

A scenic mountain landscape with two boys in the foreground and a small airplane icon in the sky. The background features a valley with a village, green fields, and forested slopes, surrounded by high, rocky mountains with patches of snow under a blue sky with scattered clouds. In the foreground, two boys are standing on a grassy hillside. The boy on the left is wearing a black jacket over a red shirt and a blue and white striped scarf. The boy on the right is wearing a dark blue jacket and glasses. A wooden bench is visible in the lower foreground. A small icon of an airplane flying in the sky is located near the top center of the image.

EPSOM AIR SCOUTS

Annual Report

2024



Scouts

8th/14th Epsom
Air Scouts

(St Barnabas and St Joseph's)

AIR SCOUT GROUP







THE CONTENTS

The Group Prayer	5		
The Group's Details	6		
The Scout Association	7		
Our Group Structure	9		
The Team	10	1. Leaders	10
		2. The Trustees' Board	10
		3. Friends	10
Reports	12		
		1. Group Leader	11
		2. Beaver Scout Leader	19
		3. Cub Scout Leader	24
		4. Scout Leader	29
		5. Explorer Scout Leader	37
		6. 100 Club	42
		7. Chronology	43
		8. A Financial Overview	44
Examined Accounts	46		
District Shop Details	56		



Front Cover – Our Scouts high above Kandersteg International Scout Camp, Switzerland.





THE GROUP PRAYER

Almighty God, who has joined us together
in the fellowship of this Group,
help us to think fairly, do things bravely,
act kindly and to live cleanly.

Bless us in body and soul and give us strength
to keep our three-fold promise
so that by the lives we live,
we make the lives of others happy.

Amen





THE GROUP'S DETAILS

Epsom Air Scout Group is a branch of the "Scout Association" formed under Royal Charter. It operates under the Association's "Policy, Organisation and Rules". The Group is a Trust established under its rules that are common to all Groups and Districts. The Group's registration number is 12678.

SCOUT ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS:

Scout Association's Headquarters, Gilwell Park, Bury Road, Chingford, London, E4 7QW. Tel: 08453 001818.

GROUP HEADQUARTERS:

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Tel: 0300 012 3456.

GROUP INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

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THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION

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.

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.
- Cooperation - We make a positive difference; we cooperate with others and make friends.

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; and
- Make and live by their Promise.

THE SCOUT PROMISE

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God (to uphold Scout values) and to the King (the country in which I now live), to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.





THE SCOUT LAW

- 1 - A Scout is to be trusted.
- 2 - A Scout is loyal.
- 3 - A Scout is friendly and considerate.
- 4 - A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.
- 5 - A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
- 6 - A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
- 7 - A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

The Group admits members primarily from Epsom although some members come from further afield, particularly where there is no other Air Scout Group available. Although a small subscription is charged for membership, this covers no more than the immediate running costs of the Group and at less than £150 does not unduly restrict membership. The Group endeavours to obtain grants for those who could not otherwise afford to take part.





OUR GROUP STRUCTURE

The Group has responsibility for four youth Sections divided by age. In rising order, they are the Beaver Scouts, the Cub Scouts, the Scouts and the Explorer Scouts. Each Section has an adult Leader, and they have assistant Leaders. Each Section runs its own activities and keeps its own accounts with an appointed treasurer assisting.

A Group Scout Leader unifies the four Sections of the Group. He or she is responsible for all activities of the Group.

All interested parties in the Group are entitled to form the Group in Council. These people meet regularly once a year at the Annual General Meeting, and they elect a Trustees' Board to manage the Group. The Group Scout Leader appoints the Chairman of the Group in Council who also chairs the Board. Fundraising and Group support is organised by this committee in response to the demands placed on it by the Scouters who act in common through a further committee chaired by the Group Scout Leader.





THE TEAM

LEADERS IN THE GROUP

Group Scout Leader

Luke Jennings

Ass. Group Scout Leader

Graham Bailey
Howard Park

Beaver Scout Leader

Pippa Del Nevo

Ass. Beaver Scout Leader

Bob Clarke
Chiara Baldus
Elena Sweeney
Adrian Sancroft
Toby Grant YL
Pheobe Medcalf YL
Daniel Grant YL
Lexie Pearce YL

Cub Scout Leader

Richard Park

Ass. Cub Scout Leaders

James Merry
Alex Duval
Christian Barnes
(Bob Clarke)
(Chiara Baldus)
(Pippa Del Nevo)
Rupert Christie
Finn Macauley YL
Ziggy Herschel YL

Scout Leader

Paul Dawson

Ass. Scout Leader

Caroline Pearce
(Pippa Del Nevo)
Oliver Hagan

Explorer Scout Leader



(Paul Dawson)

Ass. Explorer Scout Leader




Holly Ginn
Sara Dawson
Dominic Dawson

GROUP TRUSTEES' BOARD

Ex-Officio


GSL (Luke Jennings) 
AGSL (Howard Park) 
(Graham Bailey)

Nominated

BSL (Pippa Del Nevo) 
CSL (Richard Park) 
SL/ESL (Paul Dawson) 
Chair Simon Pearce
Secretary Lindsay Hill-Bennett
Treasurer Justin Manly
Daniel Coleby
John Petersen

FRIENDS

100 Club (Howard Park)
Troop Helper Richard Denyer (ADC)
Camp Helpers Theresa Park
Katy Jennings
(Sarah Dawson)
(Justin Manly)
(Graham Bailey)
John Mortimer
Group Friends John Hughes ADC
Geoff Whitehead
Chaplain Canon William Davern
Cleaners (Toby Grant YL)
(Daniel Grant YL)
Keyholder Jayne McGhee
Examiner Sundry Sundaran
Legal Advisors Teddy Totman
John Flood
Editor (Howard Park)
Proof-reader Christine Turner

Leaders on the Board are marked 

Where we mention a person more than once, we bracket their name in subsequent entries.





THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GROUP SCOUT LEADER



Luke Jennings

Our Group has had another stellar year with such a variety of camps and activities. It is always so agreeable to recap on all the lovely adventures it had throughout the year.

Starting with Beaver Scouts, Bob Clarke our Akela stepped down from our Group after over 50 years helping with both Cub Scouts and often with our Beaver Scouts. Bob has been an integral part of 8th/14th Epsom for so many years and

people hold him in the highest regard. His experience will be greatly missed and we thank him for all he has done and contributed to our Group.

Pippa has led the Beaver Scout Colony magnificently, providing our Beaver Scouts with a range of new skills through badgework and pure out and out fun. Pippa, alongside Chiara, Bob and our young leaders, have helped start their Scouting journey and we hope they continue their Scouting enjoyment for many years to come through Cub Scouts and beyond. We now welcome on board

Adrian and Elena as new leaders to help strengthen the Colony.



Beaver Cooking





Our Cub Pack has been led by Richard Park (Akela) as his first year in charge and they have had a sterling year. We are lucky to have had many parent helpers join and support this section through Bob, Alex, Rupert, Christian and James – they all provide invaluable support that helps make the Pack run smoothly. They have had some very enjoyable experiences

through all their trips, the Christmas Fair, camps and activities. Richard summarises it very well in his report.

Our Scout Troop leadership has continued to revolve around Paul, Caroline and Pippa. Their wealth of experience has led to a hugely varied programme with so many activities



camps and trips. Some highlights have been the visit to Kandersteg in Switzerland, a Boidier Hurst camp and numerous trips including





Trooping the Colour, the Lord Mayor's Show and, of course, Flying! Our Scout section needs more leadership help so if you can help in any way or would like to know what it entails, please do let me know.

As many people are aware, our Scout Leader Paul stepped in when we had no Explorer leader to ensure the Unit continued to operate. A huge thanks to him as it has been extremely challenging juggling two sections alongside work and family commitments - he and his wife Sara have been simply amazing. The Unit creates their own weekly programme of activities supported by the leaders. Some highlights of the year were the UK and Jersey camps and flying in a four-seater



plane. Toby Grant also attended the Explorer Expedition to Belgium in 2023 which ran at the same time as the Jamboree. It sounded an amazing adventure!

Holly joined as an assistant leader and has fitted in well. Unfortunately, she is leaving the Group due to work opportunities, but we have really enjoyed her involvement in our Group.

The Explorer Unit is in desperate need of leadership help to continue operating so if you feel you can help in any way, even just for the occasional evening, please do let me know at gsl@epsomairscouts.org. We want to do everything we can to keep the section open.





The Jamboree selection process was held by ballot, and we were extremely fortunate to have three members of our Group selected to attend. It has been lovely seeing them all sharing their journey with other sections within the Troop and inspiring others to do the same in years to come. Their journey to South Korea sounded an amazing experience. Caroline visited Korea to help plan the activities for the UK contingent and visited and helped as the Jamboree was in progress. We all enjoyed hearing the stories and memories created!

As an RAF accredited Air Scout Troop and not having flown for some time, it was fantastic to finally get the Group flying again. This has been no mean feat getting past all the red tape and having relevant insurances in place so a huge thank you to Simon (Ziggy), our chairman of our Board of Trustees, Paul and John, our pilot, for making it happen.

It is wonderful to see so many awards being achieved. Not everyone



manages to get their Chief Scout's Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum or Diamond awards and they take a lot of work and dedication from both





Scouts and leaders so well done everyone. I have made sure that those who have achieved one of these awards have their names on our honours board in the main hall.

As I am sure you can see from the following reports there are so many activities going on, many of which take up evenings and often full weekends. Everyone's contribution is hugely appreciated, and we would love more people to come forward to help. We have great facilities and a pre-school which provides us with an income and there are so many roles behind the scenes as well as the more face to face scouting roles. If you think you can help in any way, please do contact me to find out more.

Finally, a few words of thanks to those in our Group.

Howard, our Assistant Group Scout Leader, has many roles in our Group, at District and at County level. He has been an integral part of our Group for so long and it was a huge privilege to see him be



Silver Wolf Howard's Scouting Family

presented his Silver Wolf this year, the highest honour in scouting. It is





an amazing achievement, and we thank him and his wife Theresa for all their support over so many years.

Also thank you to everyone else involved who are a huge part of our Group. From all the leaders and young leaders across all sections without

whom there would be no Group, Simon our chairman of our Board of Trustees who is really helping us make positive changes and push the Group



forward, to all the trustees including Justin Manly (our treasurer), Dan Coleby, Lindsay Hill-Bennett and John Petersen. Finally, to Jayne McGhee for managing all the hall bookings.

I look forward to what this year entails...

Luke Jennings
Group Leader





Kandersteg International Expedition





Kandersteg International Expedition





THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BEAVER SCOUT LEADER



This report highlights the achievements and activities of the Beaver Scout Section over the past year. I am hugely grateful to the adults and young leaders who have made all this possible.

Membership and Volunteer Leaders:

We have had just under a full Colony for most of the year, but we enter the next term at maximum numbers. Our

adult volunteer leadership team has undergone some changes this year. Bob Clarke, who has supported Beaver Scouts and our Young Leaders tremendously over the past few years, is now taking a well-deserved step back. We hope to still see him, from time to time, and at special events. We thank him for all he has done at a time when we were desperately in need. Phoebe Medcalf has moved from a Young Leader to an adult role, and we are delighted to welcome Elena Sweeney to the volunteer leadership team and thank her for her valuable contributions so far this year. We are also excited to welcome Adrian Sancroft, who has many years scouting experience, to the volunteer



The Great Bob Clarke





team. We continue to rely greatly on our Young Leaders: Toby Grant, Daniel Grant, and Lexie Pearce for the role they perform; bringing forward ideas, delivering meetings and generally looking after our Beaver Scouts. We are always looking to widen the volunteer team. Many of our parents now have a Scouting DBS and we would very much welcome their help at our Sectional meetings!



