

# Trustee's Annual Report

**For the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

Registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 302291. Please note on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 the Group's name changed from the 5<sup>th</sup> New Forest North (Testwood) Scout Group to the 5<sup>th</sup> Testwood Scout Group. The charity retains its charity number and saw no change to its purpose or mission.

## Trustees for the period



Name	Role	Dates acted (if not entire period)
Debbie St. John	Group Chairperson (ex-officio)	
Barry Stride	Group Scout Leader (ex-officio)	01.01.21-14.04.21
Julie Mair	Group Scout Leader (ex-officio)	14.04.21-
Mel Green	Group Secretary (ex-officio)	
Lynne Patience	Group Treasurer (ex-officio)	
Steven Osborn	Beaver Scout Leader (ex-officio) Deputy Group Scout Leader (ex-officio) from April	
Sarah Challis	Assistant Group Scout Leader (ex-officio) until April Cub Scout Leader (ex-officio) from April	
Craig Challis	Cub Scout Leader (ex-officio)	
Joe Simes	Scout Leader (ex-officio) and Quartermaster	
Max Simes	Assistant Scout Leader (co-opted)	
Kerie Wallace	Explorer Scout Leader (ex-officio)	
Heather Ball	Beaver Scout parent representative (elected)	22.07.21-
Jessica Barraclough	Beaver Scout parent representative (nominated)	28.09.21-
Katrina Seddon	Beaver Scout parent representative (elected) until July; then Cub Scout parent representative (elected)	
Kelly Willoughby	Cub Scout parent representative (elected)	
Trina Sillence	Scout parent representative (elected)	01.01.21-22.07.21
Tara Dunton	Scout parent representative (elected)	01.01.21-22.07.21

## Structure, Governance and Management

The charity's governing documents are those of the Scout Association. The Scout Association's governing document is a royal charter which gives authority to the Bye-laws of the Association and the *Policy, Organisation and Rules* of the Scout Association. The group is a trust established under these rules which are common to all Scout groups. We use the model constitution as laid out in *Policy, Organisation and Rules (3.24)*.

**5<sup>th</sup> Testwood Scout Group**  
Garland Lodge  
Blackwater Drive, Calmore  
Southampton, SO40 2QJ

hello@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk  
5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk

 /5thTestwoodScouts  
 @5thTestwood

The trustees are appointed in accordance with the *Policy, Organisation and Rules* of the Scout Association (POR).

The group is managed by an elected executive committee comprising a Group Chairperson, Group Scout Leader, Group Treasurer and Group Secretary along with individual section leaders, parent's representatives and others co-opted onto the committee for their knowledge or skills. The committee meets every two months on average.

The Group Executive committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their role. Members are legally and financially responsible for the running of the scout group. Their responsibilities include:

- Maintaining group property so that it is safe to use.
- Raising funds and administering the group's finances.
- Insuring persons, property and equipment linked to the group.
- Ensuring good relations between the group, our local community and the wider public.
- Assisting to recruit leaders and other supporting volunteers.
- Appointing any sub-committees that may be required.

The group has systems that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement and loss. These include requiring two signatories for all payments made by any section within the group, expenditure of a certain amount going through the full executive committee and insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021, the 5<sup>th</sup> New Forest North (Testwood) Scout Group went from being a part of the New Forest North district of the Scout Association to being part of a new, amalgamated New Forest district. As a result of this merger, the group's name was changed to 5<sup>th</sup> Testwood Scout Group to remove the former district's name from the group. Our charity number, purpose, values and mission remain unchanged and the new amalgamated district supports the group in the same way that the previous district did.

## **Objectives of the group**

The objectives of the group are as part of the wider Scout Association. The purpose of the Scout Association is "to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society."

This is achieved through the scout method as Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and enjoy what they are doing and have fun; take part in activities indoors and outdoors; learn by doing; share in spiritual reflection; take responsibility and make choices; undertake new and challenging activities; and make and live by their Promise.

We are guided by the values of Scouting which are:

- Integrity: We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- Respect: We have self-respect and respect for others.
- Care: We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- Belief: We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- Co-operation: We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

The current goals of the Scout Association are shared by the group and based around the *Skills for Life plan 2018-2025*. The goals are based around achieving:

- Growth; enabling more young people and adult volunteers to benefit from scouting and the skills it gives them.
- Inclusivity; ensuring barriers to inclusion are removed and working to build tolerance.
- Community impact; making a difference in our local and global community.
- Youth-shaped; ensuring our young people get a voice in scouting, share their experiences and take on leadership roles.

## Activities

Despite Coronavirus restrictions affecting the ability of the group to meet up for some of the year, the Scout group and its sections have been active in their activities meeting safely in person where possible or virtually where this was not possible due to government restrictions.

Even towards the later sections of the year, meeting up with other sections or other groups was difficult which restricted opportunities for District and County activities that would normally be a large part of the programme. Our leaders and Scouts took part in the District Expedition to the Lake District, the Soap Box Derby go-cart race returned, our Beavers took part in the County's day to Paulton's Park, our Cubs participated in Ferny Croft's Fright Night and our award holders took part in an Awards day. Additionally, our leaders took part in a skills day at Harry's Island Scout Campsite and represented the group at the Remembrance Day Service in Totton as it wasn't yet possible to invite our young people safely. Our leaders remain actively involved within the new district to establish a new rolling programme of activities and events to support our young people across the new district for the future.

