



**#SkillsForLife
for 60 years.
2022-23**



Scouts
5th Testwood

Welcome

For 60 years our group has been giving young people #SkillsForLife in Totton. Be that the speak-up needed for school, the sticking at it needed for a hobby or the first aid needed for life. This only happens thanks to many adult volunteers covering all our activities.

3. What's coming up?

AGM Agenda

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Message from our Group Scout Leader

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for the 2022 calendar year

30. What happened last time?

Minutes of the AGM for the 2021 year

Agenda

6th July 2023, 6.30pm

Garland Lodge, Blackwater Drive, Totton, SO40 2QJ

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting of the Group Scout Council (AGM).
4. Receiving of trustee's annual report and accounts for 2022.
5. Approval of Group Scout Leader's nomination of Group Chair
6. Election of Group Secretary
7. Election of Group Treasurer
8. Election of members to Trustee board (parent representatives)
9. Approval of Group Scout Leader's nomination of members to Trustee board
10. Appointment of independent examiner, readoption of constitution and agree quorum for meetings
11. Presentations from sections including any awards due
12. Close of meeting

GSL's report

I think it sums up the Scouting experience quite nicely that I became Group Scout Leader of this amazing group of young people and volunteers after a chat in a mountain valley in Switzerland on my birthday. Being the lead volunteer for you all, making sure every young person gets a great Scout experience and the group runs smoothly is a responsibility to be sure but one I'm ready for.

2022 marked the 60th anniversary of our group, founded as it was in 1962 as the 23rd Romsey, with many leaders emerging from the former 22nd Romsey (St Winfrids) group. History lesson aside, it provided us a good excuse to hold a long overdue group camp when we invited members of the group from the past to join us and enjoy the birthday cake! With a whole host of activities across three days at Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre there were smiles all round and new experience for so many of our young people.

As you'll see from their own reports, our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and the linked Explorers have all been on mighty adventures this year, celebrating our anniversary and making up for lost time. The strength of the Scouting on offer was plain to see when the time came to stand and be counted. Our group is the biggest it has been for many years with more young people from more sections of our community and slightly more volunteers. It gives us a strong place to grow from.

This year sees the launch of Squirrels, the next exciting section and while the start has been steady it is beginning to grow. By the time of our next AGM I'm sure it'll feel like they've always been a part of the family. My thanks to all who have helped it find its feet.

After a number of years, Debbie St. John stepped down as our Chairperson and I'm very grateful to Hayley Simes who has already got stuck into the role, helping me ensure the group meets our obligations. It's been a big job but much has been done so we are prepared for whatever comes our way.

Volunteers make our group tick. Whether they are our trustees making the big decisions five times a year or the many leaders proving skills to our young people week-in week-out. That's not even mentioning those who spared some time to guide donkeys at the Donkey Derby or fixed the hall on a maintenance day. It all makes a difference and we desperately need more of them.

We've got big dreams to grow, to update parts of our HQ and reach new audiences but we need you to do that. If you can help even once a month at our sections then it makes all the difference. If you can help occasionally behind the scenes then it makes all the difference. If you can be a trustee then it makes all the difference. If you can get behind the Totton Santa Run and Donkey Derby, which help fund the group, then it makes all the difference.

Thank you again for all your efforts. I won't have been Group Scout Leader for a year when our AGM takes place but it's been an incredible experience. Here's to the next year of adventures, fun and skills for life.

Steven Osborn
Group Scout Leader

Rowan Drey report





In September 2021 the newest branch of the Scouts family tree was officially born. After years as an early years pilot, Squirrel Scouts for 4 to 6 year old girls and boys was born! A year and a half of planning and behind the scenes preparation later and we were ready with our own Squirrels Drey at 5th Testwood, the second in our district.

Including activities like den building, becoming superheroes, celebrating the Coronation and growing from seeds to list but a few the smiles on their faces have been infectious. Launching in March and more fully after Easter, the trial sought to engage our young people and recruit a new team.

There was a lot of excitement around the launch and many parents interested, although it took longer than we'd hoped to build the number of regular young people attending. We're looking to tweak the timings to make it more convenient for parents—all part of our trial.

Thankfully we've begun to recruit a team with two new volunteers agreeing to play their part and Sarah Stride supporting the new section with her imagination and craft skills when her time allows. I'm super excited for where the Drey goes next so please spread the word, invite new faces along. My sincere thanks also to Vanessa for taking a lead during the trial period.

