

1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2012



Background

The Group is an educational charity established under rules that are common within The Scout Association ("the Association"). It is registered with the Association under registered number 24821 and with the Charity Commission under registered number 1067169. The governing document of the Association is the Royal Charter of 1912 as subsequently amended.

The Group has Beaver, Cub and Scout sections, which are based at The Scout Hut, Queens Road, Gossoms End, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HU. The Akeman Explorer Scout Unit, which also uses The Scout Hut, is administered as part of West Herts District Scout Council (registered charity no. 302518) and is not dealt with in the Annual Report and Accounts of the 1st Gossoms End Scout Group.

Trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation & Rules of The Scout Association. The trustees are the Group Executive Committee, and may include *ex officio* members, those elected by the Group Council, those nominated by the Group Scout Leader, and co-opted members.

The trustees during the year under review and to date were:

Richard Friend	(Group Chairman from 18 July 2011)
Lily Donlan	(Group Chairman to 18 July 2011)
Jo McAulay	(Group Scout Leader)
Judy Grundy	(Beaver Leader)
Fiona O'Grady	(Group Treasurer)
Julia Bragg	(Group Secretary)

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Contact Name and Address

Jo McAulay, 4 South Park Gardens, Berkhamsted HP4 1JA

Review of main activities, achievements and future plans

Group: The Group continues to flourish, with the February 2012 census return to The Scout Association showing 106 youth and 23 adult members. It has worked on a strategic plan to assess the Group's needs for the next decade. This has identified the growing numbers and increasing demand for places in all sections; the need for the Group to grow sustainably without putting pressure on the existing leaders so that it can continue to offer a full and varied programme of adventurous activities; the need to open a second scout troop; and for a quartermaster to look after Group equipment. It was felt that there would be benefits from enhancing links with the local community through supporting a local charity, and a partnership has been established with Sunnyside Rural Trust. A summary of section activities is set out below, with more detailed information on the Group website www.1stgossomsendscouts.org.uk including Newsletters.

Beaver Scouts: July saw two successful BBQs – the colony's own at Phasels and the District BBQ at Wendover (less wet than last year!) which were both a great success. More recently, the colony has had Diwali celebrations with the Beavers learning to say hello in Punjabi and Hindi, with a tasting of a variety of Indian foods. The Christmas Hike at Phasels was the best so far - running through the woods in the dark looking for Rudolph. Earlier this year, Parent Helpers made pancakes that went down a treat. Future plans include a visit to Waitrose, Pets-at-Home and the Fire Station.

Cub Scouts: The Friday pack has had a fresh team take the reins, with Sam Gillanders, Adrian Truman-Williams, Becky St John and Ian Sayle joining Jonathan Hawkins to make an enthusiastic team leadership. Sadly, Howard Scoot has left the team, but will be staying close by in Explorers. The year began with 28 cubs, but due to holding back a number of cubs and a number leaving early, there was a mass exodus at Easter and numbers are now down to 20. The pack is not, however, taking any children from the waiting list, because it is expecting 7 Beavers to come up in the autumn. The aim is a pack of 24. The Friday pack has been involved in numerous activities: participating in the County Cub Night Hike and Remembrance Sunday parade, and organising fabulous Halloween and Christmas parties. The Queen's Jubilee was celebrated with an indoor street party. The pack has also completed the Global Challenge badge, learning all about an international disaster relief charity called Shelterbox, the Astronomy badge, learning all about the solar system, stars and planets, and the Naturalist badge, pond dipping and bird watching at Tring College Lakes. In June, an Olympic themed cub camp was enjoyed at Phasels Wood.

Monday pack -During the last summer holidays, a number of Cubs dropped reducing Pack numbers to 18. Since then, numbers have picked up enormously to a very full 28 Cubs. Unfortunately in September Charlotte had to drop out, but fortunately Sean McKay joined Ben Roberts, John Faulkner and Mike Below in running the pack. Summer term meetings covered the Outdoor Challenge badge and a go at the Athletes badge. Monday cubs also participated in the County Cub Night Hike, with all participating Cubs gaining their Map Reader and Hikes Away badges, and the Global Challenge badge with speaker from Oxfam talking about the work that they do for children (and others) throughout the world. The pack also tackled the Promise challenge badge: a good badge to be doing with 12 new Cubs joining in January and getting invested.

Scouts: In April 2012 the Group's second scout troop opened, meeting on Wednesday nights, the "1st Gossoms End Jubilee Scout Troop". Leaders Adrian Truman-Williams, Darren Lavin and occasional helper Paul Suchodolski came together to establish the troop, the demand for which was evident in a high interest level. The young people selected are pleased to be participating and will help to develop the new troop. The first term's programme has been centred on camping, learning new skills and plenty of team building exercises.

Numbers in the Thursday night scout troop were up to 40, so for the last term all the Cubs coming up went to the new Jubilee Troop which will hopefully get numbers down to something more manageable. As usual a full programme was held, with the emphasis on camping activities. Easter camp was held in the Lake District and Summer camp was a week in the North Wales, with all places on these events fully taken up. Between May & October there was sailing once a month as well as a weekend camp every month. More details about all of these events and photos can be found in the Scouts section of the Group website. The troop continues to benefit from the commitment and leadership of Andy Robinson, ably assisted by Ray Deal, John Bull, Joel Tompkins and Sheila Robertson.

