



**40th Greenwich Scout Group**  
**Annual Meeting of the Group Council**  
**2017-18**

**29th June 2018**

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – YEAR 2017 TO 2018

As Chair, along with the kind support of Stephen Brown (Secretary) & Liz Proctor (Treasurer), the Executive Committee continues to provide the support to the 40th Greenwich Leaders to enable them to have the focus on the preparation and running of the Beaver, Cub and Scouting Sections which continue to grow in popularity.

Another exciting year has passed and I have the pleasure to witness the continued dedication of the Leaders and Volunteers behind the scenes that enables the 40th Greenwich Scout Group to excel. The whole team continues to work together across the St Michael's Groups, Blackheath Preparatory Groups and St James providing the essential balance of planning alongside experience and new ideas.

We are also supported under the caring eye of the District Commissioner, John Sweeney, who himself is transforming Scouting across the Royal Greenwich District to ensure that all Scout groups benefit from access to key events.

In the summer of 2017, the Scouts had their largest Camp ever in Sweden which was an incredible logistical challenge and required support across the Leaders, the parents and Exec to create some wonderful life time memories for everyone involved. The memories and experience were brought to life by Yasemin's photo sharing allowing those that had agreed to be part of the social group, to receive images of their adventures!

The year has seen the Group continue to grow and we again have waiting lists for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We have maintained our Leaders in their current roles during 2017/2018 for which we are so grateful as this stability has successfully helped us adopt the growth of 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich.

We have also seen new parents supporting our events and we will never stop asking. Your support as Parents and Guardians remains key to ensure that we can continue all of the activities that the Leaders plan.

At the last two AGMs, we shared our growth and this has resulted in the creation of a second Beaver and Cub section within 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich Scout Group at the Blackheath Preparatory school.

In Autumn 2017, we opened our second Scout Troop at St James Church to release pressure on the existing Scout Troop. This has kindly been led by Conway in addition to his other duties for which we are all very grateful. Both Troops run on Friday nights and share most outside activities together which we expect to continue for at least another two years. It also provides additional flexibility for some of the badge work, especially for cooking or events that require a larger hall.

In 2017, we completed the consolidation of all our assets from the 5+ locations into a centralised site which will enable us to be more efficient especially around the preparation of camp. Most importantly, it also allows the Leaders to claim their garages back for their own personal use. I believe John and Bee have provided Scouts storage for over 10 years!

In my review of the last 12 months, I like to consider all of the achievements over the last year. I have picked those that have had a major impact, however there are clearly many more at a section and personal level.

### **The Beaver Colonies**

Brenda continues to lead the Beavers at St Michael and All Angels on a Friday and Sue leads the Beavers at Blackheath Preparatory School on Thursdays. Both Beaver Colonies continue to focus on badge work and offer an overall rounded experience on many interesting topics. They have also shared sleepovers along with 54<sup>th</sup> Greenwich, attended fun days and visited the Lee Green Fire Station.

We extend our thanks to Simon and Samantha as well as Ben for helping Brenda and for the support from Hayley and Graham at 54th Greenwich and for the parents supporting Conway and Sue.

### **The Cub Packs**

Chris runs the St Michael's section and Harriet, with Geraint, runs the Blackheath Prep section on a Wednesday and Thursday respectively. The last year for the Cubs continued with a consistently busy programme that started with the joint Camp at Downe International site and in March they had the indoor camp at Thriftwood. They have also had some really interesting trips away to Hendon Air Museum and one of my favourites, The Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux in East Sussex that links back to the Greenwich Observatory. They have also enjoyed the Watersports at Danson Park over the last month.

### **The Scout Troop**

The Summer Camp in Sweden finished a busy 2016/2017 and prepared the whole troop ready for a demanding Autumn full agenda of activities, camping and badge work.

With two troops, led by John at St Michaels and Conway at St James, we continue to benefit from joint activities and planning and attendance at all events is very high. Highlights include the Annual Night Hike, The New Year Family hike around Shoreham, the Sponsored Cardboard Box Sleepover and the activity weekend at Arethusa Venture Centre. The Scouts have also supported a number of District events.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – contd.

### Volunteers

I thank all of those Volunteers who have assisted the Leaders during the last 12 months and I continue to ask for your on-going support in the coming year especially around the creation of the second Scout Troop. Without this additional help, we will not be able to run many of the external trips or special badge work.

### Training

All leaders and Group Executive Committee continue to ensure that we are trained on the key topics as mandated by the Scouts Association such as Safe Guarding. The leaders also have to complete numerous courses to support them in their role especially to achieve their Wood Adult Leader Training Award badge. We appreciate the additional time spent by the leaders to complete the courses or attend the re-fresher courses to enable them to offer the best support and guidance to the Cubs, Beavers and Scouts.

### GDPR

We have an up to date statement available on our website which has also been sent to everyone on OSM. The statement is also included at the end of this report.

<https://www.g40scouts.org.uk/gdpr-privacy>

### Charity Registration & Trustees

We operate under The Scout Association as a Charity where the Trustees of the 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich Scout Council for the last year were;

Clive Grethe (Chairman); Stephen Brown (Secretary until 21 March 2018); Liz Proctor (Treasurer); Conway Tearle; John Twidale; Chris Bishop; Harriett Noakes; Brenda Openshaw and Sue Tearle

### Easyfundraising - [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/40thgreenwichscouts](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/40thgreenwichscouts)

Please remember that you can support our Scout Group by using our Easy Fundraising page [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/40thgreenwichscouts](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/40thgreenwichscouts). Family and friends can sign up too so please share the link.

