

1ST CROWTHORNE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 300492

Details

Other names 1ST CROWTHORNE BOY-SCOUT GROUP

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1967-01-18

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

Contact

Address c/o Edgbarrow School
Grant Road
Crowthorne
Berkshire
RG45 7HZ

Phone 07766609114

Email treasurer@1stcrowthorne.co.uk

Website www.1stcrowthorne.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE INSTRUCTION OF BOYS OF ALL CLASSES IN THE PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLINE LOYALTY AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

Activities: Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Amateur Sport, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** CROWTHORNE
- Bracknell Forest

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£39,977	£27,933	-	-
2024-03-31	£25,252	£27,937	-	-
2023-03-31	£31,260	£26,152	-	-
2022-03-31	£14,645	£17,843	-	-
2021-03-31	£10,026	£6,676	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ariel Merzer		2023-11-09
Mark Nicholas Hak-Sanders		2024-11-07
Nicole Higgins nee Donovan		2023-03-31
Richard Colin Dennis Presland		2025-01-09

1ST CROWTHORNE SCOUT GROUP

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Accounts

Section B**Structure, governance and management**

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

(e.g. trust deed, constitution)

The Group's governing documents are those of the The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

How the charity is constituted

(e.g. trust, association, company)

The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods

(e.g. appointed by, elected by)

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Additional governance issues (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

Policies and procedures adopted for:

- a) the induction and training of trustees;
- b) trustee' consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them

The Group is managed by the Group Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair (currently vacant), Treasurer and 2 Trustees and typically meets every month.

Members of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scouts Trustee learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

This Group Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

Risk and Internal Control

The Group Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to the building, property and equipment. The Group would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations such as the church, community centre and other Scout Groups. Similar reciprocal arrangements exist with these organisations. The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss. Amounts are held in reserve to renew the roof and refresh the hut.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income from fund raising. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Board could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders. The group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst case scenario the complete closure of the Group.

Risk and Internal Control

The group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Section C	Objectives and activities
<p>Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document</p>	<p>The Purpose of Scouting Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.</p> <p>The Values of Scouting As Scouts we are guided by these values: Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal. Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others. Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live. Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes. Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.</p> <p>The Scout Method Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and: - enjoy what they are doing and have fun - take part in activities indoors and outdoors - learn by doing - share in spiritual reflection - take responsibility and make choices - undertake new and challenging activities - make and live by their Promise.</p>
<p>Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects</p>	<p>Weekly meetings for each section with a variety of activities Events such as family camp, laser tag, overnight camps, canoeing, kayaking, orienteering, cycling. Further details are provided in the enclosed AGM report.</p> <p>The group also supports civic activities such as Remembrance Sunday, carnivals, Christmas fairs, St George's day.</p>
<p>Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)</p>	
<p>You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy on grantmaking; • contribution made by volunteers; • policy on investments. 	<p>The group invests surplus funds in a zero-risk highly liquid savings account, primarily holding funds earmarked for a replacement roof, hut refresh and equipment replacement.</p>
<p>Public benefit statement</p>	<p>The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.</p>

Section D**Achievements and performance**

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Our achievements are summarised in the enclosed AGM report.

Section E**Financial Review**

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves Policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. Reserves are also held for the long-term maintenance of the hut, including a roof replacement, refresh and equipment renewals.

The Group held reserves of approximately £62k against this at year end, the majority of which will be required for the replacement roof.

Quantify and explain any designations

Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)

Further financial review details (optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);

- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;

- investment policy and objectives;

Investment Policy

The Group's Income and Expenditure is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The Group has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

The Group Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the Group Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

Section F Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

In addition, a recruitment campaign is planned to fill vacancies amongst the Trustees board and the groups's section leaders.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) *Nicky Higgins* *Mark Hak-Sanders*

Full name(s) Nicky Higgins Mark Hak-Sanders

Position (eg Secretary, Chair) Trustee, Group Scout Leader Trustee, Treasurer

Date 2 8 0 9 2 5



Agenda
1st Crowthorne Annual General Meeting

Sunday 28th September 2025
530pm – 630pm
The Hut, Edgbarrow Secondary school

1.	Introduction and welcome	Chair
2.	Apologies for absence	Chair
3.	To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29th September 2024	Chair
4.	Trustees report	Chair
5.	To receive and consider annual report from the group trustee board including annual statement of accounts.	Mark Hak-Sanders
6.	The Group Lead Volunteer (GLV) review	Ariel Merzer / Nicky Higgins
7.	To approve nomination of group chair	GLV
8.	Election of offices on the trustee board	Chair
9.	To appoint the independent examiner	Chair/Treasurer
10.	Comments from district commissioner or their representatives	Phill Wood
11.	Close	Chair



Previous minutes
AGM 2024 - 2025



Minutes from the 1st Crowthorne Annual General Meeting

Sunday 29th September 2024

4pm – 630pm

The Hut, Edgbarrow Secondary school

12.	<p><u>Introduction and welcome</u></p> <p>Phil Hart welcome everyone to the meeting</p>
13.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Rob Allen, Alex Farrell, Graham Elliott</p>
14.	<p><u>To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th September 2023</u></p> <p>The minutes were approved</p>
15.	<p><u>Chairman's report</u></p> <p>Lease is ready for signing</p> <p>The work on the french drain has been completed using funds provided from a successful application to the Shanly Foundation. Special thanks to J and D for putting a film together to support the application</p> <p>Family Camp 2024 was another success</p>
16.	<p><u>To receive and consider annual report from the group trustee board including annual statement of accounts.</u></p> <p>Phill Wood advised the accounts need to be provided in order to be signed off, these will be provided in due course for sign off</p> <p><u>Income:</u> NH confirmed the group was in a healthy finance situation, Late Night shopping is the biggest fundraiser, and we will be running that again in 2024; to note 6th December</p> <p><u>Expenditure:</u> Toilets were refurbished, and we were able to provide an accessible toilet</p> <p><u>Looking forward:</u> 24/25 we will be looking to replace some equipment</p> <p>The roof needs replacing for which we have funds ring-fenced</p> <p>A cage for gas storage will be purchased</p>
17.	<p><u>The Group Scout Leader's review</u></p> <p>Ariel Merzer explained that himself, Louise and Nicky are the Group Scout Leadership Team moving in line with the transformation project the Scout movement is going through.</p>

	<p>In the last year there has been a focus on a number of points including safeguarding, Facebook membership on our private group and updating information for members in OSM.</p> <p>Phill Wood provided training for leaders on OSM.</p> <p>We have collaborated with other groups for activities, including the Gang Show and District Activities.</p> <p>The carnival was a great success, huge thanks to Marie-Anne for her amazing work designing and putting together the float. Pete & Celeste Morruzzi, Matt & Jackie Sims and Andy Fletcher for running the BBQ at the rec.</p> <p>1st Crowthorne won the Gun Run for the second time.</p> <p>Ariel thanked all the leaders for giving up their time for our young people.</p> <p>There has been some fluctuation in membership which is stabilising now, and we are working towards having 48 members per section.</p> <p>Nicky shared that we currently have 118 young people and really need volunteers. The family tree enclosed in the agenda pack shows where there are currently spaces for volunteers, there are other non-children facing roles available if people could just add even a small amount of time – many hands make light work.</p> <p>For the future we would like to give the hut a refresh, look at storage in the meeting room and create a calm space within the office.</p> <p>Ariel gave special thanks to Aly who manages all the badges, Pauline who manages the waiting list and all the parents who support on an ad-hoc basis.</p> <p>Ariel thanked Phil Hart for his service over 37 years being involved with 1st Crowthorne. His hallmark has been his ability to keep everyone on the same path, huge thanks also to his wife Elaine for her dedication and support.</p>
18.	<p><u>To approve nomination of group chair</u></p> <p>Phil Hart explained that we had not received any applications for the role of Chair. The role, along with several others, will be advertised in the wider local community.</p>
19.	<p><u>Election of offices on the trustee board</u></p> <p>It was confirmed that Graham Elliott, the Treasurer has now stepped down and Alex Farrell will be stepping down at the end of the financial year.</p> <p>There needs to be a minimum of 5 trustees to run our Scout group, and we currently have 2.</p> <p>Phil Wood explained the role of Trustees to the attendees, with the requirements of online training and the commitment to meetings</p>
20.	<p><u>To appoint the independent examiner</u></p> <p>Ariel will follow up with Alex and Graham regarding appointing an independent examiner</p>
21.	<p><u>Presentations</u></p>

