



Scouts

**1ST SOUTHGATE
SCOUT GROUP**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2023/24**

The Scout Association Registration Number: 33491

Charity Registration Number: 305881

1ST SOUTHGATE SCOUT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15th May 2024
Ron Hobbs Hall, Bligh Close, Tilgate, Crawley RH10 5DL

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction and welcome**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Governance topics**
 - a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17TH May 2023 ([2023 AGM Minutes](#))
 - b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) ([Model Constitution](#))
 - c. Note the Group's financial year
 - d. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
 - e. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the Group Scout Council (excluding this AGM)
- 4. Review of the previous year**
 - a. The Group Lead Volunteer's review of Scouting in the 1st Southgate Scout Group
 - b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts
- 5. Making appointments**
 - a. Appoint the Group Chair
 - b. Appoint the Group Treasurer
 - c. Appoint members of the Group Trustee Board
 - d. Appoint the Accounts Scrutineer
- 6. Closing remarks**

FROM THE GROUP SCOUT LEADER

Hello and Welcome to the review for last year.

As you may know, my role as Group Scout Leader (Lead Volunteer) is to support our volunteers to use Scouts to encourage your young people to achieve their potential. This can only be achieved with a fantastic team and my deepest thanks go to the uniformed and non-uniformed volunteers of this Scout Group who made last year a very special year.

In 2023 our youth membership grew (regained 2019 pre-COVID numbers!) we saw yet more outstanding generosity from our volunteers because despite taking in new young people we operated with 1/3rd fewer adults than in 2019. As always, my deepest gratitude goes to the adults who supported and continue to support the Group and Young People. Last year Beaver Sleepover was Rama's "gift" to the Beavers, knowing that she would be leaving the Colony with such great memories. Thank you very much Karen. Volunteers from all the sections come together to offer so many great activities.

Our movement is powered by the kindness and commitment of our volunteers. The last year has shown that to be truer now than ever. It has been a privilege to listen to and support the team in our work helping more young people gain skills for life.

Last year we continued to encourage adults to gain new skills and train and share their skills as instructors. This Group is again blessed to have such a skilled team; We have 8 adults experienced and trained to be able to take young people on Nights Away; to instruct in rifle shooting, archery, angel throwing (like tomahawks) and access to so much more. Our young people are so very lucky to have all this within their reach.

We encourage adventurous activities, and last year was no exception, but young people, families and circumstances have all changed. It used to be a very rare occasion that any young person in Scouts did not attend the whole of sleepover or camp. Sadly, it is not like that now. We know that Beaver sleepovers, Cub weekend camps, Scout Summer camps and even Explorer Expeditions are a huge challenge that many of our young people face for the first time with us. We put in an incredible amount of time to make these activities enjoyable, safe and creating memories that last a life time. We know that for some sleeping in a tent with others is daunting; being away from their families is a challenge; not getting as much sleep as usual or eating the same foods as usual can be very difficult too. BUT, it is a safe, exciting adventure an opportunity to grow and make friends – and this is the very core of what we do in Scouts. So PLEASE, encourage your young person to get the most enjoyment possible by staying for the whole event. I really hope that every Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer is encouraged to grab the very best of every opportunity that comes their way. (funds should never be an issue; if it is, remember we are a children's charity and will support where support is needed). Scouts is at its best when we all come together, work as teams and enjoy doing what we do.

The year 2023/24 was a great year and we are all looking forward to sharing 2024/25 and many more years with you all.

Chill
(Chris Hobbs)
Group Scout Leader

GROUP TRUSTEE BOARD

The Trustee Board (formerly Group Executive Committee) met four times during the 2023/24 year.

Its main business during the year has been to ensure the continued good governance in its overview of Scouting in the Group, achieved through regular oral and written reports, with a specific focus on:

- Transformation
- Group Finances and requests for expenditure
- Promoting Safety and Safeguarding
- Risk Management
- Review of Group Policies
- Training and Development
- Links between the Group and SRF Explorers
- The maintenance and upkeep of Ron Hobbs Hall and the grounds that it sits in

BEAVER SECTION

The last 12 months have seen the Colony grow from a low of 9 Beavers to the 16 we have now. There are others on a waiting list, however we need to be careful how many young people we take in due to Leader numbers. Sadly, Rama hung up her woggle last July, however this gave me the opportunity to take over as Section Leader at the beginning of September. It has been a steep learning curve but I have been supported by an amazing team both within Beavers and the Group as a whole. Thank you all so much.

During the year we saw 2 Beavers achieve their Chief Scout Bronze award and we are hopeful that by the end of the summer term we will see at least another 2 Beavers achieve this too.

Throughout the year the Beavers have been given the opportunity to work towards many badges including Navigator, Cyclist, International, Disability & Faith. They have worked on many skills from crafting and teamwork to fire lighting, tying knots and most recently whittling.

Beavers have been lucky to be able to go out to CTFC, Gatwick Police Station and Pets at Home (I think they would have sat all night with the rabbits & guinea pigs!) There have been larger events – St Georges Day where everyone was able to renew their promise, Coronation Capers, Winter Event and Christmas Crafts. Beavers have also joined with Cubs for fun such as water night back in the Summer, the Chip Shop run and a Christmas party.

For me the hi-lights of the year were the Beaver Sleepover at the hut where I joined Rama and the other leaders in July and then Group Camp in September where the Beavers joined the rest of the Group to camp for the Saturday night. For many Beavers these events may provide their first time sleeping away from home or their first experience sleeping under canvas. It is such a pleasure to watch them grow in confidence from when they arrive, to when they leave. This is particularly the case on Group camp where they are in a different setting too. It is a joy to watch them taking part in the activities and have the freedom to explore the campsite themselves. It is also a privilege for us to help them overcome any fears.

Wow – so much fun has been had and we are looking forward to the next year where we hope to continue providing opportunities for learning new skills, building on existing ones and having so much fun and adventure.

Bagheera
(Tracy Gidman)
Beaver Scout Leader

CUBS SECTION

Throughout the year we try to provide a varied programme of activities and our evenings have included Cyclist badge, St George's day preparation in readiness for the District St George's day parade, presentation by the Explorers who went to the Jamboree in South Korea, shelter building in Tilgate forest, visit from Crawley Town Community Foundation, healthy you night, Halloween, Group Winter Event, Astronomer badge, My Faith activity badge, Bookreader badge, pioneering evening, Chinese new year making shuttlecocks (sorry Belle for making you sneeze), cooking pancakes over a tea light on a tin can and a muddy welly walk in the dark in the forest.

The Cubs had a two night camp at Stanford in June. Then in September we had a group camp at Stanford which the Cubs, Scouts Explorers took part in and joined by the Beavers overnight on the Saturday. We were very lucky with the weather each time and had a great time on each occasion.

We have had many joint evenings with the Beavers so that they get to know the Cubs before they move on up. We visited Gatwick Police Station where they learnt about what the Police did at the Airport and saw the Police Dog in action, We had a Beaver, Cub and female relative evening at Stanford where we always have fun. Visited Crawley Town Football Club stadium where they were shown around and had a little quiz. The last evening of the Summer term there was a games evening. We had the walk around the neighbourhood ending up eating chips at the hut and deciding which chip shop sold the best chips. It is always good to see the two sections getting together.

Families were invited to attend the Coronation Capers Event at Stanford to celebrate the King's coronation. The Cubs were able to participate in the District Craft Day where they were able to take part in many crafty activities. The Cubs really seemed to enjoy themselves and took home some great makes.

During this busy year the Cubs, without realising it, were able to gain many badges culminating in 8 Cubs achieving their Silver Chief Scout's Award. Congratulations to Evie, Charlotte, Thomas, Charlie, Hannah, Mateusz, Georgia and Melanie (who completed it just before her move to Wales).