### Looking ahead to the 2018-2019 Year

The growth in the second Scout Troop, at a manageable rate, will focus our attention and ensuring that we continue to benefit from excellence from a balanced team. I am looking forward to having more Executive Committee Members so that we can ensure that we can maximise experience and responsibilities to all Sections.

We have recently purchased a second-hand minibus for the group which will give us a lot more flexibility when planning outings and camps. The minibus is currently undergoing all the necessary checks to ensure it is safe for use. Once confirmed it will hopefully be straight into use for summer camp. We will provide an update as soon as possible.

### 24<sup>th</sup> World Jamboree

40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich are proud to have 5 of our Scouts out of the 36 available places for South London County representing us at the 24<sup>th</sup> World jamboree. More information is included in John's Scout Troop Report.

### Thank you

Thank you again to the whole Leadership team including Brenda, Sue, Harriet, Geraint, Chris, Adam, Ben, John, Bee, Conway, Matt, Lindsey, Toby, Tom, Ed, Fiona, Simon, and Samantha for all their efforts as well as the additional support from Hayley and Graham.



**Clive Grethe**  
40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich Scout Group  
Group Chair  
June 2018

## OUR LEADERS



Conway Tearle



John Twidale



Bee Twidale



Lindsey Wood



Ben Wood



Matt Proctor



Brenda Openshaw



Chris Bishop



Adam Ruff



Sue Tearle



Harriet Noakes



Geraint Thomas

## Group Scout Leader

### Group Scout Leader

**Conway Tearle** Joined Cubs at boarding school in Nova Scotia in September 1956, moved to Gravesend in September 1957 and then to Bristol, the 26th North Cote Scout Group in 1958. He came to London as a student and joined 11th Lewisham North as a leader in 1968. Subsequently 11<sup>th</sup> merged with 40th Greenwich and took their group number. Conway has 50 years' experience as a Scouter in Charge or GSL when he includes 11th Lewisham North, 7th/11th Greenwich and 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich.

## St Michael's Sections

### Scouts

**John Twidale** Joined 7th Wallasey in Cheshire (but now in Merseyside) in June 1954. He has 64 years' service including 10 years as District Commissioner of Greenwich and another 10 as DC of Royal Eltham. He was Venture Scout Leader of BRAVE, which was then part of the 40th Greenwich, from 1998 to 2002 and became Scout Leader at 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich in 2006.

**Bee Twidale** Joined Sunfield's (5th Blackheath) Guides in 1953. She did loads of activities with 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich as they were also based at Sunfields before moving on to lead 3rd Blackheath Guides, (St Michaels) for 41 years. Bee started Blackheath Ranger Guide/Venture Scout Unit at St Michaels in Sept 1970 (first joint unit in SE London). However, Scouting operated a gender discrimination at the time and Bee was not allowed to be a Venture Scout Leader; (females only allowed in cub section!). So, as well as being Ranger Guide leader, Bee had "Instructor" status in Scouting. Greenwich Scout District were brilliant and encouraged her through Scouting Leadership training where she achieved Wood Badge in 1974 (first female Venture Scout Wood badge) Females had been given equal leadership status by then! Bee did 25 years with the Ranger/Venture unit and a further 10 with Eltham Scout fellowship before joining the 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich Scout leadership team in November 2005.

**Lindsey Wood** Parent helper from 1996 co-opted into Scouts as an assistant Scout leader when Ben join the Scout group in 2004. Lindsey gained the Wood Adult Leader Training Award badge 3 years later. Lindsey is also part of Royal Greenwich District leader approval panel.

**Matt Proctor** was a cub in 1st Horsley Scout Group in Surrey. He became a parent volunteer from 2014 and joined St Michael's troop officially in December 2015. Matt gained his Wood Adult Leader Training Award badge in 2018.

**Ben Wood** joined scouting at aged 6 and has worked his way through all sections. He became a young leader for Beavers, aged 13, an assistant Beavers Leader aged 18 and currently helps with Beavers & Scouts. Ben has just completed the Wood Adult Leader Training Award badge and has now gained the highest Scouting honour of a Queens Scout.

### Cubs

**Chris Bishop** was with 6th Erith for 1 year before moving across to 40th Greenwich and has now completed over 12 years' service.

**Adam Ruff** has been supporting Chris and the Cubs for over 5 years.

## Beavers

**Brenda Openshaw** was asked to become a Beaver Leader in 1984 when her son, Graham was one of the first Beavers in Royal Eltham District. She started her Scouting as an Assistant Beaver Leader in May 1984 with the 5th Royal Eltham Beaver Colony based in what we now call The Hub in Briset Road. She had no previous Scouting experience other than accompanying the Beavers as a parent helper on various outings. Brenda stayed with the 5th until September 1989 when pressure of work meant she was unable to fulfil her commitment to the Beavers and had a break in service until October 1990. At this time Brenda's daughter, Julie, was a Guide Leader and taking part in the Greenwich Gang Show when she was approached by the then Group Scout Leader of 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich, Tom Seal, who asked if she knew anyone who would like to be a Beaver Leader. To cut a long story short, within a few weeks Brenda was running Beavers at 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich and has continued to do so until the present day. At first 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich was based at Sunfields Church at Blackheath Standard and then in 2000 when Sunfields Church was no longer available to us, she joined with 7th-11th Greenwich based at St Michael's Church. A couple of years after Brenda joined 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich she became the District Beaver Scout Leader for Greenwich, a post she held until the District became part of Royal Greenwich. During this time Brenda was awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service in 1996 and the Medal of Merit in 2004.