Achievements and Activities:

Skill Development:

Throughout the year, Beaver Scouts have participated in a wide range of activities aimed at developing essential life skills. They have enjoyed opportunities for cooking, washing up, camping, leadership, and teamwork exercises. Our Young Leaders have made huge personal developments this year in their leadership skills, and, with support, are often running a large proportion of our meetings. This is essential and valuable experience for our leaders of the future.

Community: Our Beaver Scouts have actively engaged in community service projects, such as the Great Help Out on the Coronation weekend, when we worked on the sensory garden at Polyapes Scout Campsite. We have also supported the Cub Scouts with their Christmas Food Bank collection by donating food and making and selling crafts.





The Beaver Scouts very much enjoyed learning about those who keep us safe, with a visit to the fire station. On Mother's Day, we invited parents and siblings to join us for a meeting where we undertook crafts, knots, and food decorating, as well as treating the parents to a performance of one of our camp fire songs.

Outdoor Adventures: Outdoor adventures remain an important part of our programme and we are always excited to get out and explore. The Beaver Scouts enjoyed a hike around Langley Vale Memorial walk and were able to learn about World War I, with Howard Park kindly showing the Beaver Scouts some family medals. We have also enjoyed outings to Hobbledown Adventure Farm Park, hikes in Horton Country Park and



participation in Beavers' Go Wild. This event saw us camping under canvas as part of the Surrey Scouts event and enjoying activities such as caving, zip lines, fire lighting and many others. We have also enjoyed a Summer Fun Day at Boidier Hurst with wide games, navigation tasks, tracking and cooking over a fire.





What we have learned: The Beaver Scouts learned about St George and used a puppet show to retell the story. We were pleased to welcome our Jamboree participants to tell us about their adventures in Korea and all about a jamboree. As a Colony, we have completed many badges including the Money badge and the Global Issues badge. We learned about Remembrance Day and joined the rest of the Group at the Service of Remembrance at St Barnabas Church. We made bird feeders and took part in the Great British Bird Watch. The Colony love working on their knots and this term we have some who have not only mastered reef knots and clove hitches, but figure of eight and the highwayman's hitch.

Awards: Numerous Beaver Scouts have been recognized for their outstanding achievements. The following obtained the highest award



possible, the Chief Scout's Bronze Award and will look forward to their names going on our Honours Board: Callum Munro, Bryn Buckeridge, Harry Edrupt, Jan Flis, Eleanor King, Jude Christie, Hunter Pang, Connor Brierley, Hugo Hesse, Ian Pardavila Hwang and Cian Graham.





We also congratulate our Young Leader, Toby Grant, who has been awarded with his Young Leader Belt, having undertaken all the training, and delivered four missions.

Looking Ahead:

As we look to the future, the Colony is in the healthy position of having a stable volunteer leadership team of adults and Young Leaders and a full membership of motivated Beaver Scouts. We extend our appreciation to those others who support us with the hall, organisationally and very importantly, with the money, specifically Luke Jennings, Howard Park and Justin Manly.

Pippa Del Nevo
Beaver Scout Leader



Beaver Fun





THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CUB SCOUT LEADER



Richard Park

This marks my first full year as Akela overseeing our Pack. We maintain a full Cub Scout Pack, with five sixes. It continues to be a pleasure for me to witness our young members evolve in their teamwork skills, Scouting abilities, and knowledge as they pass through our Pack from the Beaver Scout Colony and into the Scouts.

Our weekly Wednesday meetings continue to be active fun and varied. Some of this year's highlights include a visit to the local Hindu temple in Stoneleigh, a night hike and a trip to the

fire station plus our awesome Christmas Fayre. Our Cub Scout Pack has historically run a Christmas Fayre for many years, so I decided to bring it back. Each six came up with their own creative stall, whether that was finding a spelling in a dictionary or 'Lucky Spinners'. We charged an entry fee of an item for the food bank and together the pack raised over £780 for the local food bank as well as handing over twelve crates of food, just before



Camp Food

Christmas. It was an amazing effort all round.

Away from the hall, last April, as a pack, we held a wonderful spring





camp at Boidier Hurst, our local camp site. Spring may have sprung but it was chilly weather I can tell you. All the same, our Pack spent two



The Great Outdoors

nights under canvas, learnt to light a fire, went on a hike, built a shelter and sang campfire songs. For me, the highlight of the

weekend was to award Alex Denis with his Chief Scout's Silver Award. His friends Ethan King, Harry Range and Edward Duval also gained this top award during the year. My thanks go to all the leaders that supported us and the parents who helped. Later in the year we also had a Cub Scout activity day where the young people got to take part in backwoods cooking, wide games and learnt how to use a compass. On a very warm day

in June, twenty-two members of the pack took part in the Surrey Scouts Cub event, Scram, at Hook Road Arena. We enjoyed a full day of adventurous activities, inflatables, craft activities and more.



Hello Sailor





I am fortunate to have several leaders assisting me. As you will see from other places in this report Pippa (Baloo) continues to be a Leader right across our wonderful Group, and her input is particularly valued here within our Cub Scout Pack. Her knowledge as a leader, her professional understanding of young people and her administrative support are quite invaluable to me, and the Pack would fall apart without her. Her dedication to nurturing the community's youth right across the entire Group is genuinely praiseworthy, and my gratitude towards her knows no bounds.

I have also received assistance this year from three other willing parents of Cub Scouts who are currently in the Pack: Alex (Kaa), Christian (Chill), and Rupert (Hathi), who all bring their expertise to the pack and for which I am most grateful. Furthermore, James Merry (Shere Khan) continues to provide support to the pack, despite his son not having



been a member for many decades. James's in-depth knowledge and scouting abilities are immensely beneficial, not only to the pack but also to the newer leaders like me. Just recently, he explained the significance of the fish as a symbol of Scotland to me (St. Andrew being the country's patron saint was also known for being a fisherman). His guidance and enduring commitment to this pack are invaluable.





