



AGM & Annual Report  
January – December 2020



**1<sup>ST</sup> Lower Morden Scout Group**  
Registered Charity No 303787  
**Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020**

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**Section Meeting Times**

Beavers (6 – 8 years)	Tuesday	5.45 – 6.45 pm
Cubs (8 - 10½ years)	Tuesday	7.00 – 8.30 pm
Scout Troop (10½ - 14 years)	Thursday	7.15 – 9.00 pm

Any boy or girl wishing to join Beavers, Cubs or Scouts should contact one of the Leaders.

## **OFFICERS/LEADERS**

Group Scout Leader	Andrew Hayward
Beaver Leadership Team	Nicky Hayward Tracy Eaton Ashleigh Cadman Iva Valkanova Helena Davey (Helper)
Cub Scout Leadership Team	Andrew Hayward Peter Mead Bob McNally Brian Penders Delene De Haas Grace File (Young Leader)
Scout Troop Leadership Team	David Williams Bob McNally Luke Cadman

## **Executive Committee**

Chair	Terrie Jerrom
Secretary	Donna Murray
Treasurer	Martin Knight
Other Members	Jeff Walters, Rachel Sibson, David Collins, Keith Ridgeway

**Bankers:** Lloyds Bank plc.  
Blackheath London Branch  
PO Box 1000  
BX1 1LT

**Auditor:** Rayvathi Katzanos

Scout Association Group Registration No: 46746  
Charity Registration No: 303787

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

The Accounts have been drawn up on an income and expenditure basis.

**1<sup>st</sup> LOWER MORDEN SCOUT GROUP**  
**Charity Number 303787**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on**  
**Tuesday, 7 July 2020 at 7 p.m.via Zoom.**

**Present:** Group Executive Committee                      Group Leaders                      Parents and Friends  
                  Rob Brumwell – District Chairman                      Deborah Carter – District Commissioner  
                  Alsion Edwards – ADC Leader Training                      Tim Kerridge – ADC Scouts  
                  Michelle McNamara – ADC Cubs                      Owen Purcell - ADC Beavers

**Meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m.**

**1. Welcome**

Andrew opened the Meeting by welcoming everyone. He usually reads a prayer but this time decided to read a letter received from the Chief Scout, Bear Grylls.

*In 1907, a new movement was born on Brownsea Island, in Poole Harbour Dorset – one that would bring skills, adventure and friendships to millions of young people around the world today.*

*It was on that small island that Robert Baden-Powell founded the Scouts, taking a small group of young people from diverse backgrounds, with the goal to learn about the great outdoors, and show that we had more in common than divides us.*

*Since that first camp, Scouting has grown year on year to become today a worldwide family, some 54 million strong, across almost every nation on earth. It is, without doubt, one of the greatest youth movements in history.*

*The clear purpose back then (and still today) was to unite and inspire young people to learn how to celebrate their differences, to love and protect the outdoor world, to serve communities, and to be empowered with skills for life. And that is the legacy of the Scouts that lives and breathes today.*

*It is in our nature, as Scouts, to endeavour to be open, respectful, and compassionate to all, and to be leaders of determination and integrity.*

*That's why those first Scouts, and the ones that followed, made a promise to be kind and helpful. It is the very heart of what we do.*

*This last week, people have expressed much confusion and anger at the possible removal of a statue of Lord Baden-Powell in Poole. To me, and many Scouts around the world, Brownsea Island, (the place that the statue looks out on), is a reminder of that great Scouting vision, that has since helped so many young people gain vital, life-enhancing skills for their own futures.*

*As Scouts, we most certainly do not celebrate Baden-Powell for his failings. We see them and we acknowledge them. And if he were here today we would disagree with him on many things, of that there is no doubt. And I suspect he would too.*

*But we also recognise that Baden-Powell is part of our history, and history is nothing if we do not learn from it. So we also acknowledge Baden-Powell's vision, and I truly am so grateful to him for starting the Scouts - a living, breathing, modern movement that has immense power to unite and inspire people.*

*This is why I whole-heartedly stand beside the righteous anger unleashed by the killing of George Floyd, and together we must all do what we can to right the awful injustices that BAME communities live with every day.*