The Colony at St Michaels started with 36 Beavers, which accounts for the rapid increase in cub and scout numbers over the years. When she started at St Michaels Church, Conway was the only leader there, so Barry and Graham joined Conway and between us we ran Cubs and Scouts as well as Beavers. She was an Assistant Cub and Scout Leader until 2005 when Barry sadly passed away and she took over as Akela, a post she held until Chris Bishop came along and took over the Leader's role and she reverted to an Assistant Cub Leader. After Barry's death John Twidale took over the Scout Troop and she ceased to be a Scout Leader.

**Samantha Gregory** – has been providing support to Brenda for over 5 years

**Simon Koenen** – has been providing support to Brenda for over 5 years

## Blackheath Prep Sections

### Cubs (Blackheath Prep)

**Harriet Noakes** took on a Leaders role in Autumn 2016

**Geraint Thomas** has joined as a Leader in early 2017 following being a Parent volunteer

### Beavers (Blackheath Prep)

**Sue Tearle** took on took on the job of District Secretary in 2004 for the former Greenwich District. When the district merger happened to create Royal Greenwich, she became a Group Sectional Assistant with the 40th Greenwich helping mostly at camps with Conway. In June 2015 she helped Conway set up the new sections at the Blackheath Prep and took over the leadership of the Beaver Colony there shortly afterwards.

**Vacancies**

## St James Groups

### Scouts (St James)

**Conway Tearle** took on the new Leaders role in Autumn 2017.

**Sue Tearle** took on the new Leaders role in Autumn 2017.

**Vacancies**

## Assistant Leaders

**Alasdair Thomson** - joined the Group in January 2006 and was a Beaver and Cub in the 40<sup>th</sup>. He moved to the Troop in October 2010 and gained the Chief Scouts Gold Award in 2014. He moved to GESS Explorer Scout Unit and became a Young Leader with the Friday Beavers. He was a member of the district trip to Turkey in 2015 and is now a leader with the Wednesday Cubs.

**Karis Stanley** - joined the Troop in January 2010 and gained the Chief Scouts Gold Award in 2013. She is the only person to have reached 100 Nights Away just as a Scout. She moved to GESS Explorer Scout Unit. She attended the 23rd World Jamboree in Japan in 2015 and is now a leader with the Thursday Cubs.

## Sectional Assistants

**Edward Parker Humphries** - was a Beaver and a Cub and joined the Troop in January 2009. He gained the Chief Scouts Gold Award in 2011. He moved to GESS Explorer Scout Unit and became a Young Leader with the Troop. He completed 100 Nights Away but this included Cub camps. Ed attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Jamboree in Japan 2015 and is currently at Cambridge.

**Fiona Thomson** - joined the Troop in July 2006 she was only our third girl. Our current members have to thank her for much pioneering work. She gained the Chief Scout's Gold Award in 2008. She joined GESS Explorer Scout Unit and became a Young Leader with the Troop. She gained the Queens's Scout Award in 2015. She has just completed a civil engineering degree at Warwick and we hope she will find employment that will enable her to spend more time back with us.

**Sam Butler** - was a Beaver and Cub before joining the Troop in 2007. He gained the Chief Scout's Gold Award in 2009 before moving on to GESS Explorer Scouts. He returned to the Troop as a Young Leader. He attended the 22nd World Jamboree in Sweden in 2011. He is currently away at University.

**Tom Butler** - was a Beaver and Cub before joining the Troop in 2010. He shared his Scouting with being a chorister at Southwark Cathedral. He gained the Chief Scout's Gold Award in 2013 before moving on to GESS Explorer Scouts. He returned to the Troop as a Young Leader. He attended the 23rd World Jamboree in Japan in 2015.

**Toby Clarke** - was a Beaver and Cub before joining the Troop in 2010. He gained the Chief Scout's Gold Award in 2013 before moving on to GESS Explorer Scouts. He returned to the Troop as a Young Leader. He attended the 23rd World Jamboree in Japan in 2015.

**Maisie Bishop** - Maisie joined the Troop from Cubs in November 2010. She gained the Chief Scout's Gold Award in 2013. She joined GESS Explorer Scouts and became a Young Leader with the Wednesday Cubs.

## Young Leaders

**Katie Proctor** - Katie joined the scout troop in 2012. Before that she was a Brownie at 11th Lee North, Handen Road. She gained the Chief Scout's Gold Award in 2015. She joined GESS Explorer Scout Unit and became a Young Leader with the Thursday cubs and attending the Scout summer camps. She was a member of the district trip to Turkey in 2015.

**Jenny Duckworth** - Jenny joined the Troop in 2014 and gained the Chief Scout's Gold Award in 2017. She is a member of Severndroog Explorer Unit and a Young Leader with the St James's Troop.

**Heather Shaw** - Hettie joined the Troop in 2015 and gained the Chief Scout's Gold Award in 2018. She is a member of Severndroog Explorer Unit and a Young Leader with the St James's Troop.

**Archie Kirk** - Archie was a Beaver and a Cub before joining the Troop 2011. He gained the Chief Scouts Gold in 2014. He is a Young Leader with the St Michael's Troop. He has taken up rowing and is our leading pyromaniac!

