



1st Hinchley Wood Scout Group

Hinchley Wood Scout & Guide Headquarters
Lynwood Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey.
KT17 0DN
Registered Charity No:- 306727
www.1stHWScouts.org.uk



Annual Review 2019-2020

Group Chairman's Note, Emma Willson

Stepping into the role of Group Chairman exactly a year ago, little did I know this would be such an unprecedented year for every one of us. How things can be so very different in just 12 months. One thing that we have learnt though has been the importance of the Scouting values and the need for community, supporting others and thinking outside the box.

With new Exec members and faces to the group, this year had initially been about getting our feet under the table and continuing to ensure 1st Hinchley Wood Scouts flourishes. It started off well and I am grateful to all those stepping forward to take on new roles and run events. This includes a new team supporting Katie Sweeting with the Christmas trees, Karen James joining the JMC and organising the jumble sales and Pedro and Mark offering to take forward the quiz. Although unfortunately cancelled this year, we can look forward to it in 2021!

Our early fundraising efforts proved as fruitful as in previous years which has thankfully placed us in a decent position to weather the current challenges that will necessarily result from the coronavirus pandemic. This healthy position has allowed us to mitigate the impact of cancelling some fundraising activities, most noticeably the May Fair; contributing more to the running of the Hut (which a local nursery no-longer uses); and reducing subscriptions whilst meetings were held virtually. Next year will be challenging as we look to make the right decisions for the Group not only as to when / which activities to restart but around our finances too. I am confident though that we have the right team and foundations in place to do this in the right way. As well as challenges though, we have some exciting things to look forward to such as being able to provide a healthy curriculum of activities throughout the year. Perhaps next summer the Group can make use of the paddleboards we bought but never got the chance to make the most of this summer.

For all these achievements, and being able to effectively manage a difficult year, there are many people to thank. To the Leaders for continuing to provide an exciting and challenging programme for our children to enjoy as members of Scouting – I am sure many have also learnt new IT skills which is what scouting is all about. I would also like to thank all the members of the Exec who have given up their time and brought their enthusiasm to the organisation. I would finally like to thank all the parents/carers for your support of the Group. This is particularly the case following a move to virtual meetings and the additional help and support parents have provided to help members take on activities at home – hopefully this will have inspired a few to step forward and look at a more permanent role. I would really encourage people to get involved when and where they can – as we have said before there are plenty of areas where we need help whether large or small and we do keep a note of this. Without your continued support and involvement our children would not benefit from the values and exciting activities provided by Scouting.

Group Scout Leader, Chris Beaney

What a year! This year has been one of the most challenging periods for Scouting that any of us have ever experienced and not one that I was expecting when I took over from Adrian last September.

Whilst it started as normal with many exciting Group and District activities, during the 2019 Autumn term and Spring terms, it all came to an abrupt halt in March when face to face meetings were stopped due to the dreaded Covid-19.

In the best traditions of Scouting it was great to see all of our Leaders doing their best to deliver a programme during what would normally be the most active part of the Scouting year. I would like to say a huge thanks to all the leaders for coming up with so many innovative ideas and challenges to engage all our members, as well as learning how to use Zoom! Many of the leaders were, like many of you, also struggling with work, home schooling and all the other restrictions that this pandemic brought upon us so would appreciate if you could also show your thanks to them as and when the opportunity arises.

We are hoping to return to face to face meetings soon, but with a number of restrictions in place we are still evaluating this on a section by section basis to ensure that we can mitigate all the risks associated with any meetings.

As well as having to cancel many camps, the highlight of every year: Group camp, District Cub Camp, Scoutabout and our Scout and Explorer Summer camps, the latter two which should have taken place in Snowdonia, we also missed out on a number of fundraising activities which has directly impacted our finances. The first event to be cancelled was the Group quiz back in March but sadly also our Group May Fair. This is always a very popular event as it not only helps to promote Scouting but also helps bring the community of Hinchley Wood together, with the Schools, Church and Guides all joining in the fun.