Regrettably, this year sadly saw Bob Clarke (Bagheera) hanging up his woggle for the very last time and retire as Cub Scout Leader. For decades Bob has been involved in this pack; not only was he an Akela for many years, but he was also quite simply the heartbeat of Cub Scouting within the 8th/14th Epsom for over 50 years. He has been a dedicated leader for decades who has positively impacted the lives of thousands of young individuals across Epsom and Ewell. His skills, woodworking expertise, scouting knowledge, and compassion made him arguably the finest Cub Scout Leader Surrey has ever known. Bob's passion for Scouting was evident week in week out whether it was his ability to lead and motivate a team of Cub Scouts at District competitions, his proficiency in Scouting techniques or his unwavering dedication. When I last saw Bob at Christmas, he remarked that there will be some Cub Scouts of mine who now qualify for a free OAP bus pass. His years of dedication and service are beyond recognition. Bob is still missed by both Cub Scouts and Leaders alike at every single meeting.



The Glorious Bob Clarke

Cub Scout Law

A Cub Scout does their best, thinks of others before themselves and does a good turn every day - no truer words could be said about Bob Clarke.





The job of being a Cub Scout Leader for me is made so much easier by having a little volunteer army around me. If you think you might be able to help, we are always looking for volunteers. You do not need to make the commitment that Bob made or even a weekly commitment, you might only be able to help occasionally, or you might have an interesting job or hobby like yoga instructor, head of marketing at VISA or cabin crew that you could come and talk to the Cub scouts about. I work in London and on a Wednesday only just make it back by the skin of my teeth, so everything is possible. Please do think about coming forward as we continue to grow as a Pack with your children.

Richard Park (Akela)
Cub Scout Leader





THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCOUT LEADER



I have just looked back to check and as I guessed this is my 20th Annual report on the Troop having started back as Scout Leader in September 2003. When I mentioned this to a friend, they asked me how many Scouts I had seen through the Troop in my almost 21 years as Scout Leader. To be honest, I cannot tell but I do have a lot of great memories. What is most notable is that my youngest son has just turned 18 and attended his last Explorer Scout meeting a few weeks ago which has really made me reflect on my time at the 8th/14th Epsom Air Scouts.

The troop had a great year in 2023 and they were a pleasure to lead. We maintained much of our normal programme including camping alongside the Cub Scouts and the Explorer Scouts at Boidier Hurst in April; a damp camp, but there was excellent comradery between all and a superb opportunity for each section to learn about the next activity and what to look forward to.



Monday night Troop meetings focused on a varied number of undertakings including air activities, first aid and cooking and of course having some fun. The three Explorers that had been selected to go on the World Scout Jamboree to Korea also came and visited the Troop to talk about their forthcoming trip in July.





Saturday 17 June was Trooping the Colour, and we were lucky enough to be asked to represent Scouting. Howard and I took eight of the older Scouts up to London by train. We were escorted to a special area just off Horse Guards' Parade where we had an excellent view. Once the Parade had concluded we were escorted by the police down the Mall to Buckingham Palace where we were able to watch the King and the royal family come out onto to balcony to wave to the crowds and to watch the amazing flypast from the RAF. Two pages of pictures follow this report.



By August we were ready for our Summer Camp in Switzerland for "KIX 23". KIX (Kandersteg International Expedition) is run by our County



team and usually runs every 4 years. It is a 10-day trip open to all Scouts that is full of activities. I asked Maya one of our younger Scouts to summarise her first trip on KIX and here is her report.

"Everyone was buzzing as we waved our parents off and the 13 coachloads of Surrey Scouts finally drove away from Cobham Services. We knew that it would be an extremely long journey to Kandersteg International Scout Centre (around 19 hours), but we could not wait until we reached the breathtaking views and snow-capped mountains of Switzerland. After a tiring journey with not much sleep, we finally reached our destination, and everyone had their eyes glued to the window, taking in everything, as we pulled into the campsite. A warm, sunny day greeted us as we stepped off the coach and started to put up our tents and prepare our campsite. Everyone was very tired, but we



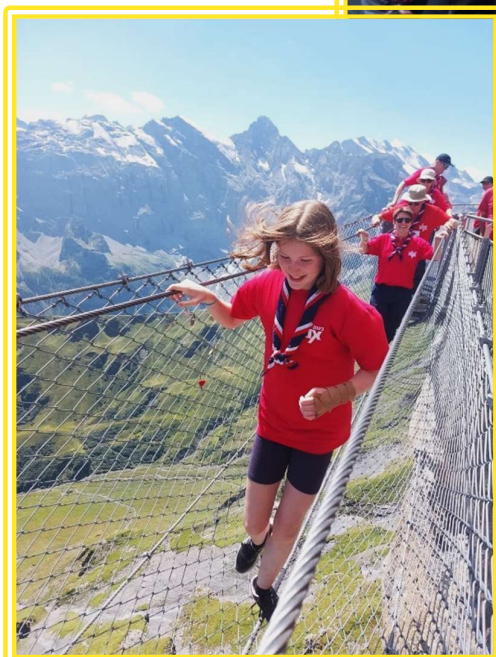


still enjoyed our first evening as we got to meet many Scouts from different Groups and Countries.



The exciting week that followed was full of activities and fun – such as hiking through the picturesque Kandersteg valley to the crystal-clear Lake Blausee and taking on the challenging high ropes course

through the tree tops in Interlaken. One highlight for many of us – though perhaps not for Paul – was our day visiting the Schilthorn Mountain. Four different cable cars



took us 3,122 metres up to the summit, where we crossed a metal walkway to a glass platform to admire the breathtaking views, with nothing but a thin piece of glass between us and a massive drop to the valley floor below. Both amazing and petrifying at the same time!





I loved everything, and it is very difficult to choose my favourite activity. However, I think that my overall favourite was rafting down the Aare river. We had a great time



Rafting



racing our boats and pushing each other into the cool water as we floated past the stunning alpine scenery. I really enjoyed it when we all jumped into the water and let the current push us gently along. Afterwards, we dried off in the hot sun as we ate our lunch in a nearby park. It was such a fun day out! I had an amazing time in Switzerland

and will remember it for the rest of my life. However, this incredible experience would not have been possible without the fantastic County team at Kandersteg, including Theresa and Howard, and of course our own brilliant leaders. They all worked tirelessly to make sure that everyone was alright (especially



Feeding at KIX

me with my broken wrist) and that we were all having a great time - so on behalf of all the Scouts, thank you leaders for making KIX 2023 such an unforgettable experience!





I would also like to thank the leaders that supported us on camp Luke and Katie, Justin, Pippa and of course a very tired Caroline who arrived back from the World Scout Jamboree in Seoul and immediately re-packed her bags and came on Troop camp. Thank you."

Following the Summer Holidays, Troop nights got back under way and one of the first activities was light aircraft flying at Redhill. This is



something we used to do a lot but following changes to Scouting rules and procedures we had to stop for some time. Luckily Jon Peterson, one of our Trustees, is Chief Flying Instructor at Redhill Aviation and between him, me and some of our other trustees we managed to resolve the challenges and finally get the Troop back flying again. The aircraft are mainly four seaters so they can take three scouts and the pilot for a 20 min flight up and around the local area. Scouts can get to see Epsom Downs, Box Hill and if lucky the Scout in the front gets the chance to fly the aircraft. An all-round great experience and it is hoped we will be able to get more scouts up in 2024.

In September I was honoured to be invited to see Howard presented with the Silver Wolf, the highest award in Scouting and one that was very well deserved. Well done, Howard.





At Christmas the Troop concluded the year with a trip Bowling at Tolworth and even made some Gingerbread Houses.

At the start of 2024 we have been busy planning for three camps this year and ensuring that our older Scouts get their Expedition Challenge completed so that they can achieve the Chief Scout's Gold Award.



As most of you close to the Group will be aware we are low on leaders, and this does have a huge impact on the programme and the activities we run. If you have ever thought about becoming a leader or assistant or even a helper, we really do need you now. Thank you to Simon our Chairman, Luke our Group Scout leader, Howard and his wife Theresa, and all our very valuable Trustees. Special thanks go to Richard Denyer and Sara my wife for their support. However, my biggest thanks go to two ladies that really are the backbone of the Group, Pippa and Caroline. We all manage to make it happen and still smile!



Paul Dawson
Scout Leader





Trouping the Colour





Trouping the Colour





THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXPLORER SCOUT LEADER



I am the lucky one in the Group that gets to write two reports! As some will be aware I volunteered to step in and run the Explorer Unit back in September 2022 when our previous Explorer Leader left the Group at short notice.

The Unit are the final part of the Scouting journey that a Scout will make in their progression through the youth sections. Aged from 14½ to 18, Explorer Scouts are quite different from many of the other Sections in that we look to them to run their evening

meetings. This means they undertake the planning, organising and when necessary, paying for all their activities with guidance and advice from the Explorer Scout Leadership team.

The Unit is called CEASU (Concorde Explorer Air Scout Unit) for short and we just call them the Unit! As I write this, we have twenty-three members in the Unit, most of whom are former Scouts, with most having gone through all the Sections in the Group, so from the age of six.

Due to my growing work commitments, unfortunately we had some Tuesday nights where we had to cancel meetings. However, on the Tuesday nights we did meet the Unit participated in a number of activities from learning Makaton, cake decorating, escape rooms, fire lighting, pizza making and much more.

The Unit participated in Spring Camp alongside the Scouts and Cub Scouts and taught some of the younger Scouts knife and axe skills, something they had been taught when they were Scouts themselves. They were a great asset particularly when it came to erecting and





striking our larger tents and marquees.

In July sixteen of the Unit went flying at Redhill Aerodrome and had an amazing experience.



Flying at Redhill

The highlight of the year was the Unit's Summer Expedition to Jersey. Most had

been on camp to Jersey when they were Scouts. However, as we were limited for leadership and know Jersey so well, it was the obvious place. We tasked the Unit to plan their own camp and whilst this was largely successful and shaped much of the camp, there were some rather enthusiastic ideas that needed to be shelved! On a very early Saturday





morning in mid-July fourteen of the Unit and I departed for Heathrow for our flight to Jersey. Sarah, my wife, and Dominic, Assistant Unit Leader, had departed the day before by ferry in the support car and



they would be on site when we arrived.

We had hired bikes for all of us so that we could get around the island, although we travelled to and from the airport by bus. As we were camping just before the main busy period, the site was very quiet with just one other Group from Ireland staying in the main building. We made good use of the free space and enjoyed the peace and quiet.





We had a full week of activities arranged including kayaking, surfing, biking round the island and to the zoo, barbecuing on the beach, playing crazy golf and, amongst all this fun, we managed to help the warden put up a tented village for some German Scouts that were



Explorers in Jersey



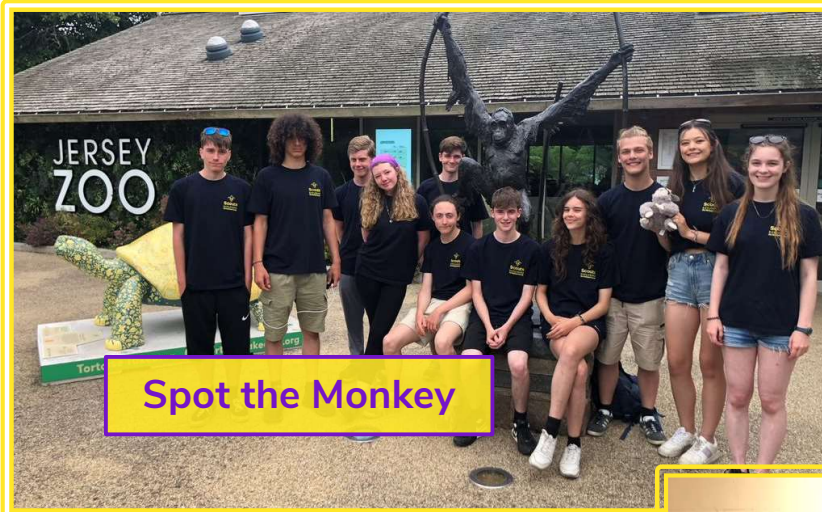
arriving the following week. The weather was mainly good, and the behaviour of all Explorer Scouts made for a fun and enjoyable week. All too soon it was time to return home. Having flown out we decided to return by the overnight ferry which was due to leave at 11.00 pm on Saturday to arrive in Portsmouth at 6.00 am where we would then get the train back to Guildford Station. However, the ferry departure was delayed two hours