**Lauren Southard** - Lauren joined the Troop from Cubs in April 2012 and gained the Chief Scout's Gold Award in 2015. She is a member of Severndroog Explorer Scout Unit and a Young Leader with St Michael's Troop. She was a member of the district trip to Turkey in 2015

**Daniel Shergold** - Daniel was a Beaver and Cub before he joined the Troop in April 2013 and was one of youngest to reach the Chief Scout's Gold Award in 2015. He was Patrol Leader of the team that won the District Camping Competition in 2014. He is a Young Leader with St Michael's Troop. He was a member of the district trip to Turkey in 2015

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The main 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich accounts are listed on the following page under Group, with the 2016/17 accounts shown for comparison. They are still in draft format pending approval by our auditor.

Alongside the Group accounts we have shown the Activity Fund account (held within the main account but ringfenced). The Activity Fund allows each Scout to share the money they fundraise (e.g. in Sainsbury's bag packing) and they can use this to "purchase" activities or camp. Please remember to use any money your Scout has accrued - they've worked hard to earn it and it is a reward for their effort.

Our bank balance at the end of the financial year was £8,489.94, down from £17,843.38. The Activity Fund had a year-end balance of £1,146.58, down from £10,617.78. The large reduction was due in the main to an overspend of £8K on the summer camp trip to Sweden. Leaders have to estimate well in advance of a trip how much they think it will cost so they can issue a cost before parents' sign-up. Our leaders have been planning trips for many years and are very good at gauging this for most camps. When we have a trip like the Sweden camp, to a very expensive country with a large number of variables, the cost per head can be hard to predict. In this case the trip worked out costlier than expected and with a large number of attendees this became a large overspend. Fortunately, the activity fund is there as a support in exactly this type of scenario so that we did not have to go back to parents and ask for additional funds over and above what they expected pay.

Items of note:

- As usual, camps are our major income and expenditure with nearly £50K spent on camping during the financial year (approx. £30K was summer camp). 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich takes pride in being an active group and from Beavers through to Scouts there are a wide range of camping experiences and sleepovers that the children can take part in. We purchased quite a few new tents during the previous financial year so expenditure on camp equipment has been much lower this year. It should be noted how much care and attention all the leaders dedicate to maintaining our equipment - their hard work helps ensure costs are kept to an absolute minimum.
- The leaders team worked so hard on their programme that we spent over £2K on badges – that's a lot of sewing!
- We have given nearly £1500 as a donation for our Jamboree Scouts and leader to help with their costs. Jamboree is expensive and the 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich always offer some financial support to those attending. We also support them with their fundraising.
- Although the bank account is lower than last year we have decided not to increase the current subs rate. We will review throughout the year but the leaders are keen to ensure we continue to offer excellent value for money.
- 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich is a very large Scout Group which takes a lot of financial planning to put on events. We kindly ask that **you sign up and pay promptly for membership fees (subs), activities and camps** to allow the leaders to organise and plan their activities.
- Gift Aid. Please make sure you have signed up ready for our next claim — a form can be downloaded from our website at [www.g40scouts.org.uk/fundraising](http://www.g40scouts.org.uk/fundraising) and returned to your section leader at the next meeting. There will also be some forms available at the AGM/BBQ. If everyone signs up we can claim over £3000 in Gift Aid per year which we use to directly benefit your children.
- Please remember that you can support our Scout Group by using our Easy Fundraising page [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/40thgreenwichscouts](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/40thgreenwichscouts). Family and friends can sign up too so please share the link.

*40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich are committed to making Scouting accessible to all. If you are having difficulty paying for any activities or camps please do talk confidentially to your section leader.*

We would like to thank to John Kingsmell for his help and support in the production of our year end accounts.



**Liz Proctor**, Group Treasurer

## Books of Account held for 40th Greenwich Scout Group

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	<u>2017-2018</u>		<u>2016-2017</u>	
	<u>Group</u> £	<u>Activity</u> £	<u>Group</u> £	<u>Activity</u> £
<b>INCOME</b>				
Membership subscriptions	15,365.00		14,934.11	
less Annual Membership Fee ①	(9,020.00)		(7,455.00)	
	<u>6,345.00</u>		<u>7,479.11</u>	
Investment income	-		-	
Donations and grants	766.00	-	1,776.00	500.00
Activities:				
Camps	50,439.29	903.78	22,901.78	965.56
Meetings	1,408.90		-	
Outings	6,190.50	36.39	6,268.67	8.80
Sundry receipts	9.50		43.50	
Gift Aid	1,707.70	-	-	-
Fundraising (gross)	1,316.81	1,008.33	495.69	1,971.67
	<u>68,183.70</u>	<u>1,948.50</u>	<u>38,964.75</u>	<u>3,446.03</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Rent of meeting premises	3,514.00		3,217.00	
Equipment & addl. PA Insurance	502.60		928.88	
Campsite maintainance	13.40		-	
Activities:				
Camps	47,018.07	9,586.80	23,712.56	846.07
Meetings	2,336.11	1,408.90	3,659.84	-
Outings	6,108.47	424.00	5,592.07	664.26
Donations from fundraising & Gift Aid	1,004.33		203.23	
Costs of fundraising	-	-	-	-
Badges & uniform	2,179.81		2,315.78	
Equipment (tents, etc.)	646.97		4,352.90	
Admin & sundry payments	4,311.85	-	2,329.15	94.11
Leader Training	60.00		24.26	
	<u>67,695.61</u>	<u>11,419.70</u>	<u>46,335.67</u>	<u>1,604.44</u>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME / (DEFICIT)</b>	488.09	(9,471.20)	(7,370.92)	1,841.59
<b>BALANCE - 1 APRIL 2017</b>	2,024.78	£ 10,617.78	9395.70	£ 8,776.19
<b>BALANCE - 31 MARCH 2018</b>	<u>2,512.87</u>	<u>1,146.58</u>	<u>2,024.78</u>	<u>10,617.78</u>

① TSA policy is to net these two as we are only acting as agents for them in this payment.