Many thanks to Hathi, Hathi 2, Rikki, Donna, Rhiannon, Emily and Eden for their continued help with the Pack meetings. Also to Baloo who we sadly lost in March as she moved to Wales, a little bit too far to come back each week to help out at Cubs.

Akela
(Pauline Maddocks)
Cub Scout Leader

SCOUT SECTION

It has been an amazing year for the Troop. Our three patrols have been going strong and working well together each week. The Patrol Leaders are gaining in confidence weekly and the Assistant Patrol Leaders are great support with lots of future Patrol Leader potential!

We currently have 22 Scouts in the Troop and have just welcomed Georgia up from the Cub Pack.

In the past year we have said goodbye to a couple of scouts – William and Jacob who have moved up to Explorers and I had the pleasure of seeing them receive their Chief Scout Gold Awards in Horsham in February this year.

The Scouts have worked hard this year both for badges and in general, learning new skills. There were 68 badges awarded to the Troop and we also have 37 pending at present.

All the Scouts have received their Personal Challenges from the Leaders recently – parents may have noticed that they are more helpful round the house and studying harder (!) The Personal Challenge is a 2 part badge – the first challenge is decided by the Scouts themselves that would lead to self-improvement or overcoming a fear. The second part is a Leader set challenge, that as a team we set (some of them involve cleaning up or cooking and some involve pet care or improving with their reading and schoolwork). Don't forget that a log is to be kept to show improvement and photos if possible!

Summer Camp in the New Forest was an extremely memorable adventure for several reasons – we joined 7th Crawley (as usual) and also had 1st Langley Green join us - 3 troops together!

The weather was not kind to us, with lots of rain it made for a very wet and muddy camp – so much so that we had to do a laundry run to dry clothing and bedding for the Scouts and Leaders.

Unfortunately a dreadful bug meant that most of the leaders were struck down and unable to function on the last day. But all the Scouts were brilliant and helped with packing up and striking camp. The parents were amazing as well, as plans were changed last minute and the Scouts were collected from site, rather than being returned via train- thank you for your support!

Thankfully, we have all recovered and most of us have camped again since then – fingers crossed for this year's Summer Camp, where we will be going to Thriftwood (near Brentwood) for a week – again with our friends at both 7th Crawley and Langley Green.

Sadly, Chloe one of our Young Leaders had to leave us this year – we wish her well with her studies.

The scouts are a credit to their parents and families and I would like to thank you all for supporting us with their scouting journey. We are very proud of all of them and hopefully look forward to being able to put forward several of them for their Chief Scout Gold Award soon.

I would also like to thank all the leaders in the team for their enthusiasm and support whilst I have been in charge of the Troop – due to work commitments, I will be handing the reins over to someone else from September this year – I will still be attending but am unable to commit to attending weekly.

Thank you.

Kerry Waudby
Scout Leader

EXPLORER SECTION

SRF Explorer unit is one of 4 main Explorer units in Crawley with around 25 members and 3 leaders. Each Explorer unit is part of the Crawley District Scouts and, therefore, not directly part of any group; however, we are affiliated with 1st Southgate, and work closely to share equipment, grounds and leaders when needed! Last year, we camped at Stanford's as a unit and then had our Summer Camp at Tolmers campsite in Hertfordshire. These camps were both full of lots of activities which the Explorers thoroughly enjoyed. We also joined 1st Southgate for their Group Camp in September, and it's always positive to see all 4 sections working together.

Over the last year, we have had a change in direction, beginning to focus on the Top Awards available for the explorers (e.g. achieving their Duke of Edinburgh awards and their Chief Scout Awards). Our numbers have reached a level at which we are now full, a position that matches the other three units in the district. We are currently trying to increase the number of leaders so that we can accommodate more young people. Any help is always welcome!

Phoebe Woolard
Explorer Scout Leader

OUR CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

When Sam Mason married his wife in 2016 he also married into 1st Southgate. Without previous Scout experience and not wanting to work directly with young people, he was an ideal candidate to join our Executive Committee as a Trustee and later stepped up to Chair that Committee.

