

Sale Central Scout Group



Annual Report 2021



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**The Annual General Meeting will be held during the Group Family Camp
at Bispham Hall Scout Estate, Crank Rd, Billinge WN5 7DT on Sunday
11th September 2022 at 12.15pm**

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Apologies for absence

3. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting of the previous AGM.

4. Presentation of the annual report and Accounts

Members of the Group Executive Committee will be available to answer questions.

5. Approval of the Group Scout Leader's nomination of the Group Chair

6. Election of the Group Secretary

7. Election of the Group Treasurer

8. Election of members of the Group Scout Council to the Group Executive Committee

9. Approval of the Group Scout Leader's nomination of members of the Group Executive Committee



Group Chair's Report

This was another unusual year for Scouting in Sale. Covid-19 loomed over a large part of the year and many changes were needed to ensure that the individual groups were able to resume meeting face to face. Thanks to everyone involved in completing risk assessments, updating signage and ensuring that social distancing took place. Without this important work, the Group would not have been able to continue as before.

As the restrictions were eventually eased, the popularity of the face to face weekly meetings was soon back to normal levels. Long waiting lists for every section soon resumed and volunteers generously gave their time and energy.

The different groups continued to put on a wide range of fun activities and events, from canoeing to go-karting. Many hundreds of badges were awarded throughout the year to recognise the individual efforts of each and every member to develop and learn new skills.

The section leaders were very keen to get back to holding events and the October half-term provided a great opportunity to have the first Group wide event for nearly two years. The Halloween themed event saw Woodbourne Road Scout Hut converted into a spooky maze and a giant marquee put together for a number of stalls and disco.

It was especially pleasing to see the important fundraising work undertaken for other deserving charities such as the Poppy Appeal, RNLI, Trussell Trust and the Friends of Walton Park.

From a financial standpoint, the Group was able to make a surplus. This was mainly due to continued parental support, Covid-19 grants and corporate donations such as the Co-Operative Community Fund.

In order to provide support to any members in financial need, a bursary fund was created to help with the costs of uniforms, subscriptions and camps to those that needed it. This was generously funded by Glancy Fawcett and Arnold Clark.

A special thanks to Colin who spent many hours maintaining the two huts to a very high level, in addition to his role as a section leader.

Thanks to everyone involved with Sale Central Scouts that allowed the Group to thrive, including all the leaders, the volunteers, the Group Scout Leader, the parent helpers, the Exec Committee and the District Committee.

Gavin Stark

Group Chairman



Group Treasurer's Report

Sale Central Scouts - Annual Accounts 2021

SALE CENTRAL SCOUT GROUP

Charities Commission Ref: 520239

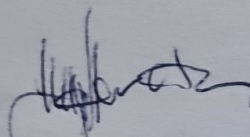
ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2021

Total Income for Period:	£53,607.00
Total Expenditure for Period:	£33,010.00
Operating Surplus:	£20,597.00

Prepared by:

Kristina Hammond, Group Treasurer

Review/Scrutinised by:

 12/10/22

Michael Harding, District Treasurer

I have examined and confirmed only the figures available from the bank accounts provided.
No other records of receipts and payments were available.



Sale Central Scout Group
Accounts for Year : 1 Jan 2021 to 31 Dec 2021

Receipts and Payments (£)

	2021	2020	2019
	£	£	£
Income			
Subs	14,674	9,473	13,094
Raglan Hut Rental	4,330	5,627	7,219
Woodbourne Hut Rental	7,230	5,721	9,091
Trips/event income	0	0	4,420
Bag pack	0	0	734
Gift Aid Relief	0	0	0
Utility overpayment rebate	251	0	322
Co-op Grant for Hut refurbishment	0	0	8,238
Other fundraising/donations	4,868	22,660	0
Insurance refund	0	1,314	0
Trafford MBC grants	22,253		
TOTAL INCOME	53,606	44,795	43,118
Expenditure			
Capitation	4,996	5,254	5,368
Water	3,018	3,106	2,144
Gas & Electricity	4,552	5,647	5,842
Insurances	3,476	4,545	3,311
Fire safety	0	30	84
Trips, events & activities	2,388	271	6,866
Other expenses	5,528	1,537	155
Maintenance and Refurb to Huts	7,591	15,878	15,843
Poppy Appeal donation	110	0	0
New tents	0	0	0
Ground rent Raglan Hut	350	350	350
Badges	1,001		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	33,010	36,618	39,963
SURPLUS	20,596	8,177	3,155

Notes

The £22,253 grants item was comprised of UK government start-up post-COVID grants accessed via Trafford MBC
No Gift Aid claim was made in 2021. Six annual Gift Aid claims will be made in 2022
Woodbourne Hut rentals is a net sum. Some cleaning and gardening fees were deducted direct from cash rental payments.

Statement of Assets & Liabilities (as at 31 Dec 2021) (£)

Cash Funds	£
Cash in Bank	53,820
Other monetary assets	
Gift Aid Claim	12,200
Investment Assets	
None	0
Non monetary assets	
Woodbourne Road Hut	265,000
Raglan Road Hut	0
Equipment & Furniture	13,000
Liabilities	
None	0

Notes:

Gift aid income - 2015 to 2020 subs @ 75% eligible
Value of Woodbourne Hut based on insured sum
Value of Raglan huts set to zero as long term lease only
Value of equipment and furniture based on insured sums



Group Scout Leader's Report

Scouting Year: 1st January 2021 – 31st December 2021

After 9 months of practically no Scouting whatsoever, 2021 was set to be an even more challenging year than 2020 had been. The false dawns of December 2020, when it looked like we may finally be permitted to restart real Scouting had only demoralised a beleaguered volunteer force even more so when we were again forced into virtual Scouting at the start of 2021

Rather than the adult volunteers supporting the young people, the situation had become reversed, it was only the fact that so many young people were attending Zoom meetings that some Leaders didn't throw in the towel.

Having tasted real Scouting, albeit 'socially distanced Scouting' and to then have it ripped from under our noses proved too much for some, there was now a genuine fear that when/If we ever returned to Face-to-Face meetings, we would not have sufficient volunteers to accommodate the need.

It wasn't until April that we were able to realise that young people were coming back to Scouting in their droves, at a rate that far surpassed the pre-pandemic levels, yet our volunteer team had been reduced to such an extent that, despite being allowed to resume Scouting in some form, sections were forced to remain virtual, simply due to insufficient volunteers.

Remaining volunteers were pulling double and triple shifts to give some semblance of normality whilst the latest strain of Covid was ravaging both the paid and voluntary workforce.

However, as Spring turned into Summer, the Scouting programme started to reseed itself, a number of Parents threw their hat in the ring and the next generation of Leaders joined the stalwarts and Scouting began to happen again.

Even during the Summer break, there was no certainty that we wouldn't be forced into lockdown again, and if we had been, then in my humble opinion, Scouting as we had known it in pre-pandemic times would not have returned for many years, our volunteers were simply exhausted, I cannot stress enough how difficult it is, even for trained professionals, to re-invent a programme, originally designed for the great outdoors ... and make it still work on a phone, tablet or computer screen.

Even when able to meet up Face-to-Face, to run activities at a "social distance" demands incredible creativity and painstaking diligence ... if I didn't know and appreciate the amazing team of volunteers before 2021, then I certainly got to know them throughout 2021 and if I had it within my power to bestow a medal of honour onto each of them, then it still would not reflect the level of respect that I have for each of them.

Never to be outdone, our members, the young people for whom we "do what we do", just flooded back into Scouting. We met some young people who we had never physically met before, despite speaking to some of them online for nearly 18 months, week in, week out. We had new members who were hungry to learn, unfortunately we had some empty spaces too, young people who had seen sports clubs and suchlike, return to "normal" way ahead of Scouting, what normal, Footy mad Cub wouldn't go for a kick-about with friends as opposed to more screen time?

No doubt our Group Treasurers report will reflect that, financially, the Group didn't suffer during the pandemic, despite the loss of our major source of income. The majority of Parents generously agreed to continue paying subs despite the fact that we could only offer online meetings in return, I cannot thank those Parents enough for their show of faith in what we were striving to achieve. Along with this generosity, we also received grants from local government to replace lost revenue from being



able to rent out our premises. We had minimal running costs and very few camps, this enabled us to plough some much-needed funding into our building maintenance, which, although much of it was carried out by our awesome building manager Colin, we were also able to ensure that local businesses were able to find some much-needed work.