	<p>The Group applauded those young people who had achieved either their Bronze, Silver or Gold Chief Scout Award.</p> <p>Shilpi Walker explained that the recent activities she had run 'Platforms for Change' and the St. John's Ambulance training could be shared across all sections.</p> <p>The Group shared upcoming dates for diaries and confirmed 16 cubs had attended the Cubs Activity Day on 28th September. There are lots of activities coming up; over the past year we have joined more District run activities which has allowed us to offer a wider range of activities for our young people</p>
22.	<p><u>Comments from district commissioner or their representatives</u></p> <p>Phill Wood advised that 1st Crowthorne is the large group in the District on the uniform side and we are outstanding with the activities we provide for our young people.</p> <p>He confirmed there has been lots of challenges as we work through the Scouts transformation, but our dedication has not gone un-noticed.</p> <p>Phill Wood advised that Darren Latimer, Cubs - Wolves Assistant leader has completed his Wood Badge.</p> <p>Keith Goodall explained his role as District Chair and explained that it is nothing to do with children apart from overseeing safeguarding, leaders training. He explained that Phil Hart had done lots of things in role as District, for example looking after the district minibus.</p>
23.	<p><u>Close</u></p> <p>Phil Hart thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting</p>



Trustees' Report

The Trustees

1st Crowthorne Scout Group Trustee's Report

July 2025



Items of note this year:

Chairman

Following the departure of our previous Chairman, Phil Hart from our Trustee Board, we are yet to find a replacement. Trustee meetings have continued regularly with attention given to all areas, despite the absence of a Chair.

Lease renewal

A lot of work has been done on the lease this calendar year and we are currently awaiting more information from our solicitors to move forward. We expect to sign the lease imminently, having resolved outstanding queries identified by the solicitors and trustees.

Leadership

Ariel, Louise and Nicky have continued to support the Group throughout the last Scouting year and navigating change during that time.

Family Camp

Family Camp was another success in 2024 with just over 100 attendees, our members and their siblings took part in activities as the 3G swing, laser tag, Tomahawks and pioneering.

We introduced a new activity in 2024 which was badge designing, attendees were invited to design our own 1st Crowthorne badge, with the winner's design being made into a badge to be handed out to attendees at the 2025 camp.

With a view to keeping the cost manageable for our families we are introducing more leader led activities which do not incur a cost from PACCAR.

Our campfire was supported by Sharon Sharma, a Scout team member from 9th Bracknell and we would like to extend our thanks to Sharon for her support.

Our traditional events took place as in previous years including Horseshoe Lake took place in July 2024, we also took part in more District events, like the Cubs Chess competition, at which we had a winner. JOTI / JOTA had some attendees as well and we will be encouraging more members to take part in the coming year. There are details of other events in our Section reports.

The Trustees would like to extend a huge thank you to all the incredible leaders, helpers and parents for their continued efforts in keeping the Group in such good shape but for it to continue we do need more support and have a plan in place for recruiting new supporters. Last year we were very excited to be approached by Richard Presland who has been a huge support on the Trustee Board as well as supporting on the Hut Support Group along with Mark Hak-Sanders who joined as Treasurer working closely with Alex Farrell. Together they have ensured that the group's finances are effectively managed and appropriately governed.

The Trustees 15/09/25



Treasurers Report

Mark Hak-Sanders

Alex Farrell

Outgoings

During 2024/25, the group incurred £28k of expenditure – coincidentally unchanged in total from the previous year. The group spent less on venue maintenance (largely because 2023/24 included expenditure on providing new toilets). By contrast, more was spent on camping equipment and the provision of events.

	2024/25	2023/24	Change
Expense			
Activity Equipment	£222	£543	‑£321
Admin	£387	£200	£187
Badges	£1,067	£1,722	‑£655
Bank Fees	£1,249	£1,203	£46
Camping Equipment	£2,104	£569	£1,534
Events	£5,150	£4,296	£854
Events - Beavers	£1,708	£847	£860
Events - Cubs	£1,150	£1,756	‑£606
Events - Scouts	£2,806	£2,569	£237
Fundraising Costs	£2,006	£1,121	£886
Insurance	£1,642	£1,708	‑£65
Meetings	£326	£280	£46
Meetings - Beavers	£159	£25	£134
Meetings - Cubs	£41	£0	£41
Meetings - Scouts	£630	£119	£511
Membership Costs	£0	£0	£0
Utilities	£1,140	£1,066	£74
Venue Maintenance	£6,146	£9,914	‑£3,768
	£27,933	£27,937	‑£4

Income

The group generated £40k of income during 2024/25 – an increase of £15k on previous years. The increase mainly related to gift aid of £7k where the claim has been processed every other year. There was also an increase in donations, fundraising and event income. Event income was largely matched by increased event costs and replacement camping equipment.

Subscription income remained largely stable at c.£10k.

	2024/25	2023/24	Change
Income			
Bank Interest	£475	£363	£112
Donation	£4,034	£1,713	£2,321
Events	£5,190	£5,861	-£671
Events - Beavers	£728	£815	-£87
Events - Cubs	£2,176	£1,940	£237
Events - Scouts	£5,880	£2,758	£3,123
Fundraising	£3,539	£1,870	£1,669
Gift Aid	£7,275	£0	£7,275
Membership Fees	£10,170	£9,551	£619
Rent	£250	£360	-£110
Uniform Purchases	£260	£8	£252
	£39,977	£25,253	£14,724

Overall

£40k of income and £28k expenditure led to a total increase in group funds of £12k, increasing bank balances from £50k to £62k. The group's financial position is robust, giving it assurance over providing scouting activities in a safe and welcoming environment into the future.

To that end, a significant proportion of the group's funds will be used to replace the hut roof, once the lease is finalised. Once this crucial investment is complete, it will be clear how much the group has in reserve. Future spending plans include refreshing the hut, providing new tents for camping events and providing a quiet space in the hut for children needing a break from noisy hut activities – particularly those children who can feel overwhelmed by or overloaded due to sensory differences.

The group has held its subs level at £16 for 2025/26 academic year, unchanged from 2024/25. It has also begun to draft a financial hardship policy which will aim to ensure that financial difficulties are not a barrier for members taking part in the group's activities.

The group is in the process of having its accounts audited and lodged with the Charities Commission.



Group Scout Leaders Report

Louise Furzer

Nicky Higgins

Ariel Merzer



Group Lead Volunteers Report

The team consisting of Louise Furzer, Nicky Higgins and Ariel Merzer have been running 1st Crowthorne Scout Group again this year.

We have worked extremely hard to ensure that all the basics of running a safe Scout Group have been put in place.

The following have taken place or have continued in the last year:

- The private Facebook page is reviewed regularly to ensure it only contain current members
- Families have been asked to ensure their children's information is up to date in OSM
- All adults were provided with safeguarding information at the Family camp
- There have been meetings to support with training and support for our dedicated leaders, and we ran a First Aid session providing our own hut as a venue.
- More activities with District Scout groups, giving wider opportunities for our members collaborate with other local scout groups
- We represented 1st & 2nd Crowthorne at the 2024 carnival with an amazing float and we had a stall on the Morgan Rec selling hot food. (special thanks to Marie-Ann, Pete & Celeste Morruzzi, Andy Fletcher for their support)
- Christmas Late night shopping was a resounding success again

We have to say a huge thank you to our Leaders, who regularly give up an inordinate amount of their personal time to ensure that our members have opportunities to build their life skills which set them in good stead as they grow up.

Membership

We have seen a reduced number of young people in our Scouts section; this does sometimes occur in this age group due to members moving to secondary school but of course we have lots of cubs about to enter our Scouts sections. We have a healthy waiting list, and children are being added before the age of Beavers which allows us to plan our intake.

During the year, our group has seen a consistent number of members across all our sections

Achievements

Our programmes have been incredibly successful, evidenced by the record number of top awards that we have awarded to our members this year. The hard work and commitment of our Scouts and Leaders with parents supporting with completing tasks at home has certainly paid off

Chief Scout Bronze – 6

Chief Scout Silver – 4

Chief Scout Gold - 1



Events

Our leaders ran a full programme of activities and events for the members. More information on this is provided in the section reports, but to give a sense of the scale of the Group's activities in 2024/25:

- The leaders ran around 240 sessions across Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- Over 20 separate events were held, including overnight camps, narrow boating, waterborne activities at Horseshoe Lake and, of course, Family Camp.
- Members attended around 5 events each, on average, and each event was attended by an average of 28 members. In total this adds up to 585 places across the 20+ events.
- Some events are run for individual sections, whilst others, like Horseshoe Lake, which included over 100 attendee's welcome members from across the Group.

Each event relies on the hard work and time of the leaders and the leadership team. They are intended to provide a diverse and rich variety of opportunities for the members.

You know the saying – it takes a village?

Well, it takes our village, Crowthorne, to run this Scout Group, the Group has been running since 1909, we currently have **118 young people enrolled** with room for more, but we desperately need adults to help support the Group to ensure it continues to run. The more the merrier and it means that if everyone does a little then roles can be shared, as we have demonstrated with the Group Scout Leaders role being shared between 3 people.

You don't have to come every week. Maybe it's not a child facing activity that interests you (it's not for everyone) are you good at admin, maybe Facebook, accounts, social media?

The Scout Association has moved towards [Team based roles](#) which is great for people who don't have lots of time to give but still want to help. 1st Crowthorne was one of the early adopters of this exciting new approach.

Looking Forward

We have mentioned previously that our hut needs a facelift, this will help to lift everyone's spirits when they enter and sets a welcome atmosphere when members attend their sessions., we are looking to apply for funding for discrete projects such as refreshing the meeting room and the main hall once the lease has been signed and arrangements made for the replacement of the roof.

You will see from the family tree on the next page there are a number of teams that need support, we also need support on our Trustee Board, if you are even slightly interested, please do email gsl@1stcrowthorne.co.uk to have a chat about opportunities

Special Thanks

As always, we want to extend our gratitude to Alyson Tracey for her invaluable assistance in managing our badge inventory and facilitating the awards



Moreover, a big thank you to all our Leaders for their tireless commitment and dedication over the past year. The Leaders are supported in turn by our Young Leaders who give amazing support and further the connection with our members. Everyone's efforts are what make our programmes so successful.

I'd also like to acknowledge the contributions of the parents who support their children's sessions on a regular basis and generously offer their time and support - be it through participating in camps or social activities, supporting the parent rota.

As we move ahead, let's continue to support each other and strive for even greater heights.

Warm regards.

GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM
Ariel Merzer, Louise Furzer, Nicky Higgins
TRUSTEE BOARD
Members: TBC – Chair, Ariel Merzer, Claire Jones, Alex Farrell, Nicky Higgins, Mark Hak-Sanders

WEEKLY GROUPS

Monday night Scouts - Leopards	Tuesday night Scouts – Hawks	Wednesday night Cubs - Wolves	Thursday night Beavers – Orcas	Thursday night Cubs -Eagles	Friday night Beavers – Dolphins
↳ Chris Colloff	↳ Ariel Merzer	↳ Robin Jarvis	↳ Shilpi Walker	↳ Tom Page	↳ Lou Nolder
↳ Marie-Anne Allen	↳ Andy Fletcher	↳ Richard Joyce	↳ Louise Furzer	↳ Kyle Rhodes	↳ Vacancy
↳ Andy Allen	↳ Eran Amir	↳ Darren Latimer	↳ Claire McLennan	↳ Ian Allen	↳ Vacancy
↳ Vacancy	↳ Rob Allen	↳ Vacancy	↳ Young Leader		
↳ Young Leader	↳ Vacancy	↳ Vacancy	↳ Young Leader		
			↳ Young Leader		

1ST CROWTHORNE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 300492

Accounts



1st Crowthorne

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 29th September 2024

4pm – 630pm

(Followed by activities and barbecue)

The Hut, Edgbarrow Secondary school

AGENDA

1.	Introduction and welcome	Phil Hart
2.	Apologies for absence	Phil Hart
3.	To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th September 2023	Phil Hart
4.	Chairman's report	Phil Hart
5.	To receive and consider annual report from the group trustee board including annual statement of accounts.	Phil Hart
6.	The Group Scout Leader's review	Ariel Merzer / Nicky Higgins
7.	To approve nomination of group chair	Ariel Merzer
8.	Election of offices on the trustee board	Phil Hart
9.	To appoint the independent examiner	tbc
10.	Presentations	Nicky Higgins / Ariel Merzer
11.	Comments from district commissioner or their representatives	Pam Pearce
12.	Close	Phil Hart



Previous minutes
AGM 2023 - 2024



Previous AGM minutes 17th September 2023 1:30pm

at the Hut

Unfortunately, we have no precise record of the previous AGM.

However, from memory the meeting began roughly on time with an introduction and welcome from Phil Hart.

The previous AGM minutes were approved, and the chairman gave his report.

In the absence of Marc Brunel-Walker, Ariel Merzer gave a summary of the group's activities.

This was followed by the treasurer's report presented by Alex Farrell and Graham Elliott.

Officers were elected to the trustee board.

This was followed by comments from Phill Wood and others representing the District team.

The chairman thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting then closed.



Chairman's report

Phil Hart



1st Crowthorne Scout Group chairman's report

September 2024

Items of note this year:

Lease renewal

This time last year we thought we were almost there with the lease, I'm sorry to say that we didn't manage it but hopefully we will have a new lease very soon. The Scout Association have made their amendments, and it is now back with the Bracknell Forest Council Solicitor.

Drainage problem

We were fortunate to get a grant from the Shanly Foundation, we managed this by putting together an application which included a video made by Daniel and James Furzer (well done boys!) This was then entered into a competition, and I'm pleased to say that with the video we managed to get the funding to put the French drain in on the car park side of the building.

Leadership

Following the departure of Marc Brunel-Walker last year, I'm pleased to say that Nicky, Ariel and Louise have formed a strong leadership team and managed to maintain running the group in a very positive way.

Family Camp

Elaine and I were pleased to spend a day at the family camp at PACCAR this year. This is a tremendous site with very good facilities, and I would thoroughly recommend you try it next year if you haven't been before. A fun filled weekend for all the family.