As a Group our numbers have stayed very similar to previous years remaining the fourth largest in Esher District and the second largest with one section of each age range. The Beaver, Cub and Scout sections all remain full with waiting lists and the Explorer section is only restricted due to lack of extra leaders. The lack of meeting slots in our joint headquarters prevents more expansion of Group numbers.

It was great to see a huge presence from our Group at the Remembrance Day parade, where we all looked very smart & whilst we weren't able to take part in the usual St George's day parade we managed to take part in a District parade with over 600 attendees from the 10 groups in Esher District all attending via Zoom, quite an experience!

Group collective achievements include full and successful participation in the District and County events prior to lockdown, with active programmes for all the sections and the Scout Active Support (SAS) unit, the activities detailed in the section reports that follow. I also congratulate all Beaver scouts, Cub scouts, Scouts, Explorer and Network scouts who have had fun gaining badges and taking part in camps, activities and competitions during the year. I would particularly like to highlight the record achievement by our Scout section who managed to win the Top Troop Trophy for a 10th successive year, the trophy designed to show which is the best Scout Troop in Esher. We do not forget our Promise to help others either, see the section reports. Well done to you all!

All this activity and success does not just happen; it is the result of an enormous amount of hard work by the leaders and assistants who are the backbone of the group, supported by Scout Active Support and backed up by the Group Executive. I would like to express my thanks to all the volunteer leaders and assistants, past and present, who put so much time and energy into 1st Hinchley Wood.

Chief Scout Bear Grylls makes awards to leaders and other adults for their service. I'm very pleased to congratulate both **Gill Wills** and **Heidi Smith** for achieving the Wood badge. This recognises that they have completed the adult leadership training and so become members of the 1st Gillwell Park Scout Group, Gillwell Park being called the global home of Scouts.

In addition, Long Service awards were made(due) to the following Group members:

Sam Emmerson	5 years
Alex Higgins	5 years
Fiona Smales	10 years
Ian Broderick	15 years
Laurence Tanner	20 years

We now also have a presence on the District team with **Dan Camp** having volunteered to take on the role of District Youth Commissioner, helping to ensure the views of the younger members are shared with the District as part of any discussions. Dan is managing to juggle this role alongside his University studies.

There have been a number of changes in the Group's leadership team during the year, and thank those who have left us for the help they provided over many years. Whilst we have an excellent team more volunteers would be very welcome to help share the responsibilities more widely.

Thanks to an excellent leader training programme, there is no pre-requisite in expertise or experience. All leaders undertake to complete their initial leader training within five months of appointment and their full training within five years. They then undergo ongoing training throughout their service, keeping them up to date in such areas as safety, safeguarding and first aid. Those becoming leaders and taking on certain other roles may bypass the considerable waiting lists for membership of the sections for their children.

A continuing challenge for the volunteer leader team is delivering ever more sophisticated programmes requiring specialised training and qualifications such as archery, shooting and water and mountain-based activities. It is good to report that many of our leaders and instructors have undertaken training in specialist areas such as navigation, mountain walking, advanced first aid, shooting, Duke of Edinburgh Award, archery, water activities as well as their mainstream Scout adult leader training. Developing personal skills and then passing them on to young people is a very rewarding aspect of a leader's role.

Our activities teams are strengthened by the addition of Explorers and Network scouts joining the coaching teams. It is fantastic to see young people making use of the knowledge and experience gained through Scouting by putting something back into the movement.

Richard Beaney, our Group Quartermaster, continues to make a very positive contribution. With the ever-increasing amount of expensive equipment needed to support our level of activity his methodical and practical approach is much appreciated by the leaders. He continues to improve our equipment storage facilities and over the lockdown period has helped to clear out a lot of old unused equipment. This should provide us with more space to manoeuvre as well as make it easier to find equipment, in what was becoming a very cramped storeroom. When you next get the chance to come into the building you should also admire a much tidier roof space, having cleared away the old windsurfs that predate most members and which had accumulated many years' worth of dust.

One of our most recent acquisitions has been a number of paddleboards, which unfortunately due to lockdown we haven't yet had the chance to use on Group activities, although some of the leaders have been testing them out in readiness for when we do get the opportunity. These were kindly funded by councillor Mike Bennison from his community fund, Mike having very generously supported our Group over many years.