Due to the extreme circumstances, my much-needed departure from the role of Group Scout Leader simply did not happen. We are still very thin on the ground from a volunteer perspective, and I genuinely fear that the impact of my departure may prove to be the straw that breaks the camel's back, so, although my departure is not cancelled, it is postponed for the time being.

I would like to finish this report on a very positive note; as a group, Sale Central Scout Group has survived a most challenging time, not just in our short history, but in the history of Scouting, the movement has rarely suffered a period whereby we could not offer our *raison d'être*. Even during the dark days of two World Wars, Scouting and Scouts could at least make a positive contribution to society, yet during 2020 and 2021, we could do nothing other than to act responsibly by staying at home, which ironically is what Scouting is designed to discourage.

Scouting should not have been able to survive the pandemic, we were like fish during a drought and I have no doubt whatsoever that had it not been for some amazing individuals, who, had their own concerns and their own fears, managed to reinvent Scouting despite all the lakes and rivers running dry, I am not sure that we could have survived if the drought continued, but it didn't and because of the efforts of our volunteers, when the rains did arrive, there were still fish in the sea ... and not just a few fish ...

Sale Central emerged from the Pandemic as the biggest group in the District, and we continue to grow into 2022, we are even bigger than we were in pre-pandemic times and that is entirely due to our volunteers, not just those who you bump into at Section meetings but also the unsung heroes who work behind the scenes, our Executive Committee and those who work at District, County and even at National level ... ordinary men and women who have ordinary lives and who may work 9 to 5 before transforming into Scouting Superheroes and this is why I say to you all, no matter what you can offer Scouting, it will be gratefully received because without People like you, me and all the adults you see in Scouting ... our young people simply would not have the opportunities that Scouting offers ... and we need more.

Yours in Scouting

Dave Hannigan

Group Scout leader

Sale Central Scout Group.



Quartermaster's report

We have had to replace a few of our tents this year as they had been well used over the years and had signs of wear and as the group still is getting bigger all the time we needed to buy more, we bought some tables for camping trips as the hut is being used and they need tables as well, we have been doing a lot of maintenance on the cookers tents and general equipment .

Woodbourne hut

The hut has seen a vast make over during the last 18 months with new toilets, new electrics and a complete paint of the hall and areas. The main hall floor has been sanded, repaired and varnished, we have had a new security light fitted to the main door with a sensor for when leaving the building, general maintenance is ongoing and as the grounds .

Next 12 months we need to change a number of fence panels around the grounds

Raglan rd

The main hall has had paint-over, new ceiling tiles in areas were needed and a full rewire. Security lights fitted building for when leaving building in the dark nights

We do need to arrange two work days one at raglan and one at Woodbourne

Yours in scouting
Colin



Sale Central (Pankhurst) Beavers (Woodbourne Road)

We started our 2021 Beaver meetings on Zoom, where we covered Faith, Global Issues and Safety activity badges. As well as these we worked on our Teamwork and Outdoors Challenge badges. One of the highlights of Zoom for the Beavers was a visit from 'Dylan's Reptile Time' where we were introduced to a frog, snake, bearded dragon, skink and many others. One of our parents made a Powerpoint for Chinese New Year which we shared and enjoyed.

The Beavers took part in a sponsored cooking event in aid of The Trussell Trust Foodbank in Altrincham this term too and they raised an amazing £330. With this we spent £65.60 on food items they specifically needed and donated the other £264.40 as a bank transfer to them.

After the Easter holidays we had a couple of Zoom meetings and then the moment we had all been waiting for – BACK TO FACE TO FACE MEETINGS! We finally met our newest Beavers in person as we had only seen them on a screen. Our last Zoom meeting saw us building bird houses and decorating them and our first meeting back at the hut included an obstacle race. With some restrictions still in place we had to socially distance ourselves for all our activities which took a bit more planning but we achieved it. We covered the Gardener, Book Reader, Health and Fitness and Experiment activity badges and had a very competitive Mini Football Tournament. We finished the term with a visit to the Adventure Cave to take part in bouldering and archery.

Over the course of this term we were very proud to award seven Beavers with their Chief Scout's Bronze Award.

In September we had more new Beavers join and it was the start of Lightning's Scouting journey. She joined us to demonstrate first aid to cover the Emergency Aid badge and she hasn't looked back since.

We covered our Cook, Money Skills, Creative and Photographer badges and worked on our Skills Challenge badge. It was lovely to be able to take part in the Remembrance Day Parade again and the Beavers did us proud.

The Beavers took part in their second fundraising event of the year this term too. They all had a tube of Smarties to eat and then fill the empty tube with as many 20p coins as they could. They voted on which charity this should be for and raised a brilliant £110.50 which was donated to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

The term finished with a Christmas party and the eagerly awaited end of term giving out of badges.

Can I say a big thank you to the parents that helped at meetings in 2021, all the leaders really do appreciate it. Also a huge thank you from me to Hawkeye, Lightning, Keo and Bubbles – we may not all be able to make every meeting but we all ensure that Thursday evenings are enjoyable for our young people. By the number of Beavers we have and the size of our waiting list I would say we are doing a pretty good job!

Ros Bryan (Bobtail), Beaver Scout Leader



Sale Central (Howard) Beavers (Raglan Road)

2021 was an awful year and yet 2021 was so fulfilling. Of course, we were right in the middle of the pandemic and so we were still not allowed to meet face to face for the first part of the year.

We started 2021 in much the same way as we ended 2020, trying to convert the usual Beaver programme over to an online equivalent, whilst keeping it fun and engaging for our Beavers.

The Beavers themselves made it very easy, because they would log on, week in, week out, with such enthusiasm. Many of them, we had never met face-to-face and yet they were like old friends.

During January, we tackled online Navigation covering some quite advanced map reading skills, we also covered communications and food ... but mostly we just chatted with each other ensuring that nobody felt alone and that everybody still had plenty to look forward to.

Even when we were permitted to run socially distanced activities, confidence was not high with the Beavers or the Leaders and so we continued with our online offering, including Disability awareness, and a couple of really great cooking sessions where the Beavers first made a cake in a mug followed the next week by making the most amazing looking pizza's.

It wasn't until June that we got together in person, how strange it was to meet some who had been Beavers for 15 months, who we had never met, it was so lovely though to see those who went to different schools getting along so well because they knew each other through online meeting.

We took advantage of the summer freedom and held as many meetings outdoors as possible including working on our local knowledge badge.

Team working played a huge part in the final term along with finishing off our "Disability awareness" badge, we covered off the new Money badge in one evening, we worked on our Environment badge and our Health & Fitness badge too, we finished off the year with a Movie night where we watched Home Alone.

Probably my proudest moment of the year though was the Remembrance parade, seeing our amazing colony so well turned out and respectfully commemorating those who had fallen during past wars.

Along with Sunshine (Ciara) and Dave, we had some much-appreciated help from a number of Parents during 2021. I don't think anybody would have chosen to meet on Zoom as much as we did, and yet those weekly calls were very special times where I think we helped the Beavers, and the Beavers certainly helped the Leaders to get through some very dark times.

Thank You all

TicTac (Keri)



Sale Central Parker Cub Pack

Parker cubs returned face to face in April 21, where they adapted well to the new way of face-to-face meetings. Activities ranged from teamwork, problem solving, back to basic scouting skills such as map reading learning knots, pioneering and tomahawk throwing. They also covered first aid, gardening and athletics badges, The cubs spent a morning at Dunham where they learnt fire lighting as well as shelter building and played wide games. They also spent time on the water doing canoeing with GRIP Adventure, pack forums held regularly for the cubs to help plan meetings as part of the you shape badge. The cubs also learned how to change light bulbs, lay tables, and iron neckers. The cubs also covered international nights such as St Andrews night when they had a highlands games night. The cubs also had craft nights. This is just to name a few of the activities

The cubs attended a joint cub camp in October with Raglan cubs.as this was the first camp we had done since returning from lock down the cubs only did one night, they covered tomahawk throwing, Archery, fire lighting Para cording, shooting, shelter building, campfire

The cubs have attended group events as well as district events these have included Halloween spooktacular, Remembrance Day parade, one if the cubs helped lay the poppy reef on behalf of the district. Some of the cubs represented the group by selling poppies around Sale. As part of the Remembrance Day the cubs learnt about how scouts played a part in the war effort.