As you may know because of other commitments I have decided to stand down as chairman this year. I have been connected with the group since my eldest son was in the cubs - he turned 53 this year!

In those days meetings were held on the Wellington College site in a wooden hut somewhere on what is now Wellington Chase, probably where Fielding Gardens or Chaucer Road are now. Following a fire at the hut the Group was able to raise enough money to construct the present building on the Edgbarrow site and we moved in 1984.

I have very much enjoyed my time with 1st Crowthorne and I'm sure I will miss being involved.

I would like to thank all the leaders, helpers and parents for their efforts in keeping the Group in such good shape but for it to continue we do need new blood, particularly on the support side. We need more Trustees to look after our finances and we also need more help looking after the fabric of the building and equipment. If you can help in any way, please let us know.

Phil Hart 20/09/24



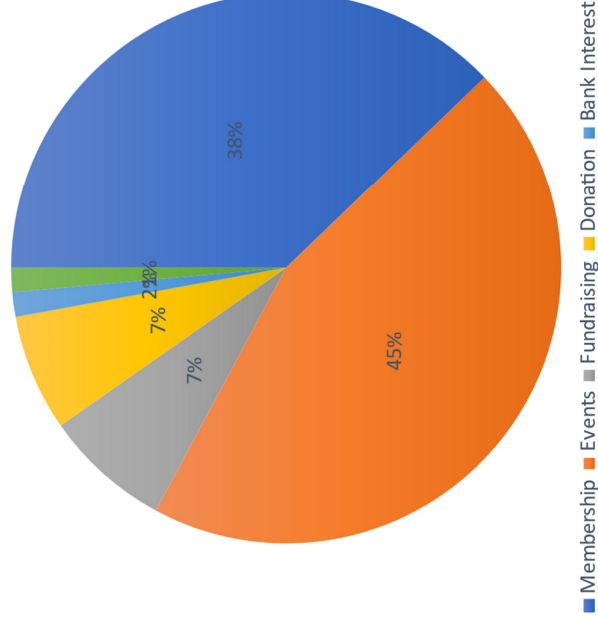
Treasurers Report

Alex Farrell

Graham Elliott

Income

Area	
Membership	£ 9,551
Events	£ 11,372
Fundraising	£ 1,878
Donation	£ 1,728
Bank Interest	£ 363
Rent	£ 360
	£ 25,253



Notes

Capitation (Pass-through: £7,310)

Census numbers: 131 members (22 -23: 135)

Donations: Wonderful, Bracknell Lottery

Only Fundraising event (Late Night Shopping £1800)

Rent- Rainbows

No Gift-aid Claim



Outgoings

Area	
Venue Maintenance	-£ 9,914
Events	-£ 9,468
Badges	-£ 1,722
Insurance	-£ 1,708
Bank Fees	-£ 1,203
Fundraising	-£ 1,121
Utilities	-£ 1,066
Camping Equipment	-£ 569
Activity Equipment	-£ 543
Meetings	-£ 425
Admin	-£ 200
	-£ 27,937

Notes

Venue: Toilets £9,038 & External

Cleaning

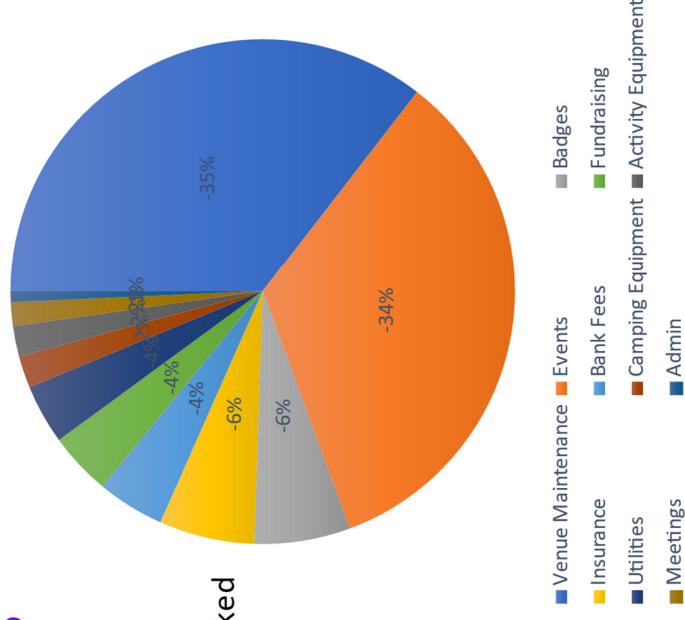
Bank Fees: OSM & GoCardless Linked to gross income

Fundraising: Late Night Shopping

Utilities: down £160 vs LY - lower usage

Insurance: down £50 vs LY

Admin: website hosting costs





Group Scout Leaders Report

Louise Furzer

Nicky Higgins

Ariel Merzer



Group Scout Leaders report

Dear Members, Leaders, and Parents,

This year, a team consisting of Louise Furzer, Nicky Higgins and Ariel Merzer have been running 1st Crowthorne Scout Group.

We have worked extremely hard to ensure that all the basics of running a safe Scout Group have been put in place.

The following have taken place in the last year:

- The private facebook page has been reviewed to ensure it only contain current members
- Families have been asked to ensure their children's information is up to date in OSM
- All adults were provided with safeguarding information at the Family Camp
- There have been meetings to support with training and support for our dedicated leaders
- Activities with District Scout groups, giving wider opportunities for our young people
- Collaboration with other local scout groups
- We represented 1st & 2nd Crowthorne at this year's carnival with an amazing float and had a stall on the rec selling food. (special thanks to Marie-Ann, Pete & Celeste Morruzzi, Andy Fletcher for their support)
- Christmas Late night shopping was a resounding success again

We have to say a huge thank you to our Leaders, who regularly give up an inordinate amount of their personal time to ensure that your children have opportunities to build their life skills which set them in good stead as they grow up.

Membership

During the year, our group has seen a consistent number of members across all our sections; with enough leaders we have space for 48 members in each troop, i.e., 48 Beavers etc.,

Achievements

Our programmes have been incredibly successful, evidenced by the record number of top awards that we have awarded to our members this year. The hard work and commitment of our Scouts and Leaders and parents supporting with completing tasks at home has certainly paid off

Chief Scout Bronze – 2

Chief Scout Silver – 3

Chief Scout Gold 2



You know the saying – it takes a village?

Well, it takes our village, Crowthorne, to run this Scout Group, the Group has been running since 1909, we currently have **118 young people enrolled** with room for more, but we desperately need adults to help support the Group to ensure it continues to run. The more the merrier and it means that if everyone does a little then roles can be shared, as we have demonstrated with the Group Scout Leaders role being shared between 3 people.

You don't have to come every week. Maybe it's not a child facing activity that interests you (it's not for everyone) are you good at admin, maybe facebook, accounts?

The Scout Association is moving towards a team based approach [Team based roles](#) which is great for people who don't have lots of time to give but still want to help. 1st Crowthorne are one of the early adopters of this exciting new approach.

Future Plans

We would really like to give our hut a facelift, this helps to lift everyone's spirits when they enter, we intend to apply for funding for discrete projects such as refreshing the meeting room and the main hall.

You will see from the family tree on the next page there are a number of vacancies for leaders, but we also need someone who is confident with figures and another representative on our Trustee Board, if you are even slightly interested, please do email gsl@1stcrowthorne.co.uk to have a chat about opportunities

Special Thanks

As always, we want to extend our gratitude to Aly for her invaluable assistance in managing our badge inventory and facilitating the awards

Thanks also go to Pauline for managing the waiting list to get new young people involved in Scouting.

Moreover, a big thank you to all of our Leaders for their tireless commitment and dedication over the past year. Your efforts are what make our programmes so successful.

I'd also like to acknowledge the contributions of the parents, who support their children's sessions on a regular basis and generously offer their time and support - be it through participating in camps or social activities.

Farewell Message

This year we say goodbye to our Chair of the Trustee Board, Phil Hart, he has steered the group through 37 years and has seen many changes in that time. His experience, local knowledge and relationships will be hard to replace.

As we move ahead, let's continue to support each other and strive for even greater heights.

Warm regards,

Louise Furzer, Nicky Higgins and Ariel Merzer

GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM
Ariel Merzer, Louise Furzer, Nicky Higgins
TRUSTEE BOARD

Members: Phil Hart – Chair, Ariel Merzer, Claire Jones, Alex Farrell, Bob Wilson, Nicky Higgins

WEEKLY GROUPS

Monday night Scouts - Leopards	Tuesday night Scouts – Hawks	Wednesday night Cubs - Wolves	Thursday night Beavers – Orcas	Thursday night Cubs -Eagles	Friday night Beavers – Dolphins
↳ Chris Colloff	↳ Ariel Merzer	↳ Robin Jarvis	↳ Shilpi Walker	↳ Tom Page	↳ Lou Nolder
↳ MarieAnne Allen	↳ Eran Amir	↳ Richard Joyce	↳ Louise Furzer	↳ Ian Allen	↳ New starte
↳ Andy Allen	↳ Andy Fletcher	↳ Darren Latimer	↳ Claire McLennan	↳ Kyle Rhodes	↳ Vacancy
↳ Vacancy	↳ Vacancy	↳ Vacancy	↳ James Furzer (YL)	↳ New starte	↳ Vacancy
↳ Sophie Allen (YL)	↳ Vacancy	↳ Vacancy	↳ Daniel Furzer (YL)		
			↳ Lucy Burns (YL)		



Section Reports

Beavers:

Thursday - Orcas

Friday - Dolphins

Cubs:

Wednesday - Wolves

Thursday - Eagles

Scouts:

Monday – Leopards

Tuesday - Hawks

Beavers – Dolphins & Orcas

2023 – 2024 was a brilliant year for Orca beavers, with lots of new starters and lots of movement of beavers to cubs.

We continue to run our 2-year programme making sure that we can get as many of our Beavers Scouts through their bronze award before they move up to cubs, whilst still trying to bring as much variety to the activities as possible.

This year we've been quite ambitious in our trips away from the hut with exciting adventures; we've also continued to invite external community members to demonstrate to the beaver scouts. We were very fortunate to have Richard Packer join us from **St John's Ambulance** to run our emergency aid evening; who brought with him all the correct equipment to demonstrate how to perform CPR and how to use a defibrillator machine. It was an excellent evening that had the beaver scouts thoroughly engaged. (Note to parents: Richard is a colleague from work, so if you have any colleagues at work who volunteer with any other organisation, then please do reach out to them if they would like to run a scouting session.)



We were also visited by the **Platforms for Change** team who run educational sessions on Rail Safety, and also facilitate rail trips for youth groups.

We also made some really exciting trips out and about this year:

- The **Discovery Centre** at the Lookout
- **Blackbushe Airport**
- **Rail travel** to Farnborough North – where we also took part in gardening activities at their allotment.
- **Horseshoe Lake**
- **D-Day activities**

Louise F and I have also taken on **LTA ambassadors** training which supplied the group with Tennis equipment and session plans.

We've tried to take part in as many District activities and events in the last year; **Remembrance Sunday, St Georges Day, District Sleepover**. We aim to take part in more in the next year, including **JOTI/JOTA** for the beavers.

Camps and Nights away have remained a staple for the beavers, with at least 3 opportunities provided for overnight stays, (**District sleepover, Beavers sleepover and Group Family Camp**).

Many **campfires** have been struck, many songs sung and many Smore's eaten.

During the year we were able to award 9 Chief Scouts Bronze Awards to our beavers.

We still aim to have a cohort of 24 beavers in the Orca Colony, but the numbers have fluctuated quite a bit over the year; dropping to 15 at one point.



Beaver Colony Team

We are supported by the following team of assistance leaders and Young Leaders and give our thanks to all those adults and Young leaders who give up their time to work with our children.

- Shilpi Walker
- Louise Furzer
- Tom Page (now cubs)
- Claire MacLennan
- James Furzer
- Daniel Furzer
- Lucy Burns
- Lou Nolder

We had another busy year in the **Dolphin section**, earning different badges and developing a range of skills. Our themes for the year were kindness and teamwork and these ran through all our activities.

Highlights included **night hikes** to see **bats** leaving their roosts, doing **CPR** with a real paramedic, silly **sports sessions** on the school field and campfire cooking.

We sang loudly and squirted the crowds with other Crowthorne sections for the **carnival** and enjoyed jumping in the lake after **dragon boating** to celebrate the end of another successful year.

We also held another happy and magic- themed **Sleepover** with our Orca friends.

Our oldest Beavers moved up to cubs and we said sad goodbyes to Abbie Dinesen and Adam Pocock as Leaders, Maaiya as helper and our amazing young leaders Izzy and Isaac who are much missed.

As a new group of wanna-beavers join our ranks we look forward to a packed programme of crafting, camp firing and managed chaos- with both noise and fun levels remaining high

Finally if there are any parents who have a specialist skill or access to a place to visit, then we would be very interested in what you have to offer – please let us know.

Cubs – Eagles & Wolves

Autumn 2023 started with den building and fire building.

During the autumn we also enjoyed a **night hike** and **indoor laser tag**.

In December we prepared Christmas shoe boxes for children in Ukraine and we finished the year with a Christmas disco run by our very own DJ Darren!



Spring 2024

In the Spring term we had a guest **speaker** in the form of Alyson Tracey who came to run an evening of games about money management. If any other parents have a skill they'd be willing to share then please let us know and we'll plan it into the programme.

In February, our Cub sixers were invited to a **Leadership weekend** with other District Scouts. They learnt how to be a good team leader, gain ideas and skills that went towards their Team Leader Challenge badge.

In March we ran a split event across the Wednesday and Thursday groups with some of the cubs choosing **archery** at the hut and others going **climbing** in Camberley. Thanks to Louise Furzer for running the archery for us!

Summer 2024

At the end of the Spring term Robin needed to step back from leading both packs for personal reasons. This leadership reshuffle saw Tom moving from Beavers to taking over Eagles, supported by Kyle Rhodes and Ian Allen. Ariel kindly offered to help out while things were getting settled. Meanwhile Robin continued with Wolves, assisted by Darren and Richard.

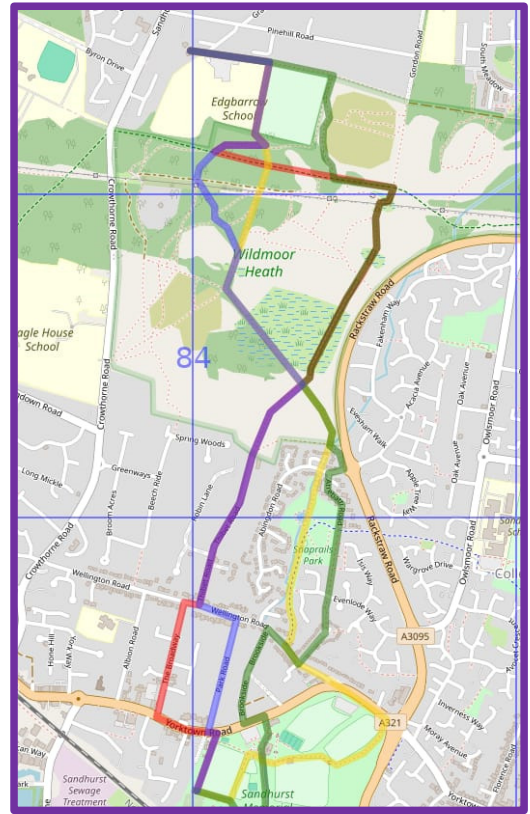
We ran a joint outdoor **laser tag** session and a **joint hike** with 3rd Sandhurst cub pack. The cubs planned their own routes for the hike, with Green Six adding a victory lap of the lake at the end.