The Group welcomes joint initiatives with other local organisations, notably St Christopher's Church and Girlguiding Hinchley Wood, to promote the community of Hinchley Wood. One very visible result of this is the Hinchley Wood Community Magazine. This magazine, published by the Church and contributed to by 1st Hinchley Wood, helps to increase local awareness of just how much goes on in scouting and guiding in Hinchley Wood. Many thanks to Jacqui Signor for taking on responsibility for this and coordinating our contributions.

Closely supporting the uniformed team is the Group Executive, the lay team whose function is to support the Group in its work. The greatest part of this involves fundraising and our financial report shows just how important the fundraising effort is to our overall income. My thanks go to our Chairman Emma Willson, Secretary Amanda Moylan-Jones, Treasurer Laurence Tanner and all Group Exec members and parents who have helped in this and other vital functions.

The widened parent support base including our parent reps has been a real success story. Well done to everyone involved. Our future objectives are to attract more leaders, to train more in specialist roles and to encourage more parents to get involved in managing the Group and the joint headquarters. There are still plenty of opportunities to support your Group so please let me or any of our Exec team know if you can help in any way. Whilst many of these roles involve evening and weekend participation there are a number (record keeping or website development for example) which are not time or space dependent and thus practical for those who cannot easily manage to get to the HQ.

We hope you enjoy this Annual Review. I am grateful to all the contributors and especially to Jacqui Signor for producing this year's edition. We have included summary financial information in an easily understood graphical format however the full detailed trustees' annual report and accounts are available to anyone who requests them. Please help to promote our Group and our achievements by sharing this review around the area, such as within other organisations, schools, libraries, doctors' waiting rooms.



Beaver Colony

The Scouting motto is "Be prepared"ironically no one was prepared for Covid 19 but there was a time before Covid and this is what we're going to concentrate on in this Beaver's report .

First of all, I'd like to welcome our new recruit to the leadership team; Stoat.

He has been an excellent addition with his caring empathetic and patient way of dealing with the young people. His enthusiasm and IT skills have also been invaluable.

As always, the beavers worked hard at achieving assorted badges.

This was guided by various visitors, outings and work at the hut. The visitors included a photographer who helped stage and judge a photographic exhibition of photos taken by the Beavers. An artist who helped produce a painting nearly 10 m2. A Paralympian who showed off his Gold medals and talked about being on The Apprentice. A special effects/carpenter from the latest James Bond movie who gave each beaver a bullet casing from the set. The Beavers were thought how to prepare pancakes scones and samosas by much better cooks than Otter. A martial arts expert kicked it all off (see what I did there) with his visit. A HUGE thank you to all of these visitors. The Beavers had a very special time and we appreciate all your help .

The Beavers went on several outings also including trampolining, strawberry picking, Go Ape climbing and the escapade district camp. The hut provided the venue for pioneering challenges, coding, Father's Day present branding, water fights with home-made catapults and everyone including the Leaders learnt to dance the Macarena taught to us by the four oldest beavers.

When Covid hit we moved to Zoom meetings for which Hedgehog and Stoat must take the credit. Hedgehog for her enthusiasm, organising and drive and Stoat for his IT skills. Personally, I missed the face to face interactions with the children and hope to resume that as soon as it is safe to do so.

As you can see Scouting is an invaluable tool for teaching young people skills for life, improving self-confidence and self-reliance and forming lifelong friendships. It's also FUN for both young people and adults. However, all the leaders are unpaid volunteers and rely on parental help to give your children all of the above opportunities.

If you can help out please do - many hands etc. If you would like to become a Leader please speak to any of the present leaders for more information and insight. I can assure you you'll get more out of the experience than you put in.



Cub Pack

The Cubs kicked off the Autumn Term last September with Camp Skills (woodcraft and billy can cooking) and Blind Tasting (all flavours of crisps). We enjoyed an invitation to 1st Oxshott Cubs for a Camp Fire Sing-Along, completed a Night Hike to the top of Telegraph Hill through mud and rain and we learnt all about Diwali, the Festival of Light.