Steven Osborn
Group Scout Leader

Squirrel Scouts are our youngest section for 4 and 5 year old girls and boys. They meet on Thursday evenings.

squirrels@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk

Blackwater & River Test reports



BEAVERS

Our team has had a big change around over the last year. As Steven (Elk) moved up to Group Scout Leader, Myself (Narwhal) has transitioned into the position of Beaver Scout Leader. I wouldn't have been able to do this without the amazing other leaders behind me. We now have Justin (Raven), Jess (Pika), Vicky (Fox) and Scott (Kodiak Bear).

We have been working as a team and allocating different jobs out, so we are not overwhelmed. Kat (Snowy Owl) was our star admin leader, and we are grateful for all her organisation that end. Unfortunately, Kat had to make the tough decision to step away from Beavers, but she is hoping to continue her scouting time with the Cubs.

Our leader team have also been gaining further skills by attending skill weekends at Ferny Crofts and other opportunities for new skills happened through our programme nights. Raven has been successfully awarded his indoor nights away permit, tomahawk and climbing wall instructor and very recently I was able to gain my campsite nights away permit.

We have had a wide range of session themes in the hut including some new topics. Some of the highlights were getting to know our emotions, having fun with cameras and a night of code breaking. We had our first Pride evening where we welcomed volunteers from Yellow Door to speak with the Beavers and we even got a free pen! We had a return visit from our pilot friend Joe (via video) who answered all the questions we had about flying.

There has been a wide range of sleep over opportunities. We joined the District sleepover at Calshot, slept in the amazing environment at Injoy and returned back to our hut for a camp out sleepover.

The camp out was a successful event, where Beavers gained their Outdoor Challenge badge along with a few others. The camp out included putting up tents/shelters, learning about fire, camp crafts and even a real scenario for first aid (clumsy Raven).



We have attended some of the scouting events at local attractions such as the annual Paulton's Park day in October and Scouting at Marwell in May. We are looking forward to the District Beaver Picnic on the 4th July and have prepared some fun games with the parachute.

We have awarded the top Bronze award to a few of our older Beavers who have continued their journey with Scouting into Cubs. We currently have 14 Beavers on a Tuesday and 20 on a Wednesday.

Faye Osmond

Beaver Scout Leader

Beaver Scouts are our section for 6 and 7 year old girls and boys. They meet on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

beavers@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk



Discovery & Endeavour report





This year has been tough, the leadership team has not been running at full strength due to Red Wolf having to take a step back due to health reasons. I want to say a personal thank you to the Cub Leaders of both Endeavour and Discovery who have supported me in the past year, without them I don't think we would have been able to put on the program we have in the last year.

We are currently operating at 46 Cubs across both packs, and we will soon welcome some more Beavers to the pack and start some of the older Cubs on their transitions to Scouts.

We have managed to pack some brilliant nights away in over the past year. In Summer 2022, we took the Cubs to Butchers Coppice for an Island Summer Camp. The Cubs had a fantastic time and experienced some brilliant adventures such as the great British holiday of going to the beach in the rain.... We also visited a few other islands including Brownsea, Treasure, Australia and Hawaii. Fun and laughter were had by all, and we look to return this year.

Our winter term was packed with lots of fun, activities and badge work. We took the Cubs to Fright Night at Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre where they enjoyed a day packed full of activities and an evening full of jumps and scares.

October saw the return of Parent & Cub Superhero Camp, where our budding superheroes (Cubs) and their sidekicks (parents) came to Ferny Crofts for a weekend of superhero training.

They joined Aquaman in the pond, built a Bat-mobile, practiced their Spidey senses on the Climbing Wall as well as facing Riddler's Challenges and undertaking the final battle of Good versus Evil. Everyone was a good sport and we hope they enjoyed themselves.

The Avengers were the winners of our new Parent & Cub Camp Shield which has been named after the late Mike Szymanski (previous Group Chairman) who was the Champion of Parent & Cub Camp having never been on a losing team.

November saw the return of the District Scrapheap challenge which saw 4 Testwood teams build a model out of junk along the theme of 'planes, trains and automobiles'. Endeavour took home the trophy, not only for their fabulous model, but for the brilliant story that went with it.

December 2022 was busy with Santa Run which the Cubs wholly supported and finished with our traditional Christmas Film Night Sleepover.

So far in 2023 we have been busy visiting Calshot Lifeboat Station, Redbridge Fire Station as well as Lego nights and much more. In April we took both packs to Jungle Jeans for a sleepover which was lots of fun.

Things to look forward to the rest of 2023 with events such as Wolf Camp, Summer Camp and much more.

