

# 1<sup>st</sup> GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2013



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> Gossoms End Scout Group.

## Trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation & Rules of The Scout Association. The trustees are the members of 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)  
Jo McAulay (Group Scout Leader)  
Judy Grundy (Beaver Leader)  
Fiona O'Grady (Group Treasurer to 9 July 2012)  
Juliet Penaliggon (Group Treasurer from 9 July 2012)  
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 has had another busy year, with the five sections now giving 125 young people an exciting and adventurous Scouting experience. The team of 20 adult leaders have been hard at work to provide these opportunities for the children and thanks are due to them for their commitment, energy and enthusiasm. The Scout Group has grown a great deal over the last year and this has put additional pressures on the already busy team of leaders and helpers. The Group Executive Committee is looking in particular for an additional person to help on the hut management team.

Highlights of the year:

Last year it was our turn to host the annual St George's Day Parade and Service, which was held on Sunday 22 April, and there was a great turnout from across the West Herts. District. The Group's annual family camp was held over the last weekend of May, in Henlow, Bedfordshire – this time there was a Jubilee theme with lots of games and activities both on and off the water for the 170 attendees. The partnership with the Sunnyside Rural Trust, in support the wider community, involved planting 400 strawberry plants for them and the Group took part in Scout Community Week by holding a sponsored litter collection in the town, along the Bulbourne river and canal towpath around Waitrose, raising £191 for Sunnyside Rural Trust and the Group. Crucially from a Group strategic perspective, we opened our second Scout troop - the Jubilee Troop.

## **Beavers**

After a very wet summer including a day of torrential rain at Wendover Woods, our colony of 22 Beavers have had a good mix of outdoor and warmer activities inside. In September they learnt about animals and this finished with a trip to Pets at Home in Hemel where most Beavers were able to complete their Animal Friends Badge. Most of the Beavers attended the West Herts Christmas Event at Phasels Wood. The Beavers went for a night hike looking for Rudolph's red nose, Christmas Carols were sung round a camp fire and then after some hot chocolate and cake, Santa Claus appeared to give the Beavers and siblings their Christmas treat. We had 3 Beavers leaving at Easter who have all nearly completed their Bronze award, well done!

## **Cubs**

Both Cub Packs joined in the County Night Hike in September with five teams of intrepid Cubs hiking in the dark around the wilds of Leverstock Green. They hugely enjoyed this and as they've forgotten how tired they were, they'll want to do it again this year!

Monday Cubs - Two more Silver Chief Scout's Awards have been gained – congratulations to the cubs concerned! This term has focused on the Fitness Challenge badge which was awarded at the end of the term. In the middle of the term everyone enjoyed cooking their pancakes. Monday pack had an enjoyable (and dry!) camp at Phasels in May.

Friday Cubs - In December, enough money was raised from a charity stall to sponsor a child for a year through Action Aid. Our child is called Abrahamo – and is eight – the same age as a number of the cubs. The cubs have been very imaginative of late as part of the Creative Challenge badge. This included a Top Trumps night when they made their own playing cards, and a games night when the cubs invented games. They also visited Hemel Fire Station as part of the Community Challenge badge.

## **Scouts**

Jubilee Troop - The Jubilee Troop, meeting on Wednesdays, was 1 year old in April 2013. Well done to all the Scouts who have formed the troop and helped with all its successes, including the District Raft Race, Green Beret, Frosties, 1st section of the Ridgeway hike and not forgetting the Survival camp in Norfolk last summer.

Thursday Troop – The Thursday Troop has been on several camps so far this year, visiting Great Towers in the Lake District at Easter. Activities included mountain biking, rock climbing, hill walking and day trips. Last summer they had a great experience camping at the International Scout Centre in Kandersteg in Switzerland for two weeks.