*And it's right that we take time to listen, to educate ourselves, and reflect on our movement's history. We need the humility to recognise there are times when the views and actions from our Scouting's past do not always match the values we live by today. We must learn, adapt, and improve.*

*Scouting, to me, is founded on this humility, and on listening and respecting others, especially communities that are vulnerable or oppressed. Inclusion and acceptance are at the heart of our Scouting values, and we are never afraid to call out language and behaviour that do not match those values.*

*I hope that as Scouts we are the anti-thesis of any hatred or polarisation that can come with social media. And when it comes to racism – indeed any form of discrimination or prejudice – our movement should be part of the solution, not the problem. We must be peace makers and unifiers.*

*Baden-Powell may have taken the first step in creating Scouting, but the journey continues today without him. We know where we came from but we are not going back. We are always looking forward, to a brighter future for our young people.*

*And as for the statue of Baden-Powell? Well, my hope is that Scouting statues in the future will be there to remind us all of one thing: the huge positive influence that Scouting continues to bring to so many young people worldwide. And long may that continue.*

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Jeff Walters and Rachel Sibson

## **3. Minutes of AGM 2019.**

**Approval** - These were accepted as a true record. Peter Mead.

**Matters Arising** – No matters arising.

## **4. Treasurer's Report**

Please see a copy of the Treasurer's report in the Annual Report emailed out for this AGM, Accounts pages 4 and 5. The accounts have been audited. We have no financial issues.

## **5. Section Reports**

Individual reports for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts had been circulated as part of the Annual Report. Again, if you have any queries on these reports, please ask the Section Leader. David Collins, Parent Representative on the Executive Committee, thanked the Leaders for managing to keep Section Meetings going over the last 14 weeks of lockdown due to Covid-19. They have done an amazing job. Terrie Jerrom, Chair of the Executive Committee, also thanked the Leaders for all their hard work during this difficult time.

## **6. Group Scout Leader's Report**

Andrew thanked everyone for joining the Zoom AGM Meeting which the current lockdown situation had forced upon us. Thank you also to the distinguished Leaders who have joined in this Meeting.

2019 had been a difficult year personally for Andrew as well as 2020. Let us hope 2021 will be better.

He also thanked the Leadership Team and Executive Committee for their help through this difficult time, as well as David, Mike and Alan for keeping the grounds tidy.

2019 had been a very good year for the Group and all details are in the Report.

## **7. Group Scout Leader's Nomination of Group Chair**

Mrs Jerrom was re-appointed as Group Chair.

## **8. Resignations**

Mrs Jerrom said it was unusual to receive Resignations, but Evelyn Steele had decided to stand down as Group Secretary.

## **9. Election of Group Secretary**

Donna Murray has agreed to take up this position in the Group. Proposed - Andrew Hayward

Seconded - Martin Knight

## **10. Election of Group Officers and Group Executive Committee Members**

Treasurer - Martin Knight

Parent Representative - Rachel Sibson. David Collins

GSL's Representative – Jeff Walters

Proposed – Andrew Hayward

Seconded – David Williams

### **11. Appointment of Group Auditor**

Rayvathi Katzanas has been appointed Group Auditor.

Proposed – Andrew Hayward

Seconded – Evelyn Steele

### **10. Guest Speaker**

Deborah Carter, District Commissioner, mentioned that the last time she was with the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden was a celebration for the special Award Andrew had received to celebrate everything he had done while recuperating from cancer and how the Group had supported him. Lockdown happened after this celebration.

Scouting is about teaching the youngsters skills for life.

Deborah was delighted how the Leaders had adapted to virtual meetings overnight as well as new technology and new games. Each and every one of us were not prepared for lockdown, no advance warning or training. We were all learning together and sharing things that worked and those that did not. Deborah said she was full of pride for all her Leaders. They had shown the true Scouting spirit. Thank you to the Parents for allowing Scouting to be in their front rooms with Parents helping in a way not expected. If any of the Parents had enjoyed their time with their children during these Zoom meetings and would like to help further, please let Andrew know.

We are now at Amber and looking to see how we can go back to delivering some face to face Scouting. No large groups – anything outside must be risk assessed – and we will need help in delivering this.

The Group's HQ are spotless and everyone can see how good it looks.

Be patient with each other, be kind and thoughtful.