because of a fierce storm in the Channel and the captain was not wrong when he said that the crossing would be “difficult”! We finally arrived in Portsmouth Harbour five hours late! Luckily parents were on hand to pick up the Explorer Scouts from a remarkable return journey.

It has been good to lead the Unit and I have been lucky to see some of



the Scouts that first joined the Troop turn into adults. However, I am now getting to a point where leading two sections is

taking its toll on my family and working life and I need to step back. We have and continue to search for a new Unit Leader but as I write this, we have no takers. If you are reading this and feel you would like to become a Leader, then please do not just think about it - come and talk to us!



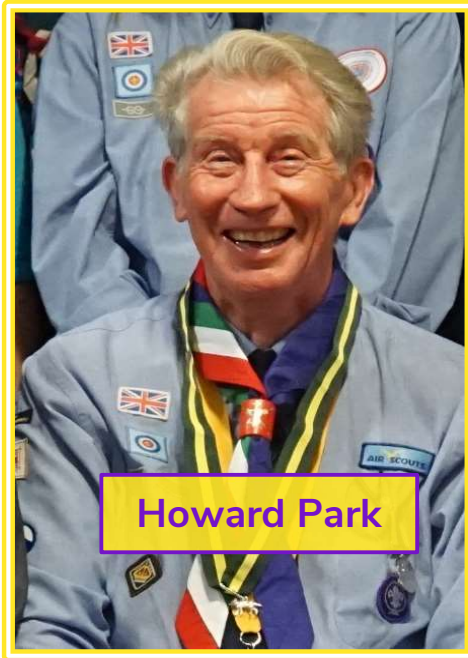
My thanks go to the Board of Trustees, Luke our GSL and those other leaders who, at short notice, filled in for me so the Unit meetings could go ahead.

Paul Dawson
Temporary Explorer Scout Leader





THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 100 CLUB TREASURER



Howard Park

The year started with 44 members holding 105 shares and ended the year with 41 members holding 95 shares. In the year we took in £1,172 and awarded over half this sum of money in prizes (£601). A winner declined a prize of £48 that they wished the Group to retain. £88 worth of other cheques issued this year have yet to be cashed.

The following members won 100 Club prizes:

April	Mark Sydenham		
May	Catherine Allison	Alistair Spalding	S Hopkinson
June	Catherine Allison	Simon Pearce	D Stewart
July	C Coventry		
August	J Trigo	Jenny Lewis	D Stewart
September	D Villa-Clark	M Sydenham	A Spalding
October	Daniel Coleby		
November	S D Dawson	Smith P A	E McGarvey
December	Ian White	Catherine Allison	Mrs W Dawson
January	J Turner		
February	J Mortimer	Robert Blake	Sharon Self
March	A Spalding	Robert Clarke	M Davies

Howard Park
100 Club Treasurer





CHRONOLOGY





A FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Epsom Air Scout Group has an overseeing management structure



that is known as the “Group” and it has four “Sections” divided by age, called “Beaver Scouts”, “Cub Scouts”, “Scouts” and “Explorer Scouts”.

The Group has a current account and a deposit account (Active Saver) with Barclays. Each section also holds a Barclay’s current account.

The Group also runs a fundraising 100 Club with an account at Lloyds.

In addition, the Group received a bequest (£106k in 2016) that caused the Trustees to divide the deposit account to provide protection under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, originally moving £51,000 into a CAF account. A further £33,000 was moved from the Barclays deposit account to the CAF account in FY 2022/23, to ensure the total amount banked across all Barclays accounts was below the £85k protection limit.

The Scout Association orders a census of the young people in Scouting for the end of January every year and based on this, “Capitation” fees are payable to the centre. The money goes through the Scouting District and the Scouting County before arriving at Headquarters with fees taken at each level. The Group also applies a “Group Levy” for the Group Headquarters (Concorde Hall). Parents pay a membership fee, often referred to as subscription, for their child. This fee is set by their Section Leader, to cover day to day activities, the Group Levy, and the Capitation fee. The money is banked by the Section and then the Capitation and Section Levy is transferred to the Group, for the Group





to pass on the Capitation. This means there is the movement of money within the Group without change of monies within the organisation.

In addition, the Group often contribute to Section activity costs, either paying costs directly or contributing into the Section accounts.

The accounts have been drawn together by the Group Treasurer, Justin Manly. Quickbooks has been employed to manage the day-to-day Group accounts.

Quickbooks currently receives feeds from all of the Barclay's accounts, though the CAF account, Lloyds (100 Club) account are not currently included. Copies of all receipts relating to Barclays accounts transactions are held within Quickbooks, with the following exceptions:

- Telephone/Internet (Plus Net)
- Electricity (Opus)
- Epsom and Ewell Council (lease payments and rubbish collection)

Note: As these are all direct debit payments initiated by them and they are clear on the statements, we have paid the appropriate fees for these services.

Justin Manly, Treasurer





THE ACCOUNTS





INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

to the Trustees of 8th/14th Epsom (St. Barnabas and St. Joseph's) Air Scout Group.

I report on the accounts of the 8th/14th Epsom (St Barnabas and St Joseph's) Air Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on the accompanying 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 the Trustees and the Examiner.