A number of nights away opportunities were provided for the majority of our members. This included virtual sleepovers towards the beginning of the year, a sleepover in the autumn at the hall for our Beaver Scouts in tents, a Parent and Child camp and a sleepover at Flip Out for our Cubs in September and December respectively. All sections also completed adventurous activities such as climbing, archery, shooting and rafting.

The Santa Run and Christmas Fayre returned in December 2021 with a good number of runners and a good showing at the fayre despite tough competition from other events and the ongoing pandemic. We now have an established core event and work is underway to develop this for next year.

The ongoing refurbishment of the Scout HQ included a replacement of the exterior fascia boards with a new longer-lasting material and the re-grading of the car parking area.

The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

## Achievements

The number of young people in our sections held steady for the first part of the year before growing strongly, especially in our Beaver colonies, in the summer and autumn terms as more young people sought to join in following the pandemic limiting activities, especially as the relaxing of the rules made it more appealing to get involved. By the end of the year, the number of young people was more than at the start of 2020 in every section except Scouts where the number was slightly less but still healthy. Number of volunteers and leaders also bounced back to 2020 levels.

Positive feedback from young people and parents/carers was received about all of the above events and the growth figures show the everyday programme is also being enjoyed and recommended to peers. At the District AGM, the group was recognised for attending the most District events.

## Financial overview

Income through all avenues increased this year compared to last year as activities resumed and membership grew. The costs of running the hall were examined during 2021 by the trustees and a modest increase in the membership fees was made for our members to cover these after no rise in these fees for many years. Income through membership fees rose by over £5,000 with additional rises in income for activities as these could resume.

Income from the Santa Run and Christmas Fayre was £2,000 more than the raffle held last year, although the income from the raffle held at the end of 2021 was not banked until 2022 and so do not appear on these accounts. Additionally, as other users were able to use the hall again, income from this stream more than doubled, although was still lower than a normal year as external users were only using the hall for a fraction of the year. There was a modest increase in donations with a small decrease in funding from other income streams such as through Easy Fundraising, Amazon Smile or donations of clothing.

**In total, income was £23,468**, near exactly double the income for 2020.

Expenditure increased compared to last year as activities recommenced. While membership numbers recorded at the January 2021 Scout Census were lower, this did not translate into a much reduced membership fee paid onto District, County and UK HQ as many members were kept on by sections in anticipation of returning to face-to-face meetings with registers being adjusted in April 2021 when this had occurred. Costs for activities were increased, partly through paying deposits for future events such as the Group Camp scheduled in May 2022, but also for adventurous activities that were missed during the pandemic and vital to the programme.

Rent remained stable, utilities and cleaning costs were reduced with reduced usage of the hall although insurance costs increased. With the return of section activities, spend on badges and clothing increased significantly and costs associated with materials, equipment, repairs and renewals remained high as projects from 2020 and 2021 were financed.

**In total, expenditure was £26,970**, £9,000 more than the year before.

The recorded over-spend in the Cub accounts that has been noted in the accounts for the past four years was resolved this year. There remained no financial impact on the overall Group accounts as the transfer was an internal one.

The group received no assistance from the local authority or central government regarding coronavirus relief grants.

This year saw the group record a loss, in common with the previous year although half that recorded in 2020. We are here to support our young people and our community and the use of our resources built up over time was important to ensure our premises remained safe, our members get the best Scouting experience and our families supported so that Scouting can remain for all. We anticipate a more normal financial picture for 2022 as full Scouting free from significant restrictions returns.

## Reserves Policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Group Executive Committee considers that the group should hold the following reserves:

- a sum equivalent to 24 months running costs (£8,000).
- a fund for the replacement/maintenance of assets such as the hall and equipment (£1,500)
- Section support (by request) (£500)

These reserves were last reviewed and agreed at the Exec meeting on 22nd February 2018.

## Investment Policy

The Group does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The Group has therefore adopted a risk-averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks and The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service.

## Future plans

The group is planning to hold a Group Camp at Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre in May 2022 open to all young people to celebrate the Group's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with former volunteers invited to join the celebrations. In addition to this, all sections have a variety of nights away opportunities planned with the return of Summer camps for the Cub and Scout sections in particular.

All sections are looking to recruit and grow with the emphasis in the Beaver colonies and Cub packs on growing the volunteer leader team and in the Scout troop on growing the number of young people.

All sections are working on giving young people a meaningful voice in their section's programme with the Beaver Scouts working on the YouShape award, the Cub Scouts developing their community impact project in tandem with their young people and the Scouts looking to develop the leadership skills of their young people in general.

With the easing off of Coronavirus restrictions and the roll-out of the vaccine, 2022 looks to present greater freedoms for the sections and with it the return to a full range of Scout programme activities including visits, larger joint events and more young people achieving their top awards.

The maintenance and development of our HQ continues and more work is planned for the following year including repairs to the storage areas, general improvements, tree works to the grounds and planning for more substantial improvements to the toilets.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above.

Signed on behalf of the trustees of the 5<sup>th</sup> Testwood Scout group:

---

---

Date: