



1st ROYAL FOREST SCOUT GROUP



Annual Report

And

Accounts

1 Sept 2020 – 31 August 2021

GSL report September 2020 to August 2021

So another year has passed where we have had to deal with the pandemic, and I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all of the adults involved in the Group whether they are leaders in the sections or as part of our Group Executive for all the work they have done in keeping us going.

Over the last year we have had to deal with the pandemic and how this impacted all of our lives, with working from home, schooling from home, Scouting from home, this has meant learning many new skills especially around living with each other. This may sound strange but we all went from leaving the house each working day off to our jobs or school and returning back at the end of the day, to a new way of living, which was being together 24/7 in the same small house. This I am sure caused many of us to look at how we managed this, I for one am used to my own space either in my car traveling all over England and Wales or working from my home office a portacabin in my back garden, on top of this many of us may have been furloughed from our work place, luckily for me due to my daily job this did not affect me but made my working days very different. For Scouting nationally there was many issues to face one of the largest was a very big fall in revenue from Activity centres and Scout shops which meant the Association making a lot of staff redundant and having to sell one of our buildings in London and a number of activity centres, for 1st Royal Forest we also had funding concerns as we were not allowed to let out the grounds for camping or in fact any activity. As the country came to almost a halt we looked at how we could make changes and continue with Scouting the national association undertook an agreement with Zoom (a video conferencing company) to offer on line Scouting free of charge to us, but with this came a massive learning curve for all of our leaders in how to use this facility to undertake online Scouting to the leaders thank you for taking up the challenge and offering some terrific online programmes, Parents thank you for supporting our adult leaders in supplying laptops, Ipads or other gizmos to get your young people on line and continuing Scouting and thank you to all the young people that gave online Scouting a go and either stuck at it or dropped off as I know it was very hard to do.

As the year progressed and the number of people infected got higher we started to hear of families losing loved ones to this pandemic, and our thoughts go out to all who have been in this position or are still learning to live with long Covid.

As we approached the end of our year (August) things are starting to look more promising with the introduction of the vaccine, numbers starting to fall for hospitalisations and those catching it and the Country moving into Amber and hopefully Green, we are starting to come back to face to face Scouting we are looking at how we can do this safely and we have to get approval for meeting back from our District Commissioner.

My hope for the coming year is that we will get back to Scouting inside, camps will be held in tents and not under beds at home, I can not say how proud I am of all our adults who volunteer for us either within a section or on our executive, that we have continued to offer Scouting to all of our young people who wanted to take part, thank you to you the parents for keeping with us during this very tough year with all it has meant to you personally.

I would like to end with a very big thankyou to Steve our Chairman for all the work he has done in the last year to sort out our new store building and all the other building works he has done, we could not have done this without Steve and funding from our District Council which allowed us to make the improvements.

If I have missed anyone off with my thanks then I am sorry but you are all too numerous to mention.

Roll on 2021 to 2022 hopefully it will bring us more freedom to do Scouting like we used to!

Gareth

Group Scout Leader

Chair's Report

The group has faced another challenging year with the ongoing Covid pandemic and various restrictions. Thankfully we are hopefully coming out the other side of the pandemic and all sections have resumed face to face section meetings and activities which where possible have taken place outside to minimise risks.

All our volunteer leaders have been outstanding again this year, coping with additional requirements away from scouting whilst still delivering a varied program for their sections and the young people in them. Everything from cooking, archery, pumpkin carving to climbing has been available for the various sections amongst a host of other activities they deliver. The structure and programmes have helped the young people adjust back to a more normal way of life where they can interact with others and develop.

Once again Gareth our Group Scout Leader and Ang, Tuesday Cubs leader who have been busy not only with the Group but also at the District and County level supporting other Groups and leaders throughout the period. Many thanks for your work.

The Executive in 2021 has been supporting the Group Scout Leader to ensure the Group and the lodge is in a position to offer a vibrant and activity rich experience for our young people.

The front porch has now been completed and makes an excellent addition providing a small meeting/activity room as well as cover out of the rain and a place to hang coats and store boots where they don't block the entrance to the hall.

Additional lighting for the front of the lodge means more can now be done safely outside in combination with the shelters we have and the lighting in those. The more we can continue to do activities outside is obviously beneficial in the current circumstances.

The garage has been modified, the roof v1 had issues coping with the drainage between the garage and the lodge, so roof v2 has now been installed which can handle the drainage much better and provides easier access to clear the endless leaves that block the drainage. Thanks to all that assisted taking off the first roof and installing the new one, especially Gareth and Ben Bishop, we can report that a tin roof does indeed get very hot!

We have obtained racking for the garage from an upcycle charity which will be installed in the near future. We are currently gathering quotes for power and lighting in the garage as well as a complete rewire of the lodge itself. During work on the porches and garage it was identified that our furry neighbours, the squirrels, have been helping themselves to the cables running through the lodge roof space, causing bare wires to become exposed which is obviously a fire hazard. These have been remedied where we could but we are now looking to rewire the lodge in such a way that we can prevent the issue in the future.

Finally, I'd like to express my thanks to all the leaders and volunteers that help make the group function, without them there would be no group. If you feel you have something to offer either as a leader, volunteer or on the executive, please speak to myself or any other member of the executive or leadership. We have waiting lists for most sections, so would like new volunteers willing to be active in section roles so we could potentially re-open a second Beaver colony as well as bolster the volunteer support for the other sections.

Do you shop at Amazon? If so then please use Amazon Smile, we are a registered charity with Amazon Smile, just select **"1st Royal Forest of Dean Scout Group"** and then shop as normal using the Amazon Smile link, we get a little bit each time from Amazon when you spend.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

Steve McAuliffe

1st Royal Forest Tuesday Cub Report 2020/2021

September 2021

Cubs 20

Leader 4

YL 1

DofE 1



Needless to say, that the last 12 months have been interesting and challenging!

However, the spirit of scouting has continued albeit in different ways!

August 2020 – April 2020 we continued to do weekly Cub session online. We had many different activities and games to play on Zoom, we also arranged third party hosts to give some variety. We even had a Roman Soldier join us online!

This formula for online sessions worked very well and we regularly had 16+ /20 Cubs present for our sessions.

We held several @home camps – Pumpkin Camp and a Christmas party as well as a joint @home camp with Clearwell & Sling Cubs - this was a Superhero camp and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone – even the Acting DC joined online to take part in some activities.

April 2021 Face 2 Face Cub sessions resumed but due to keeping the Cubs a safe distance away from each other and to enable covid cleaning we ran the sessions at weekends during the day. (We felt that only having 15 minutes between Cubs finishing and scouts starting wasn't long enough to keep everyone separate as per Scout Association guidelines at the time. The Cubs were split into 2 groups (Green & Blue) and we met each group alternate weekends. It was very successful as it meant the smaller groups could achieve more with a higher adult/cub ratio.

September 2021 - Cubs are now meeting as the whole pack – outside the hut. We have had good attendance and all cubs are enjoying it.

October 2021 - we took part in the District Cub cycle ride – 50 Cubs plus adults from all over the forest completed a 5 mile cycle route for the Cyclists Badge. It was a great day.

Activities /Events planned for this term are Remembrance Parade, Incident Hike and an event to celebrate 105 years of Cubs in December.

Ang Healy

Akela Tuesday Cubs

Report by Fiona Morrissey, Scout Leader—Monday Scouts

2020/21 has been a very strange year. It was lovely to be able to meet up in person in September 2020, so we enjoyed a walk around Parkend to learn some map reading skills. We managed another 2 hikes, a night hike and a photo scavenger hunt, before Coronavirus levels became too high and we were unable to meet face to face once again.

By this time, we were quite au fait with Zoom and had some great fun sessions. Cooking (and eating!) food is always a hit with the Scouts so Halloween Night Severed fingers hotdogs and Diwali Coconut Laddoo sweets went down a treat. But the overall favourite session this term was a demonstration by a chocolatier on how to temper chocolate and make Christmas chocolates.



Monday Scouts also showed their caring side by making Christmas Cards for the residents of the nursing home where Adrian, our Section Assistant, worked. The Scouts were upset to hear that not only were the residents not allowed visitors due to the pandemic, but also they were not allowed Christmas decorations, apart from Christmas Cards.

Spring term was great fun as we made model sailing boats, made a cloud in a bottle and did many fun quizzes and silly games (how many layers of clothes could you put on in a minute?). We had an online visitor from an animal rescue centre and shared some very interesting facts as well as cute videos of rabbits, cats, dogs and horses. We all then introduced our pets in our Zoom meeting! We also had a Camp at Home and achieved our Naturalist Badge during this.

As fun as our Zoom meetings were, we were all longing to get back to face to face Scouting, so in April it was a huge relief that we were all able to meet up again, all be it with strict safety rules. Who knew that playing football where you couldn't move from your chair could be so much fun!? Adding 5 balls helped to add to the craziness!! We were able to get back to basics and learnt how to light fires and also did some out of this world experiments for our astronautics badge. Designing and launching a rocket for an Egg-stronaut was a blast!!!

In June we were finally allowed to go on walks again, so we combined awarding Gold Awards with a walk at New Fancy. Despite all the obstacles that this year threw at us, I am really proud that 4 of our Scouts achieved the Chief Scout Gold Award this year.



Wednesday Scouts

Wednesday Scouts started November 2020 back on zoom with a good turn out each week, we made Christmas origami, where Scouts all made their own interpretations of books marks and for the last session before

Christmas we were joined by Rhythmicity for a Christmas rhythmical session which was enjoyed by all. Over Christmas a couple of older Scouts left deciding not to go on to Explorers, one achieving his Gold award.

In January we returned to Zoom scouting, where we discovered it is far easier to teach map reading and have map reading quizzes online than in person, for some of the older Scouts, their route planning for the expedition hike in May was also online. We continued online until Easter with a variety of activities covering Activity and Challenge badges, we also took part as a Troup in Kahoutek, which last year was held online, normally this is an event for Bristol and Avon Scouts. A number of Scouts took part in the virtual Shirehike and Cotswold Marathon.

Eventually in April we returned to face-to-face scouting with lots of eagers Scouts. Standing like you were 'stuck in the mud' seemed to be the way to visually show 2 meters apart!

With light nights and good weather, we made the most of the outdoors, walking, trangier cooking, fires, raft building and also indoor climbing at the Ladies College in Cheltenham thanks to the Gloucestershire Climbing team. At the end of the summer term, one Scout achieved his Gold Award and moved on to Explorers.

We are now a troop of 16 Scouts due to Scouts swapping groups and Cubs moving up to Scouts. For me ending the summer term with a new leader to start September was a big relief and very, very welcome, and I would like to thank Claire for moving from Cubs to Scouts to be part of the Wednesday Scouts leadership team, Jessie is now a leader and helping as much as possible around her foundation degree course, we also welcomed Issy to join Alina as our two young leaders.

September 2021 saw a more traditional start to the year, the first half term has been spent mainly outside making the most of the lit covered area, although we did find out it does get very muddy in torrential rain, but this did not stop our jacket potatoes and toasted malt loaf around the fire. This term also saw the return of the trash converter to Beaver Lodge, thank you to Kerry for organising, we litter picked around Parkend and were surprised by the amount of cigarette ends we found.

We have been working towards the Geocaching and Meteorology badges, which scouts have enjoyed. Thank you to all scouts and parents for your continued support. A very big thank you to Claire, Jessie, Issy and Alina for helping to organise and run an enjoyable and varied program for our Scouts and not forgetting Kieran for being there virtually on Zoom every Wednesday.

Tracy, on behalf on Wednesday Leadership Team

Awards

During the year Leaders had their length of service recognised. 3 were recognised by the Award for Merit for good service to Scouting over a number of years. The Commissioners Commendations was a thank you from the retiring District Commissioner for their work in the District and The Chief Scout's Commendation was for the leadership shown during the lockdown in keeping the interest of cubs within the group and district with ideas and meetings on line.

5 Years' service

Steve McAuliffe Chair, Executive Committee



15 Years' Service

Alison Buttery Section Leader, Beavers



25 Years' Service

Stephanie Ovens Group Administrator



30 Years' Service

Gareth Ovens Group Scout Leader



Commissioners Commendation

Ang Healy Section Leader, Tuesday Cubs
Lily Hough Assistant Section Leader, Tuesday Cubs
Gareth Ovens Group Scout Leader



Chief Scouts Commendation

Ang Healy Section Leader, Tuesday Cubs



Good Service awards: Award for Merit

Diane Ruck Group Treasurer
Tracy Lashford Section Leader, Wednesday Scouts
Steve Crick Section Leader, Tuesday Scouts



Brian Wingfield
Team Leader District Awards Panel

The last 12 months have been very different from any that I have experienced during my time in scouting even when we had a major outbreak of polio in our District which shut many of our groups for a short time.

The Executive meetings were either by electronic correspondence or by video; the main substance of the meetings was the decisions regarding the finances to keep the Lodge and its grounds ready for when the sections could restart.

We had planned the date and time of the AGM for 2020, the Executive met and approved the accounts and the annual report ready for the AGM but another lockdown was in place and by the time the restrictions were lifted the year was almost over and the members of the Executive agreed in common with many other organisations to carry on to the next AGM.

The Executive at times struggles because there are numerous things that need to be done, the purpose of the Executive as Trustees is to ensure that we are financially sound and that monies we receive is used to the best advantage for the young people and to keep Beaver Lodge and its Grounds safe and tidy for the young people and to support the leaders.

During the next couple of years some of our young people will have the opportunity to travel to other countries and they will need our support, the last jamboree cost each member £4,000 which they needed to raise with support from the group. The Group has encouraged parents to sign up to Gift Aid on subscriptions this enables the Group to support the young people when needed.

The Scouts, Cubs and Beavers are represented on the Executive by Leaders from these sections but what we lack is the expertise of parents, we are not asking them to tie knots or spend the night under canvas but you can if you want, it is important that we seek parents views.

The Executive meets 4 -5 times a year and if you would like to find out more about becoming a member there is some online training which helps you understand your role as well as support from the groups training advisor. If you would like to know more please contact me.

Brian Wingfield
Group Secretary

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE held by E-mail

22nd November 2020

Members Contacted

Gareth Ovens (Group Scout Leader), Brian Wingfield (Secretary), Steve McAuliffe (Chair)
Diane Ruck (Treasurer), Alison Buttery, Ang Healy, Leah Holse and Steve Crick.

1. The Executive Committee members as Trustees are able to approve the Annual Accounts and Report which can then be sent to the Charity Commissioners and District as they are only adopted at the AGM.
2. This means that if we held an Executive meeting during November we could approve the accounts and report and submit them within the normal timescale.
3. We could then delay the AGM till February / March when it may be possible to hold it face to face and then be able to adopt the accounts and report and hold the elections etc.
4. The above arrangement was agreed by members of the Executive by e-mail as the new lockdown measures which the Scout Association reviewed on the 4th November, as a result face to face meeting cannot be held.
5. The Secretary during the preceding month had received reports from the section leaders together with a copy of accounts.
6. A draft copy was sent to members of the Executive for comments; a final copy was sent to members on the 19th November and on the 22nd November the Secretary received approval from the members of the Executive by e-mail.
7. The members of the Group Council were informed through OSM that a copy had been placed on the Group Web site with any comments to the Chair or GSL, copies had also been sent to the District, County and County Commissioner.

With the Government and Scout Association regulations regarding lockdown in place for a number months at the next meeting of the Executive members in keeping with most organisations agreed to continue in post until the AGM in 2021.

1st ROYAL FOREST SCOUT GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26th November 2021

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd November 2020**
- 4. To receive the Accounts**
- 5. To receive the Annual report of the Group**
- 6. To elect the Group Treasurer and Group Secretary**
- 7. To approve the Group Scout Leaders nomination of the Group Chair**
- 8. To Confirm Ex-officio members of the Executive**
- 9. Election of members of the Council to the Group Executive Committee**
- 10. Group Scout Leaders nomination to the Group Executive committee**
- 11. The Group Scout Leader**
- 12. The Acting District Commissioner**
- 13. Awards and Presentations**
- 14. Close of meeting**