Thank you to all of you for helping each other to keep safe.

### **11. Chair's Remarks**

Mrs Jerrom thanked the Executive and Leaders for all the work they have done this last year. Thank you to Andrew for organising grants and working around the hall. Have a lovely Summer everyone.

### **12. Any Other Business**

None.

The Meeting closed at 7.32 p.m.

A Virtual Magic Show followed the AGM with Magician Paul Fowler which everyone who stayed with Zoom enjoyed.

At the end of the show the following took place:

- Beavers - Nicky Hayward (ROO) thanked the Beavers for joining the meetings every week and hope they had some fun.
- Scouts/Explorers - David Williams (Cobra) thanked the Scouts for joining the meetings and hopefully these will continue over the summer months.
- Beavers - Tracy Eaton (Koala) said it was lovely to see the Beavers having fun over the last few months.
- Cubs - Bob McNally (Baggy) said he looks forward to getting back to face-to-face meetings.
- Cubs - Peter Mead (Kaa) said a special 'thank you' to Cobra for standing in while he and Andrew were unable to attend Meetings.

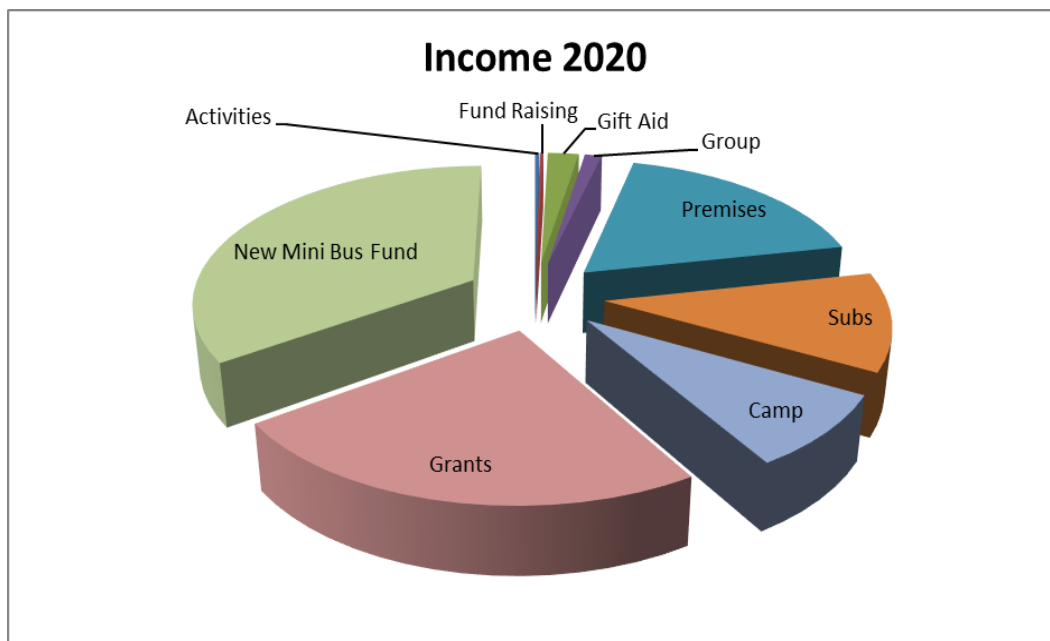
## 1st Lower Morden Scout Group Year Ending 31 December 2020

<b>Bank Account</b>			<b>20598.56</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b>			<b>16010.75</b>
<b>Income</b>	Beavers		135.00
	Camp		
		Feb Survival	630.00
		France 2020	2080.00
		May Cub Camp	70.00
		Refund Spain 2021	1500.00
		Spain 2021	300.00
		Virtual Beavers October	120.00
	Cubs		0.00
	Donations		508.74
	Fundraising		120.99
	Gift Aid		1183.85
	Grant		
		Government Covid-19 income	10000.00
		Jack Petchy Award	250.00
		Merton 2nd lockdown grant	1334.00
		MVSC income for insurance expenses	1850.00
	Group		87.00
	Investiture Fees		85.00
	New Mini Bus Fund		
		Donations Minibus	400.00
		Leiver's Trust minibus	5000.00
		Misc - mini bus	140.85
		TFL Scrappage	7000.00
		W & W Scout Loan	7000.00
	Rental Income 2020		10088.38
	Scouts		30.00
	Sharks ESU subs		257.88
	Stores		23.00
	Subs		6015.00
	T Shirts income		35.00
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>56244.69</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	AGM exp		100.00
	Badge Account		50.00
	Beavers exp		765.08
	Camp		