The Air Scout Group'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 matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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 charity and a comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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 and the Regulations have not been met, or
2. which in my opinion, attention should be drawn to, in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statement to be reached.

06th June 2024

Sundry A. Sundaran ACA, FCCA
Independent Examiner
Brooks & Co
9 Cheam Road
Ewell
Epsom
KT17 1SP



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Income & Expenditure

	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total FY23/24	FY22/23
Income:					
Activities	5	-	£18,537.76	£18,537.76	£17,194.67
Fundraising	4	-	£1,966.46	£1,966.46	£3,446.93
Donations & Grants	3	-	£19,571.16	£19,571.16	£18,807.40
Bank Interest		-	£670.81	£670.81	£112.41
Membership Fees	2	-	£8,034.90	£8,034.90	£8,313.97
Total Income		-	£48,781.09	£48,781.09	£47,875.38
Direct Charitable Expenditure:					
Miscellaneous	14	-	£3,875.31	£3,875.31	£1,580.11
Water Rates	12	-	£603.44	£603.44	-
General Rates	13	-	£600.95	£600.95	£559.20
Energy		-	£4,245.56	£4,245.56	£6,975.98
Telephone & Internet		-	£585.40	£585.40	£502.85
Accountancy		-	£1,200.00	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Building Maintenance and Repairs	15	-	£9,952.33	£9,952.33	£4,101.43
Cleaning		-	£1,055.00	£1,055.00	£1,220.00
Lease	10	-	£182.00	£182.00	£182.00
Bank Charges		-	£259.51	£259.51	£149.01
Insurance		-	£1,457.17	£1,457.17	£1,340.48
Capitation	2	-	£4,477.50	£4,477.50	£4,205.25
Copyright and Royalties		-	£241.70	£241.70	£338.76
Depreciation		£5,917.00	0	£5,917.00	£5,917.00
		£5,917.00	£28,735.87	£34,652.87	£28,272.07
Other Expenditure:					
Activities	5	-	£40,169.50	£40,169.50	£26,758.78
Fundraising	4	-	£1,232.75	£1,232.75	£624.00
		-	£41,402.25	£41,402.25	£27,382.78
Total Expenditure		£5,917.00	£70,138.12	£76,055.12	£55,654.85
Net (expenditure)/income for the year		(£5,917.00)	(£21,357.03)	(£27,274.03)	(£7,779.47)
Transfer between funds		£5,917.00	(£5,917.00)	-	-
Fund balances brought forward		£0.00	£183,158.76	£183,158.76	£190,938.17
Fund balances carried forward	9	£0.00	£155,884.73	£155,884.73	£183,158.76





BALANCE SHEET

at 31 March 2024

	Notes	FY23/24	FY22/23
Fixed Assets	6	£10,407.29	£16,324.29
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	£2,741.10	£15,012.50
Cash at bank and in hand	Appendix 1	£145,130.21	£158,580.76
		<u>£147,871.31</u>	<u>£173,593.26</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	8	£2,393.86	£6,758.79
Net current assets		<u>£145,477.45</u>	<u>£166,834.47</u>
Net assets		<u><u>£155,884.74</u></u>	<u><u>£183,158.76</u></u>

represented by

FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds

General purpose fund	9	£155,884.73	£183,158.76
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Restricted

Building project	9	-	-
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		<u><u>£155,884.73</u></u>	<u><u>£183,158.76</u></u>
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies

Accounting convention

In accordance with the Charity Commission guidelines, the accounts have been prepared under a receipts and payments method.

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the costs of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Leasehold Land and Buildings	- over the period of the lease
Fixtures & Fittings	- over seven years

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment, if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

Leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Cash flow statement

The Air Scout Group has taken advantage of exemptions under the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 (revised) for small companies and not prepared a cash flow statement.

Grants

Grants in respect of capital expenditure are credited to a deferred income account and are released to income over the expected useful lives of the relevant assets by equal annual instalments. Grants of a revenue nature are credited to income to match them with the expenditure to which they relate.

2. Membership

	Capitation	Membership Fees	Net	FY22/23
Beaver Scouts	£845.75	£1,615.31	£769.56	£855.32
Cub Scouts	£1,492.50	£2,603.70	£1,111.20	£863.78
Scouts	£1,243.75	£2,938.40	£1,694.65	£1,425.01
Explorer Scouts	£895.50	£877.49	(£18.01)	£920.11
Capitation Rebate			£0.00	£44.50
Sub Total	£4,477.50	£8,034.90	£3,557.40	£4,108.72
Section Levy	£1,350.00		(£1,350.00)	(£1,335.00)
Recovered Income				
Tax				
Returned Fees				
	£5,827.50	£8,034.90	£2,207.40	£2,773.72

The Section Levy is an internal charge to the Sections based on an agreed formula to contribute towards the costs for the running of Concorde Hall and other associated Group costs. This internal charge is levied on the Sections at the same time as the collection of Capitation based on the annual census returns. The money for the Section Levy is merely moved from Section bank accounts to the Group bank account.





NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 March 2024

3. Donations and Grants

	FY23/24	FY22/23
Pre School	£18,086.16	£17,282.40
Other Hall Hire	£1,445.00	£1,525.00
Grants	£0.00	£0.00
Donations	£40.00	£0.00
	£19,571.16	£18,807.40

4. Fundraising

	Organiser's costs	Proceeds	Net	FY22/23
<u>Internal Fundraising</u>				
100 Club	£454.00	£1,172.00	£718.00	£606.00
<u>External Fundraising</u>				
<u>Scouts / Explorers</u>				
Lord Mayor's show	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£930.00
Rotary – KIX	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£982.92
Other Fundraising	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£304.01
<u>Cub Scouts</u>				
Food Bank Fundraising	£778.75	£778.75	£0.00	£0.00
Other Donations	£0.00	£15.71	£15.71	£0.00
	£1,232.75	£1,966.46	£733.71	£2,822.93