Sarah Challis
Cub Scout Leader

Cub Scouts are our section for 8 to 10 ½ year old boys and girls.
They meet on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

cubs@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk



Garland report



SCOUTS

We have had another exciting year in the Scout section. We were finally allowed to have a Summer camp after 2 years of absence due to the virus which shall not be named! We had a great time at Glenny Wood campsite in Bristol where we did grass sledging, tunnelling, hiking and an aerial runway whilst encouraging the Scouts to be self sufficient - cooking their own meals and washing up for themselves.

In the winter term, we focussed on the Scouts' challenge and skills badges, which saw us playing with sticks (pioneering), playing with fire (backwards cooking), playing on go carts (Soap Box Derby), 2 camps simultaneously (winter camp for the younger ones and Expedition Challenge for the older ones), supporting the Santa Run and our ever famous Christmas party.

We focussed on the World badge in the Spring term, with some disability awareness, an eco night, we looked at Scouting from around the world and celebrated Founders Day. We took part in the district Stags Head trophy (day hike), went bouldering and entered 2 teams in the district Eagle Trophy (night hike).

We are drawing to the end of our warmer summer term where we have done yet more camping. The Skills camp in May saw our most ever young people in attendance with 14 scouts and 5 Explorers. We entered 2 teams into the District Elm Tree trophy camping competition - one team entered the full unsupported competition, the other team opted for some support, which saw them win the *still to be named not elm tree trophy*.

We have been on a troop bike ride, climbing, Tomahawk throwing, more pioneering, indoor cooking and supported with our first Donkey Derby as a group.

We're not done yet, tonight we have our wettest night where we play with water (water fight), next week we're playing with fire again (outdoor cooking) and our last session of the year is our much enjoyed crabbing at Lepe. Then we'll be off to Arundel for our Troop summer camp.

Joe Simes
Scout Leader

A very big thank you to the leader team of the troop this year. After nearly five years, Max Simes is stepping down from his regular troop role but will be staying as a skills instructor for the group offering his expertise as his time allows.

The troop have a flexible team of volunteers who help where they can. A particular welcome to Victoria who joined the troop team earlier this year and has already made a big impact to our young people's journey to achieving their top awards.

If you're able to help then please let us know.

Scouts are our section for 10 ½ to 14 year old boys and girls.

They meet on Thursday evenings.

scouts@5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk



Cerberus report



EXPLORERS

So, 2022, a New Year and one planned without Covid-19, what a relief. We start the year having to wear masks indoors, but this restriction was soon removed, phew.

Two major events were planned for 2022, the Explorer 20th Birthday Party Camp, and the much-postponed Suisse Adventure in Kandersteg, Switzerland, but more about these in a minute.

It was a great year with all the normal Explorer activities, it is just amazing how the good old stuff is the best stuff; open fires (for cooking or just chilling around), pancakes, cycle rides, hikes, games evening, rifle shooting, Christmas quiz, film night, swimming, Christmas crafts, ten pin bowling, scrap heap challenge, HQ maintenance (painting to be precise, and it looks good), some Chief Scout's Award stuff, some DofE stuff and much more.

Chief Scouts Award and DofE Expeditions have taken place, a practice expedition and an assessed expedition. Both had their overnight stop at Ferny Crofts, just at the beginning of the midge season, not the only visitors to our site, a badger rifled his way through the rubbish bags, but being Explorers rubbish, there wasn't any food to be had. The expeditions went well, with the assessed team passing their assessment, and the practice team learning from their slight navigational errors and will be fully prepared for the assessed.

Then of course there was Groovy Camp, 5th Testwood's 60th Birthday Celebration Camp at Ferny Crofts. Nine Explorers and four Explorer leaders joined in the fun, helped consume the giant birthday cake and had a great time.

The Explorer 20th Birthday Camp at Ferny Crofts.

Celebrating the 20th Birthday of Explorer Scouting, with Hampshire Scouts organising a huge Festival Camp and Ferny Crofts. Eight Explorers and three Leaders attended the Birthday Camp, which I have to say was absolutely fantastic, and probably go as far as to say, the best Explorer Camp ever.

The choice of activities was phenomenal, all based on a 'queue and do' 'turn up and play' basis, and consisted of; Sumo Wrestling, Slack Line, Crazy Gold, Aeroball, Bouncy Castle, Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting, Tomahawks, Angels, Candy Floss, Popcorn, High Ropes (in its various forms), Archery, Shooting, Exhibition Stalls showing what lies ahead in Scouting for Explorer Scouts, and more.