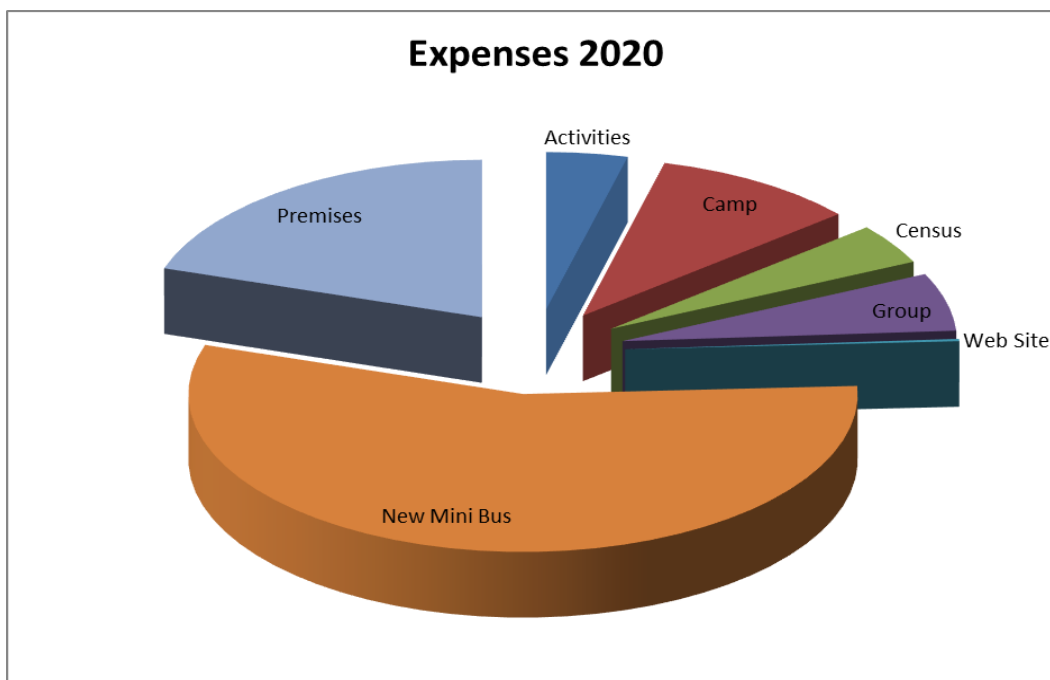
		Feb Survival expenses	643.97
		France 2020 expenses	3282.00
		France 2020 refund	450.00
		May expenses	70.00
		Spain 2021 refund	560.00
		Virtual Beavers expenses	120.00
	Celebration 14 March 2020		139.72
	Census		2142.00
	Christingle 2020		10.50
	Cubs exp		903.80
	Grant expenses		
		MVSC insurance expenses	1850.00
	Group exp		2095.32
	Mini Bus		
		Diesel	102.38
		Motor Insurance / tax refund	-199.14
	New Mini Bus		
	New - misc	New - misc	107.68
	New motor insurance	New motor insurance	1206.65
	New petrol	New petrol	20.00
	New road tax	New road tax	165.00
	Portable garage	Portable garage	656.89
	Purchase price	Purchase price	19794.00
	W & W Scout loan repayment	W & W Scout loan repayment	7000.00
	Premises 2020		
		Alarm System	156.08
		Boiler	90.00
		British Telecom	145.29
		Cleaning 2020	95.00
		Electricity Octopus 2020	111.82
		Electricity 2020 SSE	1236.53
		Gas 2020 Npower	508.50
		HQ Signs	416.40
		Insurance	213.74
		Lights	2851.20
		London & Surrey Gas	90.00
		Misc - premises	424.52
		Padlocks / keys	105.00
		Projector screen	138.00
		SES Water	264.00
		Shed	1054.80
		Taps	561.92

	Scouts exp	499.26
	Tents	351.89
	Website costs	121.60
	Zoom	185.48
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>5165.88</b>
<b>Closing balance</b>		<b>20598.56</b>

**Income – Where the Money Came From**



**Expenditure – Where the Money Went**



## REPORTS FROM SECTIONS

### **BEAVERS**

Well, 2020 started out normally but little did we know what was about to hit us! I've faced a fair few challenges in my 25 years as a beaver Leader – no children, shortage of leaders, shortage of space, no money, etc but the past year topped it all!

Here is a quick overview of our very different but fun year.

We started the year with an amazing District trip to Kidzania taking over 200 Beavers (including nearly all our colony and all our leaders). A great time was had by all with a few leaders feeling slightly envious that we had nothing like this when we had children!

Lockdown hit in March but in no time at all we had set up challenges via our parent's Whatsapp group and within a couple of weeks thanks to Baloo we were running our weekly meetings on Zoom. We managed to adapt our programme, turning the houses of our young people upside down with the various challenges that we set. We got the Beavers cooking (I remember arm-pit fudge being a success!), growing vegetables and plants, learning new skills, and playing a variety of different games. We were the Group that instigated putting the rainbows in the windows and this was picked up on by the District and proved a great success.

We clapped for carers in our uniform some weeks and were out in force, again in our uniform, clapping on St George's day/ All these pictures were uploaded and shared around our Whatsapp group and we found this really helped the young people remain positive.

The outcome after the lockdowns was amazing. We kept our numbers, invested new members whilst following the social distancing rules and kept the children in contact with their friends. The thanks and positive comments from the parents are something I will always remember and the many armfuls of badges earned over lockdown will forever be a reminder to the beavers as to what is possible and can be achieved even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Thanks to Owen, the Assistant District Commissioner for Beavers, for the regular monthly meetings that helped to keep the beaver leaders all motivated, to Baloo for his IT skills (and to Helena who was also an IT whizz) on Zoom that enabled us to meet online. Thank you to the whole group and the leadership team for simply being amazing over the last year!

Nicky Hayward (Roo)

### **cubs**

As you all know 2020 was a very challenging year for everyone – not just cubs but with the leadership team we have we were determined that we would focus on what we could do rather than what we couldn't.

The first 2 months of the year were spent undertaking normal badge work but come March 2020 we moved our programme online. This was done within hours of lockdown being announced as we were determined to keep our cubs active and engaged. I am pleased and proud to say that the majority of the pack joined in with the online meetings and activities but those who weren't comfortable with online meetings were not excluded as we also offered an offline programme too.

Both our online and offline programmes were a great success. We had various external visitors such as a Lego evening, a drama evening, birds of prey, the history man, magic nights as well as our own online programme. This was undertaken along with our own Group Challenge (that all sections could work for) as well as undertaking the Home Adventure Challenges originally devised by our neighbouring County – Greater London South but amended to suit our needs. We also undertook the District Christmas Challenge, the Prince of Wales Challenge and also the Cub Naturalist badge which is one of the harder and longer cub badges to earn. All these badges could be earned on and offline so no-one missed out. We also shared our programmes, ideas and challenges around the District to help other packs and groups with their own online/offline offering.

Even though we hardly met in person I can testify that the Cubs earned approximately 500 badges between them over the course of the last year. A fantastic achievement and one they should feel very proud of. I know myself and the cub leadership team are. The cubs and their families also joined in with our own virtual St George's Day Service and the Christmas Christingle Service.

Numbers increased over the last year too and in my positions as Group Scout Leader as well as the 'unofficial Akela' I was delighted and very, very proud. This is down to the hard work undertaken by the cub leadership team to ensure that despite Covid and the lockdowns we were going to keep our young people active, engaged and Scouting. The results proved that we did the right thing and this has continued as numbers have grown even further as restrictions eased. I am so proud of them and also our cubs. They kept the faith, embraced a different way of Scouting, made the most of things and quite simply did their best.

In closing I would like to record my thanks to the cubs and their parents who stayed with us during a very difficult and hard year but also to the Cub Leadership Team of Peter (Kaa), Bob (Baggy) and Brian (Ikki) plus other Group Leaders who joined in with the pack over the course of 2020.

Andrew Hayward (Baloo)

## **SCOUTS**

This is a unique report one which I never thought I would have to write. We were riding high on our win in the District Football Competition when the first lockdown hit us. Meetings reverted to Zoom for a time when we tried to get an understanding on what has happened and how to continue to meet.

Scouting is essentially an outdoor, hands on, face to face movement. The young people have had to cope with unprecedented challenges. The last thing most of them need would be more time stuck in front of a computer screen. The same applies to us!

We had the singular honour of being the first Section in the District to reopen last August. Risk assessments were drawn up, the hall cleaned and signs went up in abundance. The other groups followed in our wake!

Our time together continued until a further lockdown in November.

We are now preparing to return on the 1st of April and new plans and games have been drawn up to welcome the Scouts back. We will meet outside before the rules are hopefully relaxed and we can venture indoors again.

Scouting activities in the District will return too and the troop can enter and take part again in the number of events that are put on for us.

This has been a difficult time for all of us. I hope that with the return to face to face scouting we will be able to recover and improve our mental health.

We have a trip planned to Wales in the summer as international trips are not permitted this year. I hope this will go ahead as the water sports centre looks good fun!

We are volunteers and never has our resolve been tested so much. My thanks goes to Baggy and Luke who have tirelessly volunteered alongside me.

We will now rebuild and take the Troop forward. Good times ahead!

Since Easter, the Troop have been meeting face to face every week. We have been practicing our fire lighting skills, some axemanship and trying to co-operate on team challenges. We have also been visited by a juggler who showed the Scouts the best way to throw scarves in the air, as well as using the Diabolo and Unicycle.

A District Cyclocross is planned at the end of May and District Sports Day on the 17th of July.

We hope that the good weather and relaxing of restrictions will mean that we can venture out and plan more trips.

David Williams (Cobra)

### **Group Chair's Report**

The last sixteen months has been a challenge to us all at home, work, school and in scouting. Needless to say our wonderful leadership team have worked strenuously to keep scouting going for all the young people who benefit from our group. This has not always been easy with online meetings to socially distanced meetings outside at Bow Lane, but we've got through this together and scouting continued and thrived.

Everyone involved gives their time to make your children's scouting lives a positive experience for them. All 4 sections are led by people who strive to provide opportunities for all our young people to develop skills and encourage them to have high aspirations. So I make no apology for using this opportunity yet again to thank them all.

Last year we set ourselves the challenge to purchase a new minibus, which we did, now we look forward to arranging activities that will see the bus in regular use. The HQ at Bow Lane has been kept in excellent repair and is a pleasure to visit. I would like to take opportunity to thank David Williams who sorted out a vast quantity of items that had collected at the HQ, rather than disposing of it, he has created a room full of fascinating reports, photographs and items that celebrate the history of scouting at Bow Lane.

Finally, I would like to finish this report with a special thank you to Andrew Hayward our GSL, who has continued to lead the group with enthusiasm and great determination throughout this year.

Terrie Jerrom.

## **Group Treasurer's Report**

Report from the Group Treasurer Year Ending December 2020.

The Group's Annual report and Accounts are presented on an income and expenditure basis. A copy of the audited accounts will be displayed on the notice board. There are no financial issues arising from the accounts.

Rayvathi Katzanos independently audits the accounts. We are grateful for her carrying out this work voluntarily.

I would like to point out the following from the accounts.

- Gift Aid this year raised £1,183.85.
- Government Covid-19 Lockdown grants received £11,334.00
- Major expenditure was the purchase of a new Mini- Bus. Purchase Price £19,794.00. We received £7000 from the TFL Scrappage Scheme for the old Mini- Bus.
- Thank you to all those who have completed the necessary Gift Aid form. If you have not already completed a form, can you please reconsider as this brings in a substantial amount to the Group? If you require a form, please contact your Group Leader.

Thank you to all the Officers and Leaders for their support during the last year.

Martin Knight  
Group Treasurer



## **Group Scout Leader's Report**

Well, what can I say about the last 12 months? It was a year unlike any other any of us have experienced and a year we hope we never have to experience again! I firmly believe that while it was a year that mostly kept us apart, it was also a year that brought us all much closer and together than we have ever been before. I also believe not only has this benefited us personally but also the community and Scouting.

Usually in my annual reports, I comment that our 'mission' at the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden has always been to ensure that our members continue to receive the best possible Scouting that they can and that the programme we offer will always continue to be inclusive, exciting, challenging, action packed and rewarding, I am happy and confident that even during an extremely year, this remains true. The majority of our meetings had to take place online but nonetheless we carried on Scouting throughout 2020. We had an online/offline programme ready to go within hours of lockdown being announced which then developed into our own Lockdown Challenge Badge available for all sections to earn. We then used the South London Home Adventure Challenge as a basis for our programmes which complemented the 'normal' programme we offer. Between them all sections have earned the best part of 700 badges! That's a lot of sewing...!

I won't lie and say that it was easy. It wasn't. It was tough but as a result of our endeavours our membership grew. In lockdown where face to face meetings couldn't take place. That was an amazing achievement and one not many groups locally, London wide or nationally can boast. But we can. Young people decided to join us here because of the extremely varied and active programmes that the leaders in

all 3 sections planned and implemented in 2020. We were there for our young people. We did our best and I am extremely proud of my team and the hard work they put it in. This success is one we should all be proud of.

We were also the first land Scout group that returned to face-to-face Scouting after Lockdown 1 in our Scout County - Greater London South West. This was only thanks due to hard work put in by David Williams that enabled all 3 sections to return into a brave new world. As an outward looking and forward-thinking group, we happily shared the challenges we had devised and undertook, best practices that we had learned ourselves and also gleaned from the wider world of scouting! There were so many different Zoom visits we could undertake and that really helped ease the burden on the leadership team and hopefully other groups too. We wanted to offer whatever support we could to other groups in the District. We ran our own Easter Egg Hunt that was a runaway success and also got the District involved too! I think we won the challenge to get the Easter Egg posters as far as possible from Morden with posters appearing in California and also in Christchurch, New Zealand! That's 11, 792 miles away!! Beat that!

At times like this it is all about the Family of Scouting and ensuring we all pull together for the good of our young people. Another case of the 'First Never Following' but 'Leading The Way!'

We also used the lockdowns to do a lot of work in and amongst our HQ and grounds and it is pleasing to see the place looking a lot brighter! We also took over that large outbuilding that was formally the County Gang Show costume store and we are now working on plans to develop it further. We had to replace substandard electrics (for which the Gang Show cannot be blamed for) and now need to tackle a damp issue and to also replace the floor. Plans include turning it into a shooting gallery or an additional meeting venue. This project and others we have planned will cost money and will take time and effort to undertake. If there are any volunteers out there who may be able to help us in completing the various projects that we are currently undertaking, please contact me. Likewise, if you think that you have a skill or a talent that you think might be useful to the group (practical, fund- raising, administrative etc) then please also get in touch with me or the leadership team. *Whatever* you can do and offer will be appreciated and welcomed!

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the entire leadership team at the 1<sup>st</sup> Lower Morden. The success of this Group is down to them. We all bring something different to the Group and it is their talents that have made this Group what it is. I am also pleased to welcome 2 new Section Assistants Delene & Iva to the Group plus Grace who is undertaking the Young Leader Scheme with us. Nicky, Ashleigh, Tracy, Iva, Helena, Peter, Bob, Delene, Brian, David, Luke & Grace thank you so much for your support, zoom expertise, patience and understanding. We got through this TOGETHER.

Likewise, the Group would not be where it is without the continuing support from the Group's Executive Committee – thank you David C, Keith, Rachel, Jeff, Martin, Donna and our Chair, Terrie Jerrom. Thanks also should go to *their* partners and families for *their* support too. If you have a talent and would like to get involved on the 'admin' side, then please make yourself know and come and join us. We're a friendly bunch and we are always on the lookout for new blood!

Finally, a huge thank you should also go to you - the parents, supporters and the Beavers, Cubs & Scouts. Without you and your children our hard work would be wasted. You encouraged them to join us on our online meetings and supported them with the various challenges we gave them last year. I am proud that as a Group, we rose to the challenge, put our young people first and kept them engaged, interested and challenged. Thank you for the privilege of letting us teach, instruct and work with your sons and daughters. Together, we will all work to build on our successes and put the young people first and give them the best Scouting experience possible.

Andrew Hayward (Baloo)