First Royal Forest Scout Group

Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

Receipts	£	Payments	£
Interest Deposit Account	0.33	Electricity/Gas	1,375.70
Fund Raising (Deposit A/c) *		Badges	997.00
Subscriptions cheque	48.00	Water	136.14
Subscriptions cash		Rent/Hire	-
Subscriptions - Standing Orders	11,118.55	Phone/internet	532.64
Lodge Hire	1,313.70	Capitation	5,644.00
Grants (FODDC & Rotary)	25,973.76	Insurance	1,770.91
Events/Camps/Sleepovers	610.40	Transfer to Deposit A/c	
Fund Raising (Current A/c)	153.64	Camps & Activities	1,890.86
Gift Aid - HMRC	2,415.75	Waste Removal	661.82
Log Books/Uniform	74.40	Section Resources	358.94
Training		Misc	921.00
Insurance rebate		Uniforms	572.54
Donations	250.00	Adult Camp Exps	
Unbanked cheques		Refunded Camp/sub fees	
Cash held by Treasurer		Adult Training	-
	0.00	Equipment	4,021.87
		Repairs/Maintenance	6,751.40
Income 20/21	41,958.53	Expenditure 20/21	25,634.82
Profit for year	16,323.71		
2020 Balances		2021 Balances	
Balance at HSBC as at 31st August 2020 - Current Account	2,986.29	Balance at HSBC Bank as at 31 August Current account	8,997.66
Balance at HSBC as at 31st August 2020 Deposit Account	4,433.18	Balance HSBC Deposit as at Bank 31 August 2021	4,433.51
Balance at Lloyds Bank current account as at 31st August 2020	504.04	Balance at Lloyds Current account as at 31.08.21	10,816.05
Balances at 31st August 2021	7,923.51		24,247.22
Transfer from Deposit account	1,000.00	Transfers to Lloyds Bank Account	1,000.00

Compatibility Report for May reconciliation.xls
Run on 18/04/2020 09:59

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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

1ST ROYAL FOREST SCOUT GROUP

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/08/2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2021.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

my Teague

Date:

16/12/2021

Name:

MRS MAREN TEBBAGE

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:

DONEDGNE PARKEND
LYDNEY GLD
GL15 4JR

FIRST ROYAL FOREST SCOUT GROUP
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

INCOME

Dep A/c Interest	£0.45
Subscriptions	£11,166.55
Lodge Hire	£1,313.70
Events/Camps	£610.40
HMRC Gift Aid	£2,415.75
FODDC Grants	£25,973.76
Fund Raising	£153.64
Donations	£250.00
Uniform	£20.00
Badges	£19.00
Log Books	£35.40

£41,958.65

BANK ACCOUNTS

Balances b/fwd	
HSBC C/A	£ 2,986.29
LLOYDS C/A	£ 504.04
LLOYDS DEPOSIT A/C	£ 4,433.06
PROFIT FOR YEAR	£ 16,323.83
	£ 24,247.22

EXPENSES

Repairs & Maint	£ 6,751.40
Electricity/Gas	£1,375.70
Badges	£997.00
Phone/Internet	£532.64
Capitation	£5,644.00
Insurance	£1,770.91
Camps/Activities	£1,890.86
Waste Removal	£661.82
Section Resources	£358.94
Miscellaneous	£921.00
Equipment	£4,021.87
Water Rates	£136.14
Uniforms	£572.54
	£25,634.82
PROFIT FOR YEAR	£16,323.83

£41,958.65

The accounts have been prepared from information and explanations furnished to me and I hereby certify them as correct

M J Teague

MERYL TEAGUE

Doneldene, Parkend Lydney

15th December 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

1ST ROYAL FOREST SCOUT.....SCOUT GROUP/DISTRICT/COUNTY/AREA SCOUT COUNCIL

I report on the accounts of the Group/District/County/Area for the year ended 31/8/2021.....
which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes set out on pages.....

This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Group's/District's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Charities Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Group/District and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *):

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ;and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply

Name: MAI TEAGUE MAI TEAGUE

Qualification:

Address: DONOVAN
PARKWAY LONDON ROAD GLIS 4 5R

Date: 16/12/2021