The whole campsite was ablaze in the evening, you can't beat a good fire for comradeship, so with over 300 Explorers on site, there were plenty of fires to be stood around and friends being made. And then there was the evening disco, four hours of banging sounds and hits, fuelled by lovely ice cream, who says the sun has to be shining to enjoy a flake topped ice cream.



Suisse Adventure 2022

Well, what a great summer expedition with Hampshire Scouts to Kandersteg. Nine of the Unit's Explorers, together with two Unit Leaders and four other Leaders from the Group had an absolutely brilliant time. Activities undertaken were; white water rafting, hang gliding, canyoning, hiking, glacier walking, staying in mountain huts, river tubing, visit to Bern, glacier lake swimming, mountain biking, trotti biking, site seeing and just chilling in the phenomenal place that



is Kandersteg in the Suisse Alps.

Explorers at the top of the Cheesery Hike, a five hour hike to the top of the mountain eat cheese straight from the cow, well ok, it had to mature first.

At the end of a great fortnight in Kandersteg, it was time for a celebration meal. The local pizza restaurant did us proud.





The Oeschensee Glacier Lake was the destination of our first hike, a little warm up for what was to come.

It was a very hot day, but with the prospect of a cooling swim, the enthusiasm for the walk was

great. Note the term 'glacier lake', the top 2ft of water had been warmed by the sun, but anything deeper was absolutely freezing.

White water rafting was a truly epic experience. After an hours training of how to paddle, rescue, look after your partner and avoid being swept away, we entered the water and were off. A truly epic three hour journey down the river, though the rapids and whirlpools to the sedate warm lake.

At the end of 2022 we have had to say good bye to Ewan, we will honestly miss him. Ewan has been with the Group since he was a baby, well perhaps not a baby, but it has been a long time. He has been through all the Sections and it would be true to say he has made a phenomenal impression on all of them. We wish him all the success in his career in 'posh' yacht building, he is very good at it.

A huge thank you to the Explorer Leadership Team of Alexis Jones, Mike Jones and Stuart Bourne, with guest appearances from Delrae Treen-Cooper, Simon Down, Fran Joyce and Harry Cotton.

Kerie Wallace
Explorer Scout Leader.

Explorers are for everyone aged 14 to 18 years old. Cerberus Explorers meet at our HQ on Monday evenings.
cyclingscout@gmail.com



Our finances: 2022

Income

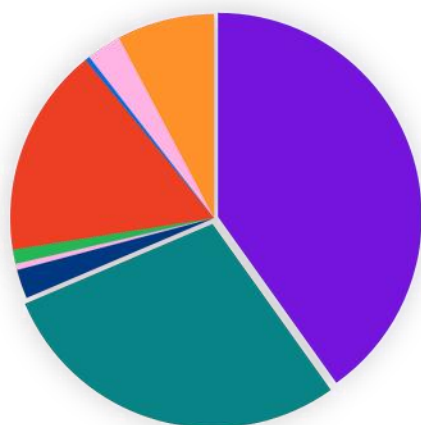
With an increase in membership within the group, income through membership subscriptions rose substantially by around £5,000 with a £7,000 increase in activity fees as all sections embarked on grander and more numerous camps and events as restrictions eased sufficiently to allow that to happen.

Income from the Santa Run and Christmas Fayre was around £2,700 more than the previous year, however as noted last year this included some raffle income from 2021 as this was not banked until 2022.

Income from other sources such as donations and streams such as through Easy Fundraising, Amazon Smile or donations of clothing fell this year with plans to advertise these to new parents in the future.

With more users of our hall, income from this rose to £3,001 and the group was able to take advantage of a grant from Hampshire Scouts to cover the necessary costs of replacing materials associated with the creation of the New Forest Scout District and the associated renaming of the group to 5th Testwood.

In total, income for 2022 was £39,022, near double the income for 2021.



- Membership fees
- Activity fees
- Membership fees from Cerberus ESU
- Miscellaneous and donations
- Grants
- Santa run/Christmas Fayre
- Other fundraising activities
- Fundraising for External charities
- Hire of building and equipment

Expenditure

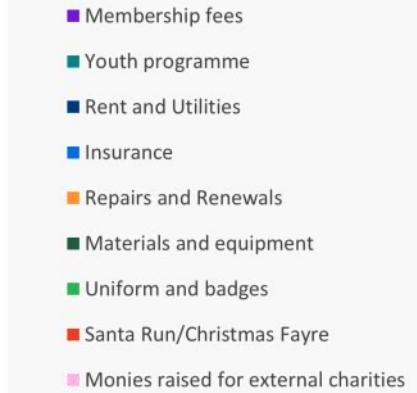
Charitable expenditure compared to last year saw an increase of around £5,000. This was primarily driven by a much higher expenditure on youth programme and activities as Group camp, section events and camps and more adventurous section meetings following the pandemic fed through. There were significant reductions in the amount spent on repairs and renewals and materials and equipment as the lockdown projects were completed with more minor reductions in cleaning and stationery. There were increases for insurance, badges as a number of notable national events occurred this year for which memorial badges were produced and utilities. We are expecting significant increases to some costs such as utilities in 2023 and rent, which was paid for 2022 in January 2023.