We were well represented at **Family Group Camp** and the **Crowthorne Carnival**, and got totally soaked while paddleboarding and kayaking at **Horseshoe Lake** for the end of year celebration.

Coming up in Autumn 2024

This term we are attending the **District Activity Day** and are running a **cubs-only camp**. The camp will be led by leaders from across 1st Crowthorne and we're looking forward to visiting **Earlywood** for our Mission to Mars!

Thank you to Robin Jarvis, Richard Joyce, Tom Page, Ian Allen and Kyle Rhodes for their continued support of our two cub packs.



Scouts - Hawks & Leopards

2023-2024 has been a busy year with a varied programme of activities in addition to our weekly meetings.

Scouts from Hawks and Leopards have participated in the **JOTI/JOTA event in October 2023**, along with the **Fire and Ice Camp in January 2024**, **Scout Camp in May 2024** and the **Family Camp in June 2024**. The Scouts also took part in the Crowthorne Carnival procession and we had three teams compete in the Gun Run competition organised as part of the Carnival celebrations with one of our teams winning the event to add a long overdue new trophy to the trophy cabinet.



Scouts have also taken part in district events including the **District Night Hike in March 2024** and the **District Hill Walking weekends in October 2023 and July 2024**.

During our weekly meetings we have had a varied programme and are trying to find new ways to create cooking challenges which are always popular. We have invested in additional Dutch ovens to increase the options for cooking on fires outside the hut and had some successful fire baked banana bread prepared.

We had a very cold orienteering session at Dinton Pastures Country Park (not aided by compasses that pointed south rather than north!).

First aid sessions using innovative CPR techniques involving sponge balls and 'Staying alive' will live long in the memory.

We ran a talent night evening and it was good to see scouts getting out of their comfort zone and performing in front of other Scouts and incredible to see some of the skills and talents on display.

Other sessions have included **cycling, archery, night hikes, a treasure hunt, wide games and air rifle shooting**.



Over the course of the past year we have awarded a total of **335 badges**. Over the next year we are looking to organise further camps and a narrow-boating weekend will have been completed by the time of the AGM.

We are also looking to run an **expedition challenge weekend** for scouts who are looking to progress towards completion of their **Chief Scout's Gold Award**.



Finally if there are any parents who have a specialist skills or hobbies that they would like to share with our Scouts at a Scout session please let us know.

We are always looking for new and engaging activities to include in the programme.

With thanks, Chris Colloff, Claire McLennan, Marie-Anne, Andy and Sophie Allen, Phil Trivett, Eran Amir, Andy Fletcher for all their support with Scouts.

1ST CROWTHORNE SCOUT GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 300492

Accounts



1st Crowthorne

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 17th September 2pm – 430pm

(Followed by activities and barbecue)

The Hut, Edgbarrow Secondary school

AGENDA

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th September 2022
4. Chairman's report
5. To receive and consider annual report from the group trustee board including annual statement of accounts.
6. The Group Scout Leader's review
7. To approve nomination of group chair
8. Election of offices on the trustee board
9. To appoint the independent examiner
10. Presentations
11. Comments from district commissioner or their representatives
12. Close



Previous minutes
AGM 2021 - 2022



1st Crowthorne Scout AGM

17th September 2022 4pm at the hut

Attendees

Claire Jones

Phil Hart

Anita Gaskell

Marc Brunell-Walker

Graham Elliot

Alex Farrel

Ariel

Apologies

Andy Lester

Rob

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
 2. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting.
 3. GSL review
 4. Annual reports and statements for the Executive
 5. Approve GSL nomination
 6. Election of members to GEC
 7. Appoint Independent examiner
 8. Presentations
 9. Comments form District Representatives
 10. Close
-



1. Chairman address

- One minutes silence for the Queen
- Executive, The District Commissioner and District Treasurer were introduced
- Approval of the last minutes

2. GSL Report

- Marc gave a report about the numbers in each section
- Introduced and thanked the section leaders
- Special thanks to: Nicky, Robin, Chris, Ariel and Phi
- Marc announced he is stepping down by the end of the summer and a replacement is needed.
- Announced that Andy Lester has stepped down and now 3 volunteers are needed to take up the role.
- Big emphasis on the need for more volunteers to help run all aspects of the scout group.

3. Appointments

- Phil appointed as Chairman
- Marc appointed as GSL
- Anita Appointed as Secretary
- Independent examiner appointed
- Graham appointed as treasurer
- Claire appointed As parent representative on Exec

4. Finance Report

- Graham presented the report
- Reminded to tick gift aid
- Membership fees low
- Good rate for utilities.
- Savings been put into separate ..eg.. - buildings- hardship-new lease - tents
- Current account - capitation money still to be deducted.
- Marc made the point about the hardship fund - money is not a barrier to participation - scouts can help with uniforms, camp and activities.

- The District Commissioner made a comment - bottom line funds look small because of funds - why are kids not getting the money? funds should cover 6 months costs - significant funds need to be made clear where they will be used, more explanation notes on the funds and its uses need to be included in the accounts.
- This question was raised .. Do we keep an annual forecast budget? Needs to be made clearer in the accounts.
- A suggestion was made to do a 5 year run on the accounts to compare year on year.
- Another plea for new people and volunteers to help with developing new perspectives .

5. General points raised

- Parents want more information on activities that are planned so they can plan when to help. Leaders will try to keep parents informed and post more in advance when help is required.
- Suggestion to advertise events and when help, is needed on more platforms.. Facebook, OMS, a notice board in the scout hut.
- More work is needed on the Welcome pack and also a pack for moving between sections.
- Suggested that each section has their own parent representative to help with giving out information.
- Some discussion on the policy for taking refugees, needs further development.
- Plea for help, with fundraising, lease, property, sections, finance, maintenance .

6. Presentations

- **Beavers** - Achieved approx 14 chief scout bronze awards
- Held a Beavers sleepover - for those that didn't go to camp
- Trying to Keep activities low cost
- **Dolphins** -245 badges awarded.



- Have 4 young leaders - very successful. Alice badge person.
- A thanks was given to the person in charge of badges.
- **Cubs** - over subscribed numbers - the leadership problems have been resolved.
- Need more young leaders.
- Lots of activities - Leisure in camberley activities - lazer tag - cycling .
- Pam handed awards out .
- **Scouts** - introduced the team of leaders
- Need more help - people can step in . - not down to one person.
- Lots of activities - Woodcraft, climbing orienteering , carnival, Mechanic weekend , field guns, box hill, narrow boating.
- Numbers are 30 on a Monday - Tuesday has 28.

7. District Commissioners Address

-
- Talked about scouts being the Building blocks in young lives - giving new experiences and opportunities
- Mock 10 - its on cv - more confident .
- The Kings scout award - give value to kids
- 1st crowthorne is the biggest group.
- Reiterated the need to help
- Awarded the chief scout award for good service to Andy Allen.