②

The 'Accruals basis' – requires that costs and revenues are recognised in the accounts when incurred or due – not when the money is received or paid.

Figure 1 - Draft set of approved accounts and awaiting final approval from the

## SCOUT TROOP REPORT - St Michael's Troop

Since the last annual meeting of the Group Council the Scout Troop has met at St Michaels or run activities elsewhere on 40 Friday evenings and offered 21 Nights Away.

### Recruitment

We began the year with 42 members. Of the 13 who left during the year, 7 had reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday and 6 of these moved to Explorer Scouts, one went back to America and one transferred to the St James Troop. At the end of the year we still have 42 members. Of those who joined during the year, 7 came from our Cub Scout Packs and 5 from the waiting list. There are 3 names on the waiting list of people old enough to join now.

### Leadership

The Assistant Scout Leaders, Matt Proctor, Bee Twidale and Lindsey Wood were joined by Tom Butler and Toby Clarke as they passed their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays and Ben Wood who has returned to live and work locally. Our team of Young Leaders are Archie Kirk, Lauren Southard and Daniel Shergold. Katie Proctor helped at Summer Camp. Ben gained the Queen's Scout Award this year and attended the national parade and service at St George's Chapel Windsor.

### St James Scout Troop

Congratulation and thanks to Conway and Sue Tearle for opening the second Scout Troop which meets at St James church hall on Friday evenings. We operate as separate Troops each with our own programme and meeting independently on most Fridays but for camps and other activities we join together. It does seem to be working so far.

The aim was to ensure that Cubs joining from our own Packs would be offered a place without either Troop going over their maximum numbers (success); to reduce the waiting list (success) and to reduce the size of our Troop to more manageable numbers (failed so far).

### Chief Scout Gold Awards

Emmie Proctor, Hettie Shaw, Pelin Kural, Tom Dennison, George O'Connor and Ben Jones gained the Top Award in the Scout Troop.

### 24<sup>th</sup> World Jamboree

This will be held at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia from 22 July to 2 August 2019. Ben Wood has been selected to be one of the leaders of the Greater London South Unit. Many of our older Scouts attended a selection "Boot Camp" in October. Five members or former members of our Troop were selected: Emily Parker Humphreys, Chloe Southard, Pelin Kural, Madison Williams and Thomas Grethe. For those who applied but were not selected the County are running a trip to Canada at the same time. This could alter our Summer Camp plans.

### Programme

#### End of the Summer Term 2017

- Expedition Challenge – 6 of the older Scouts did two days walking and camped overnight at the District site at Downe.
- Water Activities – our last session at Southmere. This year we were at Danson Park.
- Last Meeting – lighting fires and eating John's home made burgers.
- Summer Camp – 7 nights on the magic island of Väsarö 140k north east of Stockholm followed by 3 nights in a rather smart hostel in Stockholm.

#### Autumn 2017

- September Camp –14 Scouts attended for our final camp of the year at the Royal Greenwich District site at Downe. This is always a laid back affair.

- 7 Scout families joined the Group Family Camp.
- Fire Safety Badge at Eltham Fire Station and 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Eltham HQ.
- Borough Remembrance Day Parade and Service in Eltham.
- In November we held our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Night Hike finishing at the Downe Camp Site.
- District Astronautics badge course.
- We help clear out St Michaels so the work could begin.
- 8 Scouts attended and won the District Blanket Ball competition.
- Circus Skills Course
- Christmas Parents' Evening and review of the year.
- Final meeting – Ice Skating, Pizza and Secret Santa at Canary Wharf.
- Fundraising at Asda, Charlton for the Activity Fund. We raised £859.63.

### **Spring 2018**

- 51 of us did the New Year Family hike round Shoreham followed by lunch at Ye Olde George.
- Arethusa Venture Centre weekend – swimming, canoeing, archery, high ropes, climbing, hike and fun.
- Chef Badge – each Patrol in turn cooked a three course meal.
- 26 Scouts took part in the Sponsored Cardboard Box Sleepover.
- Service Project planting trees in Avery Hill Park.
- Our Leaders ran and our Scouts entered the District Night Hike.
- District Chief Scout's Award Presentation at Bexley Grammar School.
- Chloe Southard received a Jack Petchey Award. She was nominated while she was a Scout.

### **Summer 2018**

- We sold programmes at OUR SHOW 2018, the District Gang Show.
- The St George's Day Service at the Garrison Church, Woolwich.
- Scouts led our Group St George's Day Service at Sunfields Methodist Church.
- 32 Scouts, from both Troops, went to May Camp at Cudham. Too hot at day but too cold at night.
- County - Stage 3 Air Activities Badge
- The District TAG Rugby at Avery Hill.
- Geocaching
- Three Watersports sessions at Danson Park.

### **Still to come 2018**

- Expedition Challenge.
- Survival Camp.
- Clip and Climb at Sutcliffe Park.
- Summer Camp at Blackland Farm.

### **Our Charities**

This year the Scouts chose Myeloma UK and Clowns in the Sky as our charities.

The total raised mainly from the Sleepover is now £2048.90 which includes both Troops and the collection from St George's day. So far 11 scouts have completed the Fundraising Badge.

I'm always grateful when people say thank you for what I do for Scouting but please don't be fooled. I do it because I enjoy it. It is great fun and I'm addicted. I do worry about what I'll do when I have to start giving up.

It is great to have a hobby that helps other people but I do it for me. I know that among the Scouts there are those for whom Scouting is their number one hobby. You can tell by the time and effort that they put in. Some of them will continue as adults and others return when they are parents. Scouting will die if they do not.

There are other young people involved in a whole range of activities and I have no complaint when they leave us to concentrate on one of the others. We have some members that I wonder why they are. They don't attend regularly. They come to few camps and activities and gain very few badges because they seldom complete all the requirements. They will never get to the Gold Award. They show no concern that the rest of their Patrol will never win the Patrol competition because they don't contribute many points. It does grieve me that there are people on the waiting list begging to join and, because we are full, we cannot offer them a place.

## **And finally.....**

There are many people I must thank:

Most importantly, the other members of Leadership Team; Bee, Matt, Lindsey, Ben, Tom and Toby. It wouldn't happen without them.

The Patrol Leaders for it is impossible to run a successful Troop without their skills and support, particularly at camp; We have a wonderful team of Young Leaders who make up for my lack of energy and make a great cup of tea. Conway, our Group Scout Leader, and all the other Leaders in the Group who do so much to help us.

To the officers of our Group Executive Committee, Clive, Stephen and Liz.

To our Scout friends from other Scout Groups, especially Christine Baker (1<sup>st</sup> Royal Eltham) who comes to Summer Camp with us.

To the District Commissioner and his team, especially Stephen Ellis and James Vallely who do so much for the Scout Section.

And to all the parents who help by providing transport, loading equipment vans, sitting on hike check points, helped with the bag packing, supervising the cooking for the Chef Badge, sending wine and cakes to the leaders at camp but specially those who have come camping with us and those who drove the equipment van to Sweden.

I must have missed someone – sorry.

**John**

*Scout Leader*

## **SCOUT TROOP REPORT - St James's Troop**

We started our second troop on 13th October 2017 at St James's after a long search for a suitable meeting place not too far from the rest of the group.

Initially we had 7 come along from the waiting list of whom 6 came regularly for the rest of the term. We started joining in with the St Michael's Troop activities with the Night Hike in November. Others activities followed much as reported above.

For the new year we were joined by 5 cubs from both of our packs. As the weeks have gone by we have gained some friends and lost a few, one moved abroad. We continued to join in the activities outlined in the St Michael's troop report but we are too new to have our own Chief Scout's Awards - just yet. We are making good progress with badges with over 100 awarded so far!

After Easter we were joined by 3 more of our cubs and we now have 15 scouts. We again followed the activities listed above apart from the geocaching and the Expedition Challenge. Next year we will have older scouts and look forward to being able to join in the Expedition Challenge as well.

Finally in September we will be joined by 8 more cubs and 3 more friends. A total of 25 scouts at St James's – we really will need some more leaders! You could say we have failed in keeping the troop numbers manageable but you probably should say we, as a group, are obviously getting something right!

With particular thanks to Revd. Kim Hitch and the church of St James's, Kidbrooke for allowing us to use their hall on a Friday evening. It is a good venue for scouting.

Thanks are also due to the leaders of the existing troop at St Michael's for helping us with the programme planning and for joining us from time to time on a Friday as well as sharing the other activities with us.

And lastly for our parents and Sue in supporting me in this endeavour.

**Conway**

*Acting Scout Leader*

## CUB PACK REPORT

### Wednesday Group

Chris and Adam

Ali and Maisie

**36 members**

### Thursday Group

Harriet and Geraint

Karis and Katie

**32 members**

As another successful year draws to a close, it's unbelievable how quickly the year has passed since the AGM in 2017 and it's rather nice to look back and reflect on what the cubs have achieved, these are the highlights.

### Autumn Term

- Family camp - always a fun get together and we had good weather!
- Coded messages - amusing coded notes were written and swapped with the Wednesday cubs
- The environment badge, we looked at recycling, plastic waste in the seas and how they are cleaned after oil spills. Also made notes about not using plastic straws.
- We learnt about Diwali and made sticky sweets and dyed rice picture
- Night hike around Blackheath with our torches and road safety
- Climbing at the Reach
- Garden bird quiz
- Christmas decorations, we painted ceramics with beautiful results.
- Bowling party

Our joint camp to Downe International site was good fun with 26 cubs attending. We used the onsite activities - challenging our fears with Axe throwing, Crate Stacking and Zip Wire and watching the deer were exciting and how much the cubs love cooking and serving meals. We didn't let the rain dampen our spirits.

The end of 2017 was capped off with the District Christmas party which was well attended by our two groups and our beavers. The event had it all, - party games, music, food and even Santa put in an appearance.

### Spring

- New Year time capsule
- Australia Day and making delicious Anzac biscuits
- Photography badge and trying to write names backwards for the time lapse photos
- Pancake making
- Winter Olympics cub style, ice cube curling, nerf gun triathlon, speed skating and hockey
- First aid and what to do in an emergency
- Astronomy badge and Quiz

The March indoor camp at Thriftwood was very popular, so much so that we had to get an extra building. 36 cubs and lots of adults all had a good weekend, pioneering, t-shirt printing, games, crest run, geocaching, pedal cars and singing and telling jokes around the camp fire.