Payments associated with the Totton Santa Run and Christmas Fayre were slightly higher than a normal year as various supplies were topped up, however many of these remain in place for the 2023 event.

In total, expenditure was £36,023, around £9,000 more than the year before.

Overall, the group contributed around £3,000 to the reserves of the group which will help buffer the group from the cost-of-living crisis and associated price rises affecting all areas of the group and the upfront costs required to host the Annual Totton and Eling Donkey Derby.

A more detailed version of the group accounts is available from the Group on request, on our website and on the Charity Commission website.



For a number of years, the group pledged that 10% of fundraising income be diverted into a restricted fund to raise money for an adventurous activity facility at our headquarters, initially planned as a climbing wall. This fund stands at £1,328 and in 2022 the Trustees voted to use the funds for a mobile target sports set-up rather than a fixed climbing wall.

Income for Totton Santa Run and Christmas Fayre is due to some monies from the 2021 event only being banked in the 2022 calendar year.

The rent for the 2022-23 year was paid, along with back payments, in January 2023 and will be shown on those accounts. An increase in utilities as expected has not occurred this year and following further investigation in the beginning of 2023, we anticipate much higher costs in 2023.

The Trustees would like to thank our Group Treasurer for their hard effort taken in preparing these accounts. We would also like to thank Sian Winter who has acted as our independent examiner. Her report is attached to the accounts on our website, 5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk



What happened last time?

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 13th January 2023

Started 7pm at Garland Lodge, Blackwater Drive, Totton, SO40 2QJ and online. This meeting was a delayed session for the 2021 calendar year. Attended by:

- Steven Osborn (SO)
- Joe Simes (JS)
- Hayley Simes (HS)
- Mel Green (MG)
- Kerie Wallace (KW)
- Jess Barraclough (JB)
- Heather Ball (HB)
- Steven Ball (SB)
- Andy Hunt (AH—online)
- James Cook (JC—online)

1. Welcome

Steven Osborn welcomed everyone. Apologies received from Sarah Challis, Craig Challis, Max Simes and Faye Osmond.

2. Approval of Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

Trustee reports and accounts are available on the Group website to review. The minutes of the previous AGM were also included as part of this package. SO presented the reports, accounts and minutes. Nominated by Kerie Wallace, seconded by Joe Simes.

3. Approval of Executive Committee Chairperson

SO presented Hayley Simes as his choice for Chairperson. Nominated by Jess Barraclough, seconded by Mel Green.

4. Election of Executive Committee officers – Treasurer / Secretary

Treasurer—Steven Ball stood for the role. Nominated by HS, seconded by JS. Elected.

Secretary - Mel Green stood for the role, JB nominated, seconded by Heather Ball.

5. Election of trustees

Heather Ball was elected as Cub Scout parent representative. Jess Barraclough was elected as Beaver parent representative. Nominated by Kerie Wallace, seconded by Mel Green.

6. Confirmation of constitution and quorum for meetings

SO confirmed the Group's re-adoption of the Scout Association's model constitution for Scout Groups as laid out in *Policy Organisation and Rules* available at scouts.org.uk/por in Chapter 3.

SO proposed two thirds of the executive committee must be present along with either the Chairperson or Group Scout Leader as quorum for Executive Committee meetings. All agreed by vote.

7. Reapproval of ex-officio and nominated trustees

All nominated by HS, seconded by Steven Ball.

- Max Simes—nominated as Scout Troop supporting role.
- Craig Challis—ex-officio, Cub Scout Leader
- Sarah Challis—ex-officio, Cub Scout Leader
- Faye Osmond—ex-officio, Beaver Scout Leader
- Kerie Wallace—ex-officio, Explorer Scout Leader as dictated by Partnership agreement
- Julie Mair—ex-officio, Deputy Group Scout Leader. She indicated her intention to step down from the role in the near future.

Meeting closed at 7.15pm.



We are a charity, registered in England and Wales, No. 302291.

Garland Lodge, Blackwater Drive, Calmore, Totton, SO40 2QJ

www.5thtestwoodscouts.co.uk

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