Justin Manly at KIX





NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 March 2024

5. Activities

	Organiser's costs	Proceeds	Net	FY22/23
<u>GROUP</u>				
Camps	£3,622.52	£0.00	(£3,622.52)	(£2,210.00)
Camps (accrued from previous year)	£9,212.50	£0.00	(£9,212.50)	£0.00
Day trips	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	(£622.75)
Activities	£455.00	£0.00	(£455.00)	(£1,437.00)
<u>BEAVER SCOUTS</u>				
Day trips	£639.00	£0.00	(£639.00)	(£12.91)
Activities	£1,593.10	£37.36	(£1,555.74)	(£517.50)
<u>CUB SCOUTS</u>				
Camps	£663.33	£1,106.31	£442.98	£0.00
Activities	£1,006.00	£259.20	(£746.80)	£41.62
<u>SCOUTS</u>				
Camps	£8,444.57	£5,431.33	(£3,013.24)	(£1,784.97)
Camps (accrued from previous year)	£5,800.00	£6,758.79	£958.79	£0.00
Activities	£1,537.44	£288.75	(£1,248.69)	(£569.41)
<u>EXPLORER SCOUTS</u>				
Camps	£6,457.91	£4,405.77	(£2,052.14)	(£2,103.67)
Activities	£738.13	£250.25	(£487.88)	(£347.52)
	£40,169.50	£18,537.76	(£21,631.74)	(£9,564.11)

Accrued Activities

	Organiser's costs	Proceeds	Net	FY22/23
<u>GROUP</u>				
Camps	£2,265.10	£0.00	(£2,265.10)	(£9,212.50)
<u>EXPLORERS</u>				
Camps	£0.00	£377.61	£377.61	£0.00
<u>SCOUTS</u>				
Camps	£100.00	£618.88	£518.88	£958.79
<u>CUBS</u>				
Camps	£0.00	£361.20	£361.20	£0.00
<u>BEAVERS</u>				
Day trips	£376.00	£1,036.17	£660.17	£0.00
	£2,741.10	£2,393.86	(£347.24)	(£8,253.71)

Accrued costs and proceeds relate to contributions towards spring 2024 and summer 2024 camps.





NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 March 2024

6. Tangible Assets

	Leasehold buildings	Fixtures & Fittings	Total
Cost:			
At 1 April 2023	£145,070.29	£23,332.93	£168,403.22
Depreciation:			
At 1 April 2023	£128,746.00	£23,332.93	£152,078.93
Charge for the year	£5,917.00	£0.00	£5,917.00
At 31 March 2024	£134,663.00	£23,332.93	£157,995.93
Net book amount:			
At 31 March 2024	£10,407.29	£0.00	£10,407.29
At 1 April 2023	£16,324.29	£0.00	£16,324.29

7. Debtors

	FY23/24	FY22/23
Payments and accrued income	£2,741.10	£15,012.50

8. Creditors

amounts falling due within the one year

	FY23/24	FY22/23
Accruals and deferred income	£2,393.86	£6,758.79

9. Summary of Net Assets by Funds

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total
	General Purpose		Building Project	
Fixed Assets	£10,407.29		£0.00	£10,407.29
Net Current Assets	£145,477.45		£0.00	£145,477.45
Net Assets	£155,884.74		£0.00	£155,884.74





NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 March 2024

10. Other Financial Commitments

At 31 March 2024, the charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below:

	Land and Buildings	
	FY23/24	FY22/23
Operating leases which expire more than five years	£182.00	£182.00

11. Trustee Expenses

There were no Trustee expenses during the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023: £ nil).

12. Water Rates

Water rates were £nil in FY22/23 due to an issue with the direct debit payments with the provider. These have been resolved, resulting in a cost spike in FY23/24.

13. General Rates

General Rates include:

- An annual payment to Epsom & Ewell Borough Council for refuse collection.
- An annual payment to Epsom & Ewell Borough Council for garden waste recycling services.

14. Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous costs include all general expenditure incurred to maintain the operational upkeep of the Group headquarters, including but not limited to:

- Security contract
- Fire safety equipment and checks
- First aid equipment *
- Office materials
- Printing.

* In FY23/24 a defibrillator was purchased for the Group headquarters, at a cost of £1,067.00.

15. Building Maintenance & Repairs

In FY23/24 the Group invested significantly in a number of essential renovations on the Group headquarters. These works included:

- Re-fence Northern and Southern borders of Concorde Hall
- Paving and gutter front and rear of Concore Hall.





YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Bank and Cash

Appendix 1

		FY23/24	FY22/23
<u>GROUP</u>			
Current account	Barclays	£11,188.96	£20,466.76
Savings account	Barclays	£40,271.04	£41,315.85
CAF account	CAF Bank	£83,894.15	£83,786.05
<u>BEAVER Scouts</u>			
Current account	Barclays	£2,072.43	£3,092.44
<u>CUB Scouts</u>			
Current account	Barclays	£2,439.12	£1,704.83
<u>SCOUTS</u>			
Current account	Barclays	£1,464.72	£3,092.12
<u>EXPLORER Scouts</u>			
Current account	Barclays	£1,127.79	£3,168.71
<u>100 Club</u>			
Current account	Lloyds	£2,672.00	£1,954.00
		£145,130.21	£158,580.76

Justin Manley
Group Treasurer





THE DISTRICT SCOUT SHOP

Located at 22 The Broadway, Stoneleigh, KT17 2HU, our District Scout Shop supplies uniform and Scouting and Guiding accessories for young people throughout Epsom and Ewell and neighbouring Districts. In addition, the shop stocks a large range of camping equipment, badges, books, craft materials, trophies and gifts. The shop can supply or order all the items available at Scout Store, with a significant share of the profit being reinvested back into local Scout Groups and the District.

The shop is open at the following times: Monday 2-5 pm; Wednesday 2-7 pm and Saturday 9.30-12 noon.

A team of volunteers led by Joyce Nicholas runs the shop. You can contact Joyce and the team by calling 020 8001 6856. You can also place orders directly by emailing epsomandewellscoutshop@aol.com.