The big change to our camps have been to move to sourcing meat from Drings in Greenwich and fruit and vegetables from Apples n' oranges in Blackheath Standard. Not only do we get a good price but the quality is super. For dinner we made sumptuous Italian beef stew with short macaroni and for lunch, fresh tomato soup- all was devoured.

The trip to Hendon Air Museum was on a beautiful sunny day in April. Our little squadron of 30 cubs took the tube up to North London and we had great time looking at all the airplanes and learning about flight, and all 30 were back safely in the evening.

Shrieks of delight during the 4D red arrows show! and all the Cubs earned their air activities 2 badge. The Museum is currently undergoing a makeover and we look forward to experiencing the fully completed museum in the future.

## Summer

Our theme for activities was the elements; earth, fire, water and air

- WaterAid charity fundraising night hike around Greenwich park carrying large bottles of water- we have raised over £600 for WaterAid- thank you!
- Rockets on the heath and making pocket rockets
- Fire safety and experiments
- Cycling badge and how to look after your bicycle
- Planting and growing
- Water sports at Danson park

We have just been on a Saturday trip to Observatory Science Centre, Herstmonceux, with its domed copper roofs in the rolling hills of the East Sussex Countryside. When we arrived one cub was overheard to say "Have we really travelled all this way for this ?!". However, the day just got better and better.

We did the telescope tour, and it was great weather for the outdoors. We were well looked after by the staff. The 18 cubs completed their scientist badge and had great fun climbing all over the equipment in the physics park, learning about gravity and force. The indoor hands on exhibits were really interesting, challenging even the adults. At the end the Cubs didn't want to leave and it was a pity to have to drag them away. But everyone was in fine vocal voice on the way back singing songs.

Coming up we have the Cub summer term camp with the beavers joining us. We are looking forward to fun and games at 11 Acres site in Downe.

It's been a pleasure to see the cubs grow and develop over the year, witnessing the little things that sum up why we dedicate our time to the scout movement, and what makes it all worthwhile - seeing a Cub giving a pat on the back to a fellow cub that has done well, the spirit of togetherness, helping each other, not leaving Cubs out of games, or giving a hug when a friend is in need of one. And finally, over hearing - 'that was the best camp ever!'.

Following on the success of two years ago we will also be running our joint summer camp in East Sussex with our Scouts, at Blackland Farm. The activities are booked - let the fun begin!

It goes without saying that running Cubs is a team activity, we would like to say a huge thank you to the following people, without whom we would not have been able to run events, and who often step in and help at short notice: -

Karis, Tina, Chris S, Alan, Ceri, Georgina, Andrea and Clive, Katy, Nick, Kate P. Graham, Laiyan, and Ray.

Sue and Conway: - for guidance, back up and endless drinks making.

But especially our Young Leader's Katie, Maisie and Ali for their tireless effort, who juggle their time with their own studies, their own scouting, coming out on those cold wet Wednesday and Thursday nights to help. During the year two of our young leaders Ali and Maisie turned 18 and became adult leaders.

We have had a great year, and we are looking forward with great optimism to 2018/19

**Harriet, Geraint, Chris and Adam**

## BEAVER REPORT ST MICHAELS

Once again this year the colony has had a very busy and successful year but in all my 28 years with 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich, I have never known our beaver numbers to be so low on so many occasions.

In September we had 19 members and this fell to 17 in January and currently we have 16 which means that there are 8 vacancies. A full colony is easier to run even if there are absentees but when you start with only 16, if there are too many absentees and we are left with only 9 beavers, this makes playing games difficult and completing badge work almost impossible.

As this has happened several occasions this year, I really wanted to highlight this point as at 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich we are famous for our badge commitment and we want to ensure that all of the Beavers benefit from their hard work in preparation for cubs and scouts.

Despite these problems we have continued to give the Beavers a fun experience using games, challenges and the opportunity to make new friends and to interact with other beavers. We are looking to improve their confidence and they are encouraged to take part in every activity whether it is to their liking or not.

Our programme offers the beavers the opportunity to earn challenge and activity badges with the highest award being the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. During the year we have worked on our Creative, Health, Safety, Disability, Space and Staged Emergency Aid badges. Our congratulations go to Camryn Birch, James Dennison, Lucien Cortes-Hawley, Kit Gandy, Yichen Jiang, Thangchin Vaulnam and Sam Smith who have earned their Bronze Awards.

We have held two Fun Days and Sleepovers with 54<sup>th</sup> Greenwich at the Avery Hill Scout centre, the Prep School joined us for the first one in October when it rained most of Saturday nevertheless the beavers slept out in tents. We arrived for the March Fun Day and Sleepover Saturday morning in a snow blizzard and it continued to snow most of the weekend and became extremely cold so everyone slept inside. We had planned to visit Hendon RAF museum in the Autumn term but had to cancel it due to security problems in London and then we had to cancel climbing because the Reach would not take 6 year olds. Nevertheless, we were able to do our Christmas crafts, attend a Christmas Party with 54<sup>th</sup> Greenwich and go Ten Pin Bowling at Lewisham on the last night. In the Spring term we celebrated Pancake day, made a Mother's Day card and present and finished the term making our chocolate Easter nests and having an egg hunt. After Easter we attended the Group St George's day service at Sunfields Church, Yichen carried our flag escorted by Thangchin and Sam and Gracia and Yichen read prayers.