In terms of badge work we worked on Healthy Eating, and increasing our Disability Awareness, even learning how to sign the Cub Scout Promise in British Sign Language. The Cubs had to work together and think outside the box at Clue HQ in the Escape Rooms for our Christmas event. We celebrated an alternative Burns Night in January with Irn Bru and shortbread and commenced work on positive mental health, Global Issues and Digital Maker for our badge work. We ate pancakes, ran the District Cross Country and raised an amazing £487 in the 'March For Water' for Water Aid in aid of Sports Relief 2020, completing a combined total of over 400 laps of Giggs Hill Green. And then all our plans changed.

We enjoyed a number of online meetings via Zoom including making armpit fudge, scavenger hunting for more unusual household items and completing badge work all from our homes. A big thank you to all the Cub Parents and Carers for their parental help and continued support and to the Cubs for being so willing and positive despite the unexpected changes as a result of Covid-19.

We say farewell to the Cubs moving up to Scouts and we welcome those joining us from Beavers. Well done to James Blunden, Cameron Smillie, Stanley Higgins, Nicholas Emmerson and Zachary Stephenson for earning their Chief Scout Silver Awards (CSSA). We look forward to seeing you all back at the Scout HQ as soon as possible.

The Cub Leadership Team and Cubs send a huge thank you to Baloo (Alex Higgins) who stepped down as a Cub Leader at Easter. Baloo supported the Cubs for many years, inspiring and encouraging the Cub Pack throughout his time.



Scout Troop

What an incredible last 12 months for many reasons...

Well, since our last AGM, at least normal service was resumed in the Esher District Top Troop Trophy with our team winning both the Fishing and Night hike events resulting in 1st HW being awarded the overall top troop trophy for a further year! Well done to all Scouts who have participated in all the District events over the year including the Cooking, Scouting Skills, Day Hike events. It's been great to see some new faces entering in the competitions and we hope this continues when circumstances allow. Similarly, we saw great involvement in the many Saturday morning Orienteering events, attendance was fantastic and a big thank you to Sam Emmerson who arranged the events.

Our Tuesday evenings (what are they again?) saw a great variety of activities ranging from Lido kayak sessions, Cycling, Shooting, Skywalk and Ice Skating mixed with a number of scouting skills and badge related activities resulting in over 50 badges being awarded this year.

During the lockdown we also launched some new 'at home' activity badges which covered Chef, Farming, Model Making & Naturalist activities. In addition, a number of Scouts tackled some challenge badges and were awarded personal challenge badges for taking part in a number of 1st HW and District Zoom events as well as skills badges for completing tasks at home. Our lockdown photography competition saw some fantastic entries and a tough one to judge. Well done again to Ryan for his impressive winning photo below.

Over the last 12 months we are also delighted that 3 Scouts completed their Chief Scout's Gold Award – many congratulations to William, Ethan and Joe in completing all 9 challenges badges and obtaining the 6 or more staged/activity badges needed to fulfil the Award requirements.

Since the last AGM we have seen Rae and Ethan completing their bronze expedition along with 2 Scouts from 3rd Molesey in the New Forest. A total of 7 Bronze DoE awards were completed where activities were mostly done during Scouts (although most are now in explorers!).) Silver practice and qualifying expeditions, as well as a Gold practice expedition, were planned for Spring/Summer 2020 but unfortunately had to be cancelled. The boys' preparation for silver practice expeditions in the New Forest at Easter were almost complete before lockdown so can be picked up again rapidly once the actual expeditions are permitted.

So, onto last year's Summer Camp (what's that again?) and for 2019 held in the Lake District. What a week. It had everything. The green field site was a farm near Coniston with stunning views and quite a few sheep. Top highlights for our 26 Scouts included gorge scrambling with the duck that couldn't fly, kayaking, mountain biking and hiking up an air-conditioned Old Man of Coniston on UK's hottest day of the year (yes, just ask one of the Scouts about it!) Oh, and the tuck shop. Our Older Scouts also went on DoE overnight expeditions and despite some tummy troubles and some spectacular thunder rainstorms at night all Scouts enjoyed themselves and proved to be a very successful camp. A very big thank you to Fiona Smales who brilliantly fed and watered both Scouts and leaders alike!