Accounts: The accounts, on page 4, have been drawn up on the receipts and payments basis (rather than on an income and expenditure basis) as in previous years. The General Fund shows payments exceeding receipts by almost £200 during the year, resulting in a reduced balance on that fund of just under £7,300. However, claims for income tax refunds under the gift-aid scheme are made after the end of the financial year to which they relate, and the £2,446 refund for the year to 31 March 2011 (including £482 for the Grants & Loans Fund) was not received until June 2012. Hall lettings accounted for over half of the General Fund receipts, and continue to be a vital source of income. The Camps & Activities Fund includes receipts and payments for camps planned for later in this calendar year and next, and also holds money set aside for spending on activities and equipment. A further £2,000 of the £6,000 minibus loan from the District was repaid, leaving £2,000 remaining to be repaid together with the accrued interest. The levels of reserves held are thought to be appropriate to meet future commitments and contingencies.

Approved by the Group Executive Committee and signed on its behalf:

Richard Friend – 9 July 2012

1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP

Independent Examiner's report to the Group Executive Committee (the charity's Trustees)

Report of the Independent Examiner for the year ended 31 March 2012

I report on the accounts of 1st Gossoms End Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2012, which are set out on page 4.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees 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;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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;

have not been kept, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michael Robinson FCA

36 Trevelyan Way, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1JH

9 July 2012

1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP
Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2012

Receipts & Payments Account	Funds:			Total 31.3.12 £	Total 31.3.11 £
	General (unrestricted)	Grants & loans (restricted)	Camps & Activities (restricted)		
	31.3.12 £	31.3.12 £	31.3.12 £		
Receipts					
Subscriptions - for calendar year	10,598	-	-	10,598	9,484
less: National and District subscriptions	4,659	-	-	4,659	4,218
Group subscriptions	5,939	-	-	5,939	5,266
Donations and general grants	110	-	-	110	818
Income tax recovered under Gift Aid on subscriptions & donations	-	-	-	-	2,464
Grants towards minibus	-	-	-	-	11,800
Donations re minibus (use of / purchase)	425	-	-	425	1,710
Loan re minibus	-	-	-	-	6,000
Hall lettings	8,587	-	-	8,587	8,027
Camps	-	-	8,014	8,014	6,607
Fees for future camps	-	-	8,610	8,610	3,440
Activities	-	-	58	58	455
Interest	10	-	-	10	13
Total Receipts	15,071	-	16,682	31,753	46,600
Payments					
Property maintenance	3,465	-	-	3,465	5,282
Hall - electricity, gas and water	1,627	-	-	1,627	1,459
Insurance - hall & contents	940	-	-	940	909
Camps	-	-	6,564	6,564	7,647
Expenses of future camps	2,000	-	4,717	6,717	1,292
Activities	1,932	-	1,183	3,115	3,431
Camping & general equipment	2,434	-	524	2,958	1,320
Minibus purchase	-	-	-	-	21,972
Minibus insurance	898	-	-	898	1,270
Minibus expenses	1,972	-	-	1,972	1,670
Minibus loan repayment	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Total Payments	15,268	2,000	12,988	30,256	48,252
Excess of Receipts over Payments / (Payments over Receipts)	(197)	(2,000)	3,694	1,497	(1,652)
Bank & Building Society accounts & cash at 1 April 2011	7,481	3,518	3,634	14,633	16,285
Bank & Building Society accounts & cash at 31 March 2012	<u>7,284</u>	<u>1,518</u>	<u>7,328</u>	<u>16,130</u>	<u>14,633</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 March 2011

	31.3.12	31.3.12	31.3.12	31.3.12	31.3.11
		£	£	£	£
Monetary Assets					
CAF Bank	7,264	1,518	953	9,735	11,313
HSBC	-	-	6,142	6,142	3,117
Nationwide Building Society	20	-	-	20	20
Cash	-	-	233	233	183
	<u>7,284</u>	<u>1,518</u>	<u>7,328</u>	<u>16,130</u>	<u>14,633</u>
Income Tax gift-aid claims	4,294	482	-	4,776	2,695
Debtors - inc subscriptions & hall lettings	330	-	-	330	1,043
Non-Monetary Assets - for own use					
Freehold property in Queen's Road, Berkhamsted - vested in The Scout Association Trust Corporation					
Minibus, Scouting equipment, furniture, etc					
Liabilities					
Loan & accrued interest to date (repayable by 31 December 2012)	222	2,000	-	2,222	4,125
Expenses incurred not yet invoiced	550	-	-	550	331
The £7,328 balance in the Camps & Activities Fund represents £3,893 received for future camps (net of advance expenses and £3,435 for future activities and purchase of equipment.					

Approved by the Group Executive Committee on 9 July 2012
and signed on its behalf by:

Richard Friend - Chairman

Fiona O'Grady - Treasurer