During the rest of this term we are going to be doing a Sponsored Walk around Greenwich Park in aid of 'Guide Dogs for the Blind', have an evening doing Archery and on the last night a visit to Lee Green Fire Station. 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich is a very successful colony but this success could not have been achieved without the support of my fellow leaders and the parents, between us we have been able to give a variety of experiences to the beavers. My thanks go to the parents who have helped during the year.

I am privileged to have a very experienced leadership team in Simon, Sam and Ben and my thanks go especially to them for all their efforts and support and to Hayley and Graham who have continued to give assistance when required.

I really need another warranted leader to share the weekly fun and enjoyment of running the colony PLEASE CAN YOU HELP, experience is not needed.

**Brenda Openshaw**, Beaver Leader St Michael's

## BEAVER REPORT BLACKHEATH PREP

The Beavers have had a very busy and rewarding year. We have had around 22 Beavers most of the year with 13 new Beavers joining, 5 going up to Cubs and 3 leaving.

We aim to give the Beavers a fun experience using games, challenges and opportunities to interact with the other Beavers. We are looking to improve their confidence and they are encouraged to take part in every activity whether it is to their liking or not and usually once they try they enjoy the challenge. Our programme gives the Beavers the opportunity to earn challenge and activity badges with the highest award being the Chief Scout's Bronze Award.

It usually takes most of the two years to gain the Chief Scout's Bronze Award, and 2 of our Beavers (now in Cubs) have earned theirs this year – well done to Daniel Schoeb and Ryan Averley. Another 4 should complete theirs soon. All the Beavers have an impressive collection of badges, so well done to all.

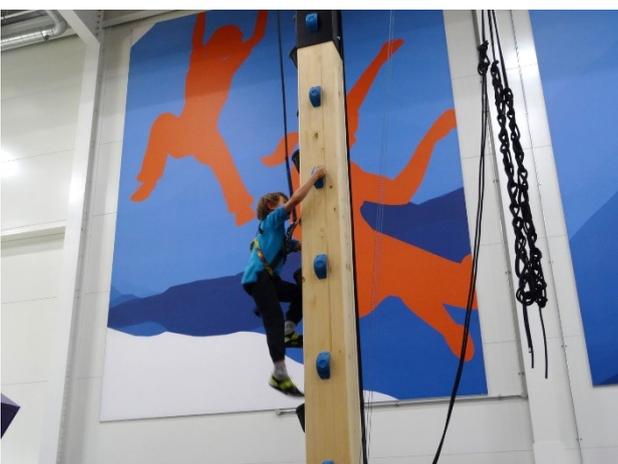
This year we solved problems, decoded messages, visited Lee Green Fire station, did experiments, went ten pin bowling, made Chinese dragons, planted seeds, went on a ramble in Greenwich park, learnt about bats, learnt about first aid, played lots of games and much more and in the process earned the following badges - Safety, Communicator, Experiment, Space, Emergency Aid Level 1, Gardener, Sports, International. We also visited Greenwich Observatory and planetarium as part of the Space badge and a number of beavers went to the Beaver and Cub Christmas party. Still to come this term is a visit to Clip 'n Climb.

We also attended the Group St George's day service at Sunfields Church, George carried our flag escorted by Owen and Ottoline and Ameera and Matthew read prayers.

We have held two Fun Days and Sleepovers at the Avery Hill Scout centre. One was in October with St Michael's and 54<sup>th</sup> Greenwich and the second one was in March and had a Robin Hood theme. A number of beavers also joined the Family camp in September at Downe.

Lastly but by no means least - my thanks go to Conway, who is there every week and I also want to thank all the parents who have helped during the year – our success could not have been achieved without your support.

**Sue Tearle**, Beaver Scout Leader



## General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Scout Group consists of the six sections for young people, plus adults as leaders or parents.

Two different sets of information are kept.

- Adult's records are stored by the Scout Association (TSA) in an online system called 'Compass'.
- Young people's records are stored by the 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich Scout Group (G40) in an online system called Online Scout Manager (OSM).

Both these systems are secure with access via password and are GDPR compliant. There are also extracts from these systems in the form of spreadsheets and similar which are either kept on individual leader's computer systems or on paper\*. This may be backed up on local hardware or the 'cloud' depending on the leader's systems.

The information that is stored is only that necessary to allow the efficient running of the scout group.

Leader's personal information as well as records of training completed, roles held and similar is kept on Compass by TSA and can be accessed by those at Group, District, County and National level who need to, to allow the effective management and support of the leaders in their roles as leaders. Other adults' details are those required to obtain a DBS check and only enough to allow contact to be maintained is retained by TSA or 40th Greenwich

Young people's records include personal details some of which are considered sensitive. We also keep records of events attended, badges gained and such. This is retained on OSM and is only accessible to the leaders within 40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich and additionally for the Young Leaders, the leaders of the district Explorer (YL) section as well.

We collect monies through OSM but the processing is carried out by 'GoCardless' who retain bank card details according to industry standards for Direct Debits. Only schedules of payments made are available to those in 40th Greenwich who deal with the accounts.

40<sup>th</sup> Greenwich only use the information to enable the running of the scout programme. So that is the weekly meetings and other activities and camps that are organised from time to time. The information is not sold or given to anyone outside of scouting. An anonymised summary of sensitive information is passed to TSA as part of an annual census of membership.

\* In theory the weekly registers can be entered into, and emergency contact details taken from OSM directly but in practice this is only as reliable as the internet signal at the time. A paper register will need to be kept at meetings and will contain contact details of parents for emergency use. Similarly, health forms will be retained as paper copies during a camp or other activity.