Finally, a very big thank you to all the parents who have helped support us in running our activities. It's also been great to see some new faces helping out too as we wouldn't be able to offer such scale and range of our activities to our Scouts without everyone's help. A very special thank you also to our parent rep, Nicole, who helped co-ordinate our comms and especially for her chivvying along emails!

Whilst it was great to see many of our Scouts on our Zoom calls during lockdown, us leaders can't wait to see you all face to face (including those new Scouts whom we haven't yet met) in the hopefully not so distant future – details to (hopefully) be announced soon....!

The Scout Leaders are also immensely grateful for the very considerable support from Chris Beaney, John Daoud, Adrian Ducker, Peter Hanna and other group leaders. Thanks again to all. What a year!



Explorer Unit

The explorer unit has had a few notable events this year as well as the weekly meetings. In September 2019 the annual kayaking and canoeing trip on the river Wye in Symonds Yat was well attended with good weather throughout a peaceful day's paddle on the Saturday and a more exciting day on Sunday at the Symonds Yat rapids.

The Christmas meal had over 20 attendees including many previous explorers and as usual was well catered for by Peter Hanna. Members from the unit also attended the January winter activity weekend in the Brecon Beacons with other groups from across Esher district, hillwalking Pen Y Fan on the Saturday and rock climbing on the Sunday. Jack, George and Will also attended the Surrey scout water activity club's kayaking trip to the Usk in South Wales (because who would want to go anywhere else) in February and despite storm Dennis ensuring heavy rains and strong winds with some huge waves on the river hardly anyone swam and the day went well. On the Sunday they kayaked at the Cardiff International White Water Centre giving anyone who had missed out on swimming the chance to now do so. Throughout lockdown meetings have been run virtually and hopefully we can return to some non-virtual scouting in September.



SAS Unit

If you think you need to be an elite Scout to get into the SAS then you are completely wrong. SAS stands for Scout Active Support (SAS) and is open to anyone who wants to help out with the numerous activities that our leaders deliver to members of 1st Hinchley Wood Scout Group, as well as supporting some District activities.

Key activities that we help with are: camps, kayaking and canoeing, District activities such as Leader training, the Scout Day and Night Hikes, Cross Country run, Group fundraising activities (especially our Christmas tree deliveries) and keeping our equipment and stores in good order.

Given the impact of Covid and lack of camps we didn't get involved as much as we normally do over the past year, however made the most of our building being out of action, having a good clear out of the store room and area between the HQ and the Chris Platt Centre

If you would like to become a member of 1st Hinchley Wood SAS Unit whether it is to join in with some of the social activities, to learn to build a monkey bridge or a trebuchet, to help cook at camp or just to have a great talking point on your CV then please contact our SAS Unit leader Chris Beaney.



Scout & Guide Joint Management Committee, Sue Rodger

The Joint Management Committee (JMC) is the body responsible for the development, maintenance, and management of our headquarters which is jointly owned and occupied by Girlguiding Hinchley Wood and 1st Hinchley Wood Scout Group, together with the separately leased open space. It includes Leader representation, but the main executive roles should be held by Scout and Guide Parents- I am pleased to report that this committee has had new members since last year. Parents have taken on the following roles: secretary, chair and repairs coordinator. There will be specific projects that require a team approach. Thank you to these parents who have stepped up to help on this committee.

We derive income from the Guides and Scouts quarterly contributions, occasional lettings and up until the summer term 2019 nursery rental. In addition, a levy of £5 per member per term is paid through members subscriptions. Due to the nursery finishing and no other potential regular let at present the per capita levy has risen to £10 a head in January 2020 to offset the loss of income from the nursery. Everyday expenses are utility bills, building insurance and maintenance as per our ongoing schedule for redecoration, floor sealing and hedge trimming.

