered the reports from the different sections and thanked the leaders of the sections for their hard work during the pandemic and recovery. A verbal update on the Explorers section was provided.

6. Consideration of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

This was the first full year after the Covid-19 period. There had been a decrease in the financial balance of around £3,000, which was due to sections being able to recommence activities post Covid-19, with associated expenditure. The Group's bank account had been switched to Lloyds. An overview of jumble sale proceeds was provided.

7. Appointment of Group President

Clive Tullett was appointed as 1st Merton Park Scout Group President. This was an honorary post which would involve ceremonial duties.
Clive was nominated by Zak Clark and seconded by Jane Clark.

8. Appointment / Election of Group Chair

A brief overview of the role of the Trustee Board as per the new Scout governance arrangements was provided by the outgoing Chair. It was noted that the Trustee Board was a team of volunteers who worked together, as charity Trustees, to make sure the Scouts was run safely and legally. At the heart of their role was a focus on strategy, performance and assurance. The Trustee Board would also provide any necessary support to the Group Scout Leader, when required, to assist the opening, change, merging or closing of sections in the Group.

Attendees noted that the full details for the Chair role could be found in Chapter 5 of the Scouts Policy, Organisation and Rules document.

The Group Scout Leader thanked Ray Donovan-Hill for his 16 years of service.

The Group Scout Leader nominated Jan Keen for the role of Group Chair and Jan was appointed. The Group Scout Leader nominated Sarah Drinkwater for the role of Group Vice-Chair and Sarah was appointed.

The new Group Chair and Group Vice-Chair provided an overview of their professional background.

9. Election of Group Treasurer and Group Secretary

Treasurer: John Garrett was nominated by Zak Clark, seconded by Emma Maddison and elected as the Treasurer.

Secretary: Jessica Dahlstrom was nominated by Zak Clark, seconded by Mark Renton and elected as the Secretary.

10. Appointment / Election of Members to Group Executive

The composition of the Trustee Board was outlined. It was made up of the Group Chair and Vice-Chair, the Group Secretary, the Group Treasurer, the Group Scout Leader, persons with a Section Leader role and the Explorer Leader. In terms of Section Leaders, it was noted that Andrew Maddison would not be on the Trustee Board, and Vicky Tullett would represent the Explorers.

Parent members of the Trustee Board were Emma Maddison, Hannah MacDonald and Hannah O'Donogue. It was agreed that additional parents could be co-opted as members of the Trustee Board during the year.

Ben Clark and Kate Renton were nominated as members of the Trustee Board by Zak Clark, and seconded by Jane Clark.

Kathy Di Franco was co-opted as a member of the Trustee Board, nominated by Zak Clark and seconded by Vicky Tullett.

10. Election of Independent Examiner

Marco Di Franco was nominated by John Garrett, seconded by Mark Renton and elected as Independent Examiner.

11. Any Other Business

Members of the Trustee Board noted that information on the composition and operation of the Trustee Board had been circulated, as part of the Scouts Policy, Organisation and Rules document.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.



Scouts
1st Merton Park

Volunteer!

We are always on the lookout for volunteers to help us run our weekly sections or if you want to help behind the scenes, there is a role for you!

Visit 1stmertonparkscouts.org.uk to find out more about our open roles.

#SkillsForLife