**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 receipts exceeding payments by almost £6,400 during the year, resulting in an increased balance on that fund of just over £13,600. However, the receipts included two years of claims for income tax refunds under the gift-aid scheme and the £2,446 refund for the year to 31 March 2011 (including £482 for the Grants & Loans Fund) really related to the previous year. Hall lettings rose again but with the increase too in Group subscriptions, these accounted under half of the General Fund receipts. 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. The remaining £2,000 balance of the £6,000 minibus loan from the District was 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 2013

# **1<sup>st</sup> GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP**

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

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### **Report of the Independent Examiner for the year ended 31 March 2013**

I report on the accounts of 1<sup>st</sup> Gossoms End Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2013, 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 2013

**1st GOSSOMS END SCOUT GROUP**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013**

Receipts & Payments Account	Funds:			Total	Total
	General (unrestricted)	Grants & loans (restricted)	Camps & Activities (restricted)		
	31.3.13 £	31.3.13 £	31.3.13 £	31.3.13 £	31.3.12 £
<b>Receipts</b>					
Subscriptions - for calendar year	12,736	-	-	12,736	10,598
less: National and District subscriptions	5,314	-	-	5,314	4,659
Group subscriptions	7,422	-	-	7,422	5,939
Donations and general grants	843	-	-	843	110
Income tax recovered under Gift Aid on subscriptions & donations	4,493	482	-	4,975	-
Donations re use of minibus	135	-	-	135	425
Hall lettings	9,387	-	-	9,387	8,587
Camp fees	-	-	10,200	10,200	8,014
Fees for future camps	-	-	4,450	4,450	8,610
Activities	-	-	703	703	58
Interest	30	-	-	30	10
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>22,310</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>15,353</b>	<b>38,145</b>	<b>31,753</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Property maintenance	2,162	-	-	2,162	3,465
Hall - electricity, gas and water	3,140	-	-	3,140	1,627
Insurance - hall & contents	995	-	-	995	940
Camps	1,000	-	13,289	14,289	6,564
Expenses of future camps	-	-	1,743	1,743	6,717
Activities	3,061	-	1,368	4,429	3,115
Camping & general equipment	3,633	-	1,107	4,740	2,958
Minibus insurance	852	-	-	852	898
Minibus expenses	836	-	-	836	1,972
Minibus loan repayment & interest	268	2,000	-	2,268	2,000
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>15,947</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>17,507</b>	<b>35,454</b>	<b>30,256</b>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments / (Payments over Receipts)</b>	<b>6,363</b>	<b>(1,518)</b>	<b>(2,154)</b>	<b>2,691</b>	<b>1,497</b>
Bank & Building Society accounts & cash at 1 April 2012	7,284	1,518	7,328	16,130	14,633
Bank & Building Society accounts & cash at 31 March 2013	<b>13,647</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,174</b>	<b>18,821</b>	<b>16,130</b>

<b>Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 March 2013</b>					
	31.3.13 £	31.3.13 £	31.3.13 £	31.3.13 £	31.3.12 £
<b>Monetary Assets</b>					
CAF Bank	13,627	-	-	13,627	9,735
HSBC	-	-	4,787	4,787	6,142
Nationwide Building Society	20	-	-	20	20
Cash	-	-	387	387	233
	<b>13,647</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,174</b>	<b>18,821</b>	<b>16,130</b>
Income Tax gift-aid claims	2,857	-	-	2,857	4,776
Debtors - inc subscriptions & hall lettings	1,753	-	-	1,753	330
<b>Non-Monetary Assets - for own use</b>					
Freehold property in Queen's Road, Berkhamsted - vested in The Scout Association Trust Corporation					
Minibus, Scouting equipment, furniture, etc					
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Loan & accrued interest to date (repayable by 31 December 2012)	-	-	-	-	2,222
Expenses incurred not yet invoiced	220	-	-	220	550
The £5,174 balance in the Camps & Activities Fund represents £2,707 received for future camps (net of advance expenses) and £2,467 for future activities and purchase of equipment.					

Approved by the Group Executive Committee on 9 July 2013  
and signed on its behalf by:

Richard Friend - Chairman

Juliet Penaliggon - Treasurer