We are extremely grateful for the 8 years Sam has supported the Group – continuing even when he moved to live the other side of the County AND have two children! He plans on staying on as a Trustee, but feels it is time for another to take on the role of Chair. Thank you Sam for all that you have done and will do in the future.

So ...

Is now the chance for you to 'make a difference'? Please consider becoming a Charitable Trustee of this Scout Group and maybe Chair. We have a few Trustees, so you would be part of a wonderful team who would love to share their vision of the future for the Group.

What do Trustees do? They support the Group's Volunteers to follow Scout policies and relevant legislation; manage the Group's finances agreeing how to manage the budget; look after buildings, insurance and property; manage risks and help this

charity to operate well, today and in the future – in short manage the Group to keep it Scouting, leaving the volunteer leader team to work with the youngsters.

And, the Chair? They lead the Trustee Board; plan when meetings take place, and decide [what to talk about at each meeting](#). They lead the meetings including the Annual General Meeting (AGM) working with the Treasurer and other Trustees. They talk with Lead Volunteers about their action plans; recruit new Trustees, supporting other Trustees checking in to see how they're getting on – all as part of the team. 3 or 4 meetings a year including the AGM and any events they may wish to get involved with.

Please do not be put off if you have no experience as all of the above can be learned on the job, all free of cost. You will always be part of a team; all you need is the wish to support our young people and Volunteers.

As Lead Volunteer (Group Scout Leader) I can honestly say that I KNOW Scouts can make a difference for young people, I KNOW many young people who have returned as adults to this Group and other Scouts because they KNOW they can make a difference. Here is YOUR chance. Please take it. Email, text, WhatsApp or even talk to anyone of the Lead Volunteers or Trustees, you will not regret it.

Chris/Chil

67 years of great Scouting
1ST SOUTHGATE SCOUT GROUP
Established May 1957

What will you do to help?

During the last year our members have had the opportunity to participate in Section, Group, District and County activities. We want to offer a diverse and adventurous range of activities for which we need willing participants – of all ages.

Parents – You are already part of the Group. Would you like to play a bigger part? Would you like to help? Is the development of your child important to you?

No magic skills are needed, although a daft sense of humour helps and a willingness to get involved.

You do not have to jump in with both feet; just tell one of the leaders that you are interested in finding out more.

SCOUT SHOP

For over 19 years now, **1st Southgate Scout Group** has had the franchise to operate the **Crawley District Scout Shop**, from our headquarters, Ron Hobbs Hall, on behalf of the District. During that time it has generated around **£71,000** of profits for the Group and the District.

This has been made possible by a very small band of adult volunteers – and we really need new people to help.

We are open **on Saturday mornings from 10.00 to 12.30 and Tuesday evenings from 19.00 to 20.30.**

If you would like to find out more about it, please talk to a leader, or e-mail:

shop@cdscouts.org.uk

Thank you



We've registered 1st Southgate Scout Group with #easyfundraising, which means over 7,000 brands will now donate to us for FREE every time you use #easyfundraising to shop with them.

There is a handy link to sign-up from on the front page of our website
<https://1stsouthgate.cdscouts.org.uk/>

Income and spending
01/03/2023 through 29/02/2024

	Total
<u>Income Categories</u>	
Activities & Events	2,165.75
AGM Raffle	66.00
Donations	1,137.75
Fundraising	
Freddie Thomas	532.89
Easy Fundraising	306.36
Ron's Rags	255.00
Amazon Smile	62.25
Total Fundraising	1,156.50
Gift Aid	1,310.82
Interest Earned	568.82
Misc	32.76
Scout Shop	1,500.00
SRF	449.75
Subs	
Subs - Beavers	1,374.00
Subs - Cubs	2,826.00
Subs - Scouts	3,164.00
Total Subs	7,364.00
T-shirt Sales	163.00
Total Income Categories	15,915.15
<u>Expense Categories</u>	
Activity & Events Exp	3,088.76
AGM	11.05
Badges	775.04
Bills	
Electricity	1,805.12
Rent	429.68
Water & Sewer	373.82
Total Bills	2,608.62
Capitation (2022)	2,838.00
Cleaning	773.99
Equipment	412.51
Insurance	1,378.18
Maintainance	4,760.97
Miscellaneous	466.88
Section Expenses	
Beavers	65.35
Cubs	165.08
Scouts	191.36
Whole Group Scouting	140.00
Total Section Expenses	561.79
Telecoms	341.46
Wifi	254.56
Total Expense Categories	18,271.81
Total Increase/(Decrease)	(2,356.66)