Chairman Closed the Meeting



Chairman's report

Phil Hart



1st Crowthorne Scout

Group Chairman's Report September 2023

Items of note during the year

Lease renewal - I am pleased to say at long last we're making progress with the lease; we've been here for 40 years! This renewal involves the Scout Association, The Department for Education, Bracknell Forest Borough Council, The Corvus Learning Trust and 1st Crowthorne Scouts, as you can imagine this is all taking time, but I am happy to announce that moving forward Graham Elliot will be helping with this project.

Toilet and heating upgrade - this has been completed during the last year. After we made the decision not to go ahead with the major expansion of the Hut, we had enough money to get this work done. Over the years we have had grant money from Crowthorne Parish Council, Tesco, The Co-op, The Carnival, and others. This has been a long time in the planning but has provided a very useful new feature, saving pressure on the kitchen and providing hot water and heat in the hut. Our thanks go to Peter Moruzzi for fitting the boiler and Daniel Mafte for doing the work on the toilets.

Two more projects we need to tackle this year are to do with water with urgency are:

The roof and the walls, both need a lot of attention, the roof leaks and there is water entering the hut where the walls meet the floor slab which is damaging the floor of the hut

**if you have any expertise in either of these areas, we would very much like to hear from you*

You may be aware the Scout Association are going through a transformation and changing the way they do things to make the organisation more up to date; this shouldn't affect the young people too much and should be beneficial for the leaders, as the responsibilities are shared across teams, meaning more people, less work. Therefore we are looking for volunteers to share their wide variety of skills, please put your name down or talk to one of the committee members if you would like to find out more.

Our Family camp was well supported again this year and we received some great feedback, we thank everyone involved who made this such a success and the team are now working on the Family camp for 2024.

Fundraising is also in focus for our group this year, we ran a BBQ at the late-night shopping just before Christmas, and we plan to be part of the Crowthorne Carnival next year which



provides opportunities for fund raising and having fun, this is always a special village event, and we look forward to taking part once again.

We also have some other events in the pipeline and as always, are looking for volunteers.

Finally, I would like to thank all the leaders, helpers, and trustees for all the hard work that they do for the group to support our young people.

We are sadly saying goodbye to two people who are leaving us, Anita Gaskell, our Secretary, and Marc Brunel-Walker, our GSL, we wish them well and again we thank them for all their efforts.

Phil Hart

Group Chairman



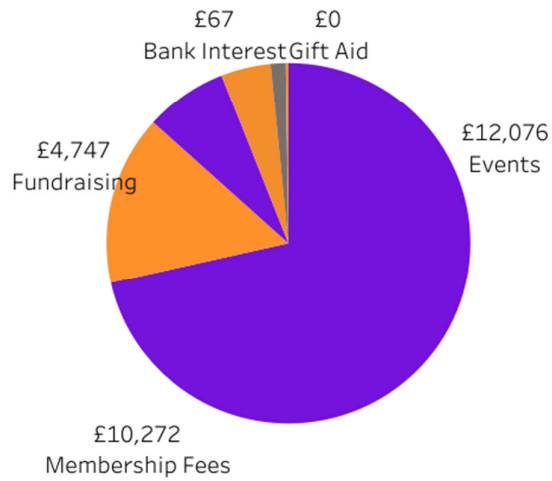
Treasurers Report

Alex Farrell

Graham Elliott



Income: 2022-2023



Total Income:
£31,260

Comprising of:

Membership Fees	£10,272
Meetings	£2,298
Events	£12,076
Fundraising	£4,747
Donation	£1,380
Rent	£420
Bank Interest	£67
Gift Aid	£0

Comments:

Membership is net of Capitation - i.e. passthrough cost
Measured at Census. (31st Jan annually) This Year 135, Last Year 130
No Gift Aid claim for this year

Donations:-

[Wonderful.org](https://www.wonderful.org) Bracknell Lottery

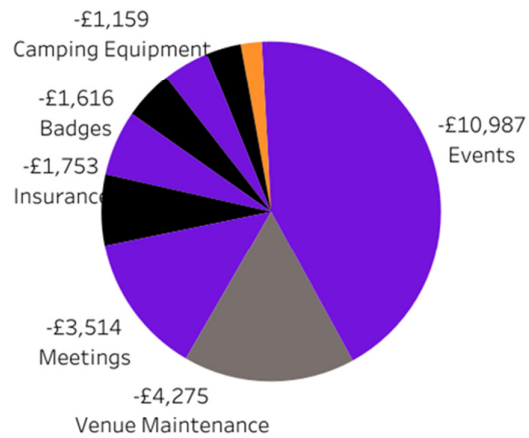
Fundraising:-

Carnival & Christmas



Expenses: 2022-2023

Total Expense:
-£26,152



Comments:

Venue Costs-

Utilities:-

Boiler Replacement
Building Fabric Survey

Gas & Electricity Fixed Contracts end by 31st December
Bank Fees are for GoCardless and OSM.

Events	-£10,987
Venue Maintena..	-£4,275
Meetings	-£3,514
Insurance	-£1,753
Badges	-£1,616
Utilities	-£1,230
Camping Equip..	-£1,159
Bank Fees	-£862
Fundraising	-£521
Admin	-£120
Activity Equipme..	-£115

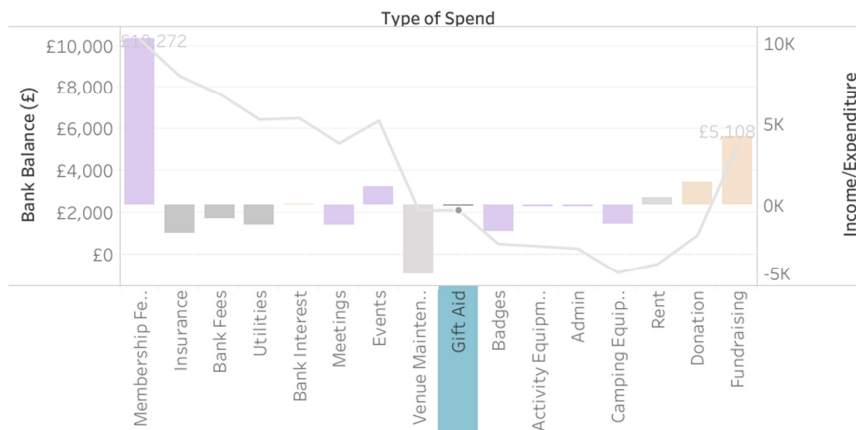


Accounts: 2022-2023

Account balance brought forward	£47,920
Total expenditure	£33,550
Total income	£38,658
Net income	£5,108
Account balance carried forward	£53,028
Current Acc	£16,092
Saving ACC	£36,935

Savings Account Comprising:

- Deposits for future events £340
- Building fund £16900
- Hardship fund £500
- Deposit account transfer £3000
- New lease fund £2000
- Beavers section fund £771
- Capitation FY2324 £7860
- District COVID grant insurance £4000
- Tent & equipment replacement fund £1564



Looking Forward

- Toilet Refurb
- Utilities
- Drainage
- Roof



Section Reports

Group Scout Leader

Beavers

Cubs

Scouts



Deputy Group Scout Leader

Dear Members, Leaders, and Parents,

Another fruitful year has come to a close, and it's with a sense of pride and gratitude that I reflect on our accomplishments and look ahead to the future.

Membership

During the year, our group has seen a consistent number of members across all our sections:

Beavers: 34 (Dolphins and Orcas)

Cubs: 42 (Eagles and Wolves)

Scouts: 52 (Hawks and Leopards)

In total, we had 22 dedicated Leaders and an ever-growing support team, which is a testament to our thriving community.