The year ended with a Christmas disco in which they enjoyed playing traditional party games, thanks to Colin for a fantastic night even though I still need to get revenge for finishing the night with the crazy frog song.

I Would like to Thank Emma for all your help and support over the year. And to all the parents who helped on the parent Rota, without the support i could not have run. A huge thank you to Daniel for all his help and support as a young leader, even though he made me feel old by turning 18. Thanks to Ros and Pete for covering on nights when we were short on leaders, and for Dave for being on the other end of the phone when needed.

Looking forward to the next 12 months of new cub adventures and challenges.

Yours in Scouting

Akela (Rachel)



Sale Central Kilvert Cub Pack

The first half of 2021 remained on Zoom for the Kilvert Cubs. We covered a number of badges – Home Safety, Personal Safety, Road Safety, Local Knowledge and Entertainer. We also did some origami, played Taskmaster and Charades and made mini rafts.

Face to face meetings returned at the end of June and we made use of Walton Park for our first two Cubs sessions. Before meeting in person again we covered our Chef and Collector badges on Zoom. We finished the Summer term with a canoeing session at the Adventure Cave.

One Cub was awarded their Chief Scout's Silver Award this term.

It was at this point that Akela handed over the keys and the job of Section Leader to me when she moved away for her work.

When we started back in September Bobtail from Woodbourne Pankhurst Beavers joined us as a leader and shortly after that Mowgli and Baloo became uniformed leaders too. Shere Khan joined us in November as a Young Leader as well.

October saw a number of Kilvert Cubs and leaders go to a long awaited Cub Camp at Dunham and in November we paraded for Remembrance Day.

Some of our Cubs took part in a sponsored event this term. They stopped using games consoles, the Internet, etc for a week to do their bit to help the environment. They raised £343 and this will be buying some new trees to be planted in Walton Park, this being done through the Friends of Walton Park.

Over this term we worked on our Navigator, Personal Challenge, World Challenge, Outdoor Challenge and Emergency Aid badges. We also had a talent show and parents were invited in to take part in a quiz with the Cubs. We finished off with Christmas games, crafts and a Christmas movie night.

Can I take this opportunity to thank Bobtail, Baloo, Mowgli, Akela, Gary and Shere Khan for everything they have done at Cubs in 2021.

Ronnie Bryan (Bagheera), Cub Scout Leader



Sale Central Scouts Section

Going back to June 2021 we only had 19 members. This was partly due to some of the older scouts moving on, some members genuinely leaving due to lack of interest through a combination of us holding so many Zoom Meetings and starting basic face to face which, some families were understandably cautious about.

However, We were the first section to go back to Face to Face meetings so we ran activities according to those rules. These few meetings were quite simple to allow us to stay within covid rules of social distancing and limiting the sharing of equipment. But as the year progressed the restrictions were relaxed enough allowing us to move into more interesting meetings.

Fast forward to September '21, we managed such meetings as, Fire Station Visit, Bike Ride, Photography badge, Teamwork challenge, Personal Challenge, DIY Badge and then we finished the year by going Bowling... all in all, a great term to peak interest and start rebuilding numbers.

As a leader Team have hit another speed bump. We haven't seen Rob in ages & David Chan, who has been brilliant in helping with the Scouts over the past few years, has unfortunately had to take step back as his is starting his Masters Degree, couple that with a family and full time work, he just can't commit to Scouts for the time being but has told us that he will return after his degree so fingers crossed there.

This now means that Scouts is run solely by myself and Colin. However, on a brighter note, Pete and Jennie have already kindly agreed to come on board as Parental helpers and have already sat in on their first Scout Planning Meeting. So massive thanks to you both.

Massive thanks to Colin for everything he does, Big thanks to David and best wishes for his Degree. Let's hope we can keep this momentum going for the future.

Matt Darke

Scout Leader