Net worth
As of 29/02/2024

Account	Total
<u>For Group Use</u>	
Cash & Floats	352.60
Current Account - Barclays	2,939.94
Deposit - Barclays	4,150.00
	<u>7,442.54</u>
<u>Contingency</u>	
Deposit - Barclays	18,000.00
	<u>18,000.00</u>
<u>HUT Fund</u>	
Deposit - Barclays	22,605.18
	<u>22,605.18</u>
Net Worth	<u>48,047.72</u>

1st SOUTHGATE SCOUT GROUP

USEFUL CONTACT LIST

GROUP VOLUNTEERS

Group Lead Volunteer	Christine (Chil) Hobbs	gsl.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk
Group Lead Team Member	Phoebe (Mysa) Woolard	phoebe.Woolard@cdscouts.org.uk
Lead Supporters	Zoe Grimshaw	
Explorer/Young Leaders	William, Jacob, Emily, Rhiannon, Eden and Nathan	

Activity Permit Holders; (previously Skills Instructors);

Gemma & Darren – shooting;
Pauline – archery;
Phoebe, Ollie and Kerry - Angel/Tomahawk throwing;
Mick Hill - Scoutcraft.
Nights Away Permits; Chris, Phoebe, Pauline, Gemma, Zoe, Kerry, Kayleigh.

BEAVER SCOUT

07308 610750

Beaver Team Leader
Beaver Team Members
Non-member with DBS

River Colony meets Wednesdays 5.45-6.45pm

beavers.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk

Tracy(Bagheera)Gidman
Jane(Keo)Hillman; Heather(Rainbow)Cunnew
Emma(Badger)Bloomfield

CUB SCOUT

07308 608976

Cub Team Leader
Cub Team Members
Non-member with DBS

Mafeking Pack meets Wednesdays 7-8.30pm

cubs.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk

Pauline(Akela)Maddocks
Darren(Baloo)King, Katherine(Rikki)Cairns, Gemma(River)Hobbs
Donna Nevill

SCOUT TROOP

07308 610303

Scout Team Leader
Scout Team Members

Troop meets Fridays 7:30-9:30pm

scouts.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk

Kerry Waudby
Em Staples, Kayleigh Davis, Michael Winkworth, Jake Powell,
Brendan Hall

EXPLORER SCOUTS

Explorers Team Leader
Explorer Team Members

Unit meets Monday evening

SRF.Explorers@cdscouts.org.uk

Phoebe Woolard
Ollie Gidman, Joe Butterworth & Peter White

GROUP WEBSITE

Crawley District website

<https://1stsouthgate.cdscouts.org.uk/>

<https://crawleydistrictscouts.co.uk/>

INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE

www.scouts.org.uk

Please ask to join our closed Facebook group page – 1st Southgate Scout Group, Crawley

TRUSTEES – (Group Board of Trustees)

Group Lead Volunteer	Christine Hobbs	gsl.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk
Chair	VACANT	chair.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk
Treasurer	Simon Maddocks	treasurer.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk
Trustee	Sharon Ottley	secretary.1stsouthgate@cdscouts.org.uk
Trustee	Sam Mason, Sara Woolard, Chris Prior, Karen Trethewey, Phoebe Woolard, Kerry Waudby.	

CRAWLEY SCOUT SHOP

Opening Hours: Saturday mornings 10.00 - 12.30 & Tuesday evenings 7.00 to 8.30

07935 882210

shop@cdscouts.org.uk