As always, a lot of work is needed to maintain and improve our HQ for the benefit of users. Parental help is always appreciated, such as at our twice yearly clean up days. During these unusual times we didn't hold the last clean up morning. We have had the hall floor resealed. We received funding from Mike Bennison for new tables. We are looking into getting the car park resurfaced and also to replacing the worktops in the kitchen. We will need to get the HQ Covid secure ready for restarting indoor meetings when this is allowed. We do not currently have a cleaner for the HQ. Our next clean-up day is Saturday 12th September.

Major works such as mentioned above are usually dependant on successful grant applications or other funding being made available as regular income will not cover this expenditure. This is a role that a parent could take on the JMC.

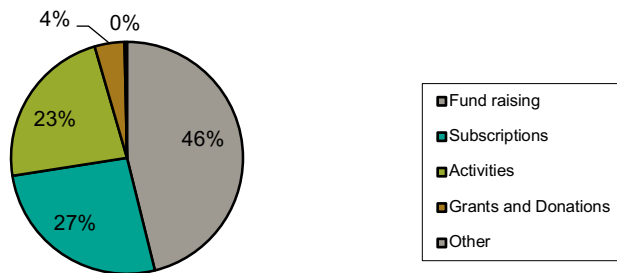
Treasurer's Report, Laurence Tanner

Income and Expenditure Summary for the financial year end 31st March 2020

Note. The complete Annual Report detail is available for review, please contact Emma (Chair) or Laurence (Treasurer) to request.

<u>Income (Source of funds)</u>	
Fund raising	31,350
Subscriptions	17,936
Activities	15,615
Grants and Donations	2,822
Other	237
Total	67,960

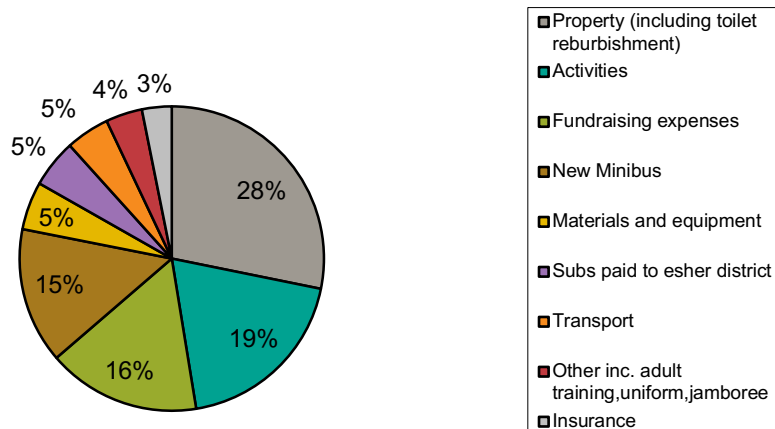
Source of Funds



Expenses (Use of Funds)

Property (including toilet refurbishment)	25,132
Activities	17,153
Fundraising expenses	14,492
New Minibus	12,859
Materials and equipment	4,556
Subs paid to Esher district	4,548
Transport	4,142
Other inc. adult training, uniform, jamboree	3,459
Insurance	2,812
Total	89,153

Use of Funds



1st Hinchley Wood Scout Group Directory 2020

Registered Charity No. 305727

www.1sthwscouts.org.uk

Leaders may be contacted via the Group website

Chairman	Emma Willson
Secretary	Amanda Moylan-Jones
Treasurer	Laurence Tanner

Other members of the Group Executive Committee include Daniella Whittington, Sue Camp, Nicole Murray, Laura La Frenais, Pauline Davies, Jacqui Signor, Edel Austin, Rachel Smith and the GSL and AGSL.

Section Leaders may also opt to be members of the Committee:

Group Scout Leader	Chris Beaney
Assistant Group Scout Leaders	Debs Beaney
	Ian Broderick
	Adrian Ducker
	Peter Hanna
Explorer Scouts	John Daoud
Scout Troop	Debbie Shaw
Cub Scout Pack	Debs Beaney
Beaver Scout Colony	Ian Broderick
Scout Active Support	Chris Beaney