Achievements

Our programmes have been incredibly successful, evidenced by the record number of top awards—Chief Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold—that we have awarded to our members this year. The hard work and commitment of our Scouts and Leaders has certainly paid off.

Future Plans

In the coming weeks, we will be reviewing our two-year activity plans for each section. The focus will be on diversifying our activities to provide opportunities for earning more badges.

Special Thanks

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Aly for her invaluable assistance in managing our badge inventory and facilitating the awards.



Moreover, a big thank you to all of our Leaders for their tireless commitment and dedication over the past year. Your efforts are what make our programmes so successful.

I'd also like to acknowledge the indispensable contributions of our Parents, who have generously offered their time and support—be it through participating in camps, social activities, or fundraising efforts.

Farewell Message

Lastly, a special thank you to our outgoing Group Scout Leader, Marc. Having served since June 2017, your vision and drive have been instrumental in shaping our Scout Group into what it is today.

As we move ahead, let's continue to support each other and strive for even greater heights.

Warm regards,

Ariel Merzer

Deputy Group Scout Leader

Beavers (Dolphins and Orcas)

It's been another busy Beaver year, we've achieved so much with a variety of different activities taking place for our Beavers to be involved in. We have welcomed many new faces and said goodbye to others as they have moved up to Cubs.

The Library – Crowthorne Library ran a reading and craft session, the theme was Roald Dahl, the Beavers read *The Twits* and had a chance to make some fantastic beards to wear.

Fire station – Our potential budding Fire officers got the chance to have a talk at Crowthorne Fire station, they all got to use the hose and got to see the fire engine go out on a call which was very exciting



Litter pick – huge thanks to C.R.O.W who lent us some equipment to do a litter pick on Morgan Rec, we couldn't how much rubbish we managed to collect in one session.

Armed Police evening – Matt Sims (parent) bought his work-kit in for all the Beavers to try on, they listened to what it's like to be in the armed police, explaining all the equipment.





Dan Heasleywood (parent) – opened up the workshops at Edgbarrow for us to build bird tables, the Beavers were taught how to use the saw safely and produced some amazing bird tables.

Visit from Water Aid - Alan came to speak to the Beavers about the charity, he was able to share all the countries he had visited as part of his job and the Beavers discussed what they could do to help those countries. There was lots of talk of poo which kept the Beavers entertained.

Visit from Fairtrade –

Visit from Thames Valley Heath Partnership, Michael the Ranger, took the Beavers on an educational trip around Wildmoor Heath, they loved seeing the wide variety of insects that live on the Heath.

Night Hike - Our night hike rewarded us with the sight of bats flitting in and out of a box.

Annual Big Den Build – This was a high point when beavers fought the Fromblies (friendly zombies) to defend their dens

Remembrance Day

One of our two main events of the year in Scouting is Remembrance Day, we had a good attendance which is always good to see. Our Beavers did really well to sit nicely during the service and we are proud of them as they observed the two minutes silence and stood perfectly still whilst the names of the fallen were read out.





Christmas party

Well done Magic Moments for providing us with a fantastic Christmas Magic show, the beavers loved the interactive show.

St. George's Day

There was a really good attendance at the St. George's Day event at Edgbarrow even though the weather was not on our side



Family Camp

12 Beavers attended the family camp this year at PACCAR, the Beavers took part in so many activities, zipwire, laser tag, rabbit run, go-karts to name a few. Lots of fears were faced and badges achieved. Because our Beavers did the Faith trail and Woodland trail they were given special badges by PACCAR. *Insider info:* we're currently working on next year's camp 😊

Dragon Boating

This took place at Horseshoe Lake for the end of term celebrations, with all sections at 1st Crowthorne; there were Dragon Boat races which included some very competitive parents. The evening ended with a picnic and hot chocolate.



Beavers sleepover

Finally, our first joint sleepover with Dolphins and Orcas . This was the first time many of the Beavers slept away from their families so there was a lot of excitement as well as a few nerves. We had 20 Beavers in total. There was a wild west theme and activities included archery, a treasure hunt, tin-can alley finished off with a camp fire, they ate lots and slept little 😊



Across the year an amazing **543** badges were awarded to 1st Crowthorne Beavers – this is a FANTASTIC achievement – as well as this, **17** Beavers achieved their Bronze Chief Scout Award

Well Done Beavers!

Last but not least, a HUGE thanks to our young leaders James, Harley, Lucy, Isaac, Izzy and Oscar



Cubs – Eagles and Wolves

2022 /2023 has been an exciting , challenging and rewarding year for cubs in Crowthorne .

We have run 2 cub packs again with around 40-45 cubs attending each week between the 2 packs , Wednesday slightly less than Thursday in numbers but we've shared responsibility between the leadership teams and shared the programme even doing a few joint evenings.

Billy left cubs as is lad has moved up and onwards but Owen Toublic took over on Wednesdays (as a 19 year old!) with support from Teresa, Emily & Richard Joyce returning to help which was great.

Robin was leading on Thursday with support from Kyle, Darren and recently Ian Allen has been helping. Our young leaders have developed into a decent unit with Orr, Jake Ca, Jake Cr, Roy and Fin doing brilliant work and we understand Sophie is re-joining us this term.

Owen has now finished as he is pursuing further education in Bournemouth and planning to become a paramedic; we thank him for phenomenal support and wish him all the best for the future.

We had a full and fun programme including Den building, bike riding indoor pioneering, Diwali crafts, tent racing, hiking from Horseshoe lake, Christmas crafts, pancakes, fire building, Remembrance with the British Legion, cooking. We had great participation at the Family camp at Paccar this year which everyone is keen to do again in 2024.

We finished the year with great fun doing water sports at Horseshoe Lake and said goodbye to the year on a lovely sunny evening.

Eagles have awarded total of **275** badges & **3** Chief Scouts silver awards; Michael Furzer. Oliver Thomson, Harvey Higgins.

Wolves have awarded total of **165** badges & **2** Chief Scouts Silver awards; Liam McGregor & Tom Paxton.

Aly has been amazing in helping with badges and we have had some great support from parents as well.



Scouts





Scouts - Hawks and Leopards

2022-2023 has been an interesting year with a varied programme of activities. In addition to our weekly meetings Scouts from Hawks and Leopards have participated in the JOTI/JOTA event in October 2022, the district shooting competition in November 2022 and district wide game in March 2023 and a weekend camp in Earlywood in July 2023. More recently, in August, a number of our scouts participated in the district activity days arranged in Pirbright.

Our activities have been varied throughout the year. Cooking challenges have often seen the scouts getting creative. We have had some very successful 'Ready Steady Cook' sessions with plenty of edible food created! We also had the less successful tin-can pancakes but we live and learn (frying pans next year)! Other activities included air rifle shooting, archery, mountain biking and an entertaining visit and talk from our local European Martial Arts group who demonstrated an array of swords and duelling techniques.

As a result of additional bank holidays we had a number of joint sessions. Our combined trading post/taskmaster session also got all the scouts working well together with a lot of thanks to Conn Farrell for helping to arrange at the last minute.

Over the course of the past year we have awarded a total of 420 badges. Over the next year we are looking to organise further camps and potentially a narrow boating weekend. We are also looking to run an expedition challenge weekend for scouts who are looking to progress towards completion of their chief scout gold award.

We would like to thank Conn Farrell and Sophie Allen for their assistance with running sessions during the course of the year and Rob Allen for all his assistance and in particular for organizing the Earlywood Camp.

Below we have provided some photos of a few of our activities throughout the year.

Finally if there are any parents who have a specialist skills or hobbies that they would like to share with our scouts at a scout session please let us know. We are always looking for new and engaging activities to include in the programme.

