



# **1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout Group**

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Presentation of Year End Accounts to December 2021  
and Section Reports**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout HQ**

**28<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

# **1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout Group Annual General Meeting**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout HQ Marston Grove Great Barr B43 5ED  
28<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 (Attached)
4. Section Reports (Attached)
  - i. Beaver Scouts
  - ii. Cub Scouts
  - iii. Scouts
  - iv. Earhart Explorer Scouts
5. Treasurer's Report (Attached)
6. Group Scout Leader's Report (Attached)
7. Approval of reports
8. GSL's Nomination and Election of Officers
  - i. Chairman (nominated by Group Scout Leader)
  - ii. Secretary
  - iii. Treasurer
  - iv. Executive Committee Elections (& GSL's nominations)
9. AOB
10. Presentations

## Minutes of Previous Meeting

### Minutes of Annual General Meeting

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout Group

#### Annual General Meeting

30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Present:** Brigitte Hatfield (Secretary), Chris Jones (GSL), Lewis Tucker (Section Leader), Alan Dean (Treasurer), Shirley Wilson (Vice-Chair), Toby Hatfield (Sectional Assistant), Vanessa Hitchon (Chairman), Ben Hatfield (Section Leader), Mark Green (Exec Member), James Potter (Exec Member), Graham Jones, Adastra Fletcher (Sectional Assistant), Andy Barlow (Group Supporter) and parents / carers of young people from the group.

**Apologies:** Nicola Johnson (District Commissioner), Carol Payton (Section Leader), Jason Cross (Assistant Section Leader), Julie Neil (Assistant Section Leader), Matt Burns (Section Leader), Reece Williams (Assistant Section Leader), Ryan Wilson (Assistant Section Leader)

#### 1. Welcome

A welcome was extended to all leaders, parents and young people in attendance via Zoom. Thank you to everyone who has mastered the technology – sincere apologies that we couldn't meet in person this year as originally intended.

#### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

It was proposed that these be taken as a true record. Chris Jones proposed they be accepted as read.

#### 3. Section Reports

These were taken as read and accepted as a true record. Graham Jones proposed that the section reports be accepted as a true record. These will be published on the website for all to read in detail and a letter emailed to all parents with a link to them.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer explained that the Group did spend a little more than we had income which was largely due to the lack of meetings and therefore subscription levies. We did have some income from grants that helped with our financial position and as we were not running meetings for the best part of the year there were similarly fewer outgoings.

A copy of all of the section reports will be made available on our Group website for parents to view.

There were no comments or questions raised on the report.

Lewis Tucker proposed that the treasurer's report be accepted as a true record and Ben Hatfield seconded.

## **5. Group Scout Leader's Report**

During the lockdown, our leaders tried to keep in touch with all members and set some activities for them to keep them engaged. Some participated more than others, but the important thing was that we kept in touch with them. They also gave the young people directions to find other activities to keep them engaged. Despite the lack of face-to-face scouting leaders continued with their training. We did lose some numbers of young people as a result of the lockdown, although some have since returned. We do however need to do some recruitment for young people in some sections particularly for Beavers and Cubs.

In terms of leadership however, the picture is slightly different. During the lockdown, we lost the Scout leadership team and since our return to face-to-face meetings, Ben, Lewis, and Reece have been running two sections over two nights a week. We cannot sustain this for any length of time. I would therefore ask parents to think about anyone they may know who might be interested in helping as a leader. I would like to thank all our leaders as some groups have closed completely and we have managed to survive despite everything.

Christine Jones  
Group Scout Leader

## **6. Election of Officers**

The position of Chairman is a nominated position by GSL. The nomination this year is Vanessa Hitchon as Chair.

Only one nomination has been received for the posts of Secretary (B Hatfield) and Treasurer (A Dean) and therefore it was proposed that they continue in these roles.

## **7. Election of Executive Committee**

James Potter, Shirley Wilson (Vice Chair) and Mark Green have all agreed to stand again.

Lewis Tucker proposed they be appointed en-bloc. Ben Hatfield seconded

## **8. AOB**

We have appointed one new person – Pam Samra who will act as our group communications lead and take control of our Facebook and internet communications. Pam has a background in marketing so will be well suited to this role.

A welcome was also extended to Adastra at her first AGM as a Sectional Assistant.

## **Item 4; Section Reports**

**Beaver Scout Section Report.**  
**2022**

**September 2021 /April**

After a tentative return to face-to-face scouting in April 2021, with a colony of just 4, we are pleased to be back up and running at full strength (26). We currently draw from a number of schools and have a good mix of both older and younger members which will help to stabilise our numbers as we move forward.

Since our return we have concentrated on catching up on badges and the colony has worked on the Air Activities, Book Reader, Experiment, Money Skills, and Space Activity Badges with members also adding to their Hikes Badges. We continue to push on with the challenge awards with some of the colony completing their Outdoors, Personal, Skills, Teamwork and World challenges.

We continue to try to offer a varied weekly programme with games, crafts, and activities, and we always aim to make the most of the outdoors and try to get out as often as we can.

Highlights this year have been the visit to RAF Cosford, where we were able to meet up with other groups from around the County, the District International Day, and our Fencing session during February half Term.

Looking forward, we have a sleepover booked at Kinver Scout site in May and we are hoping to be able to get out and about more in the Summer.

Thanks as always to the team Julie, Reece and Ryan without whom there would be no colony and a warm welcome to Eve & Priyanka who have been a much-needed support to us as young leaders.

We look forward to the year ahead and to continued fun and friendships.

**Carol Payton.**

## **Cub Section Report 2020 -2021**

With the restrictions lifted the last 6 months have been filled with a great variety of activities that can only be completed with face-to-face meetings. A very welcome change after a difficult couple of years away! The section has been fantastic in getting back to into the spirit of scouting and I would like to thank each one of you for that!

The group have worked very well and continue to meet every challenge they face as the badges they have earned are being awarded on a regular basis. As the cubs work through an engaging programme with a variety of activities, we always aim for them to have fun throughout.

The group continues to grow with the help from the beaver section (Thank you Carol and team!) and numbers are healthy. We will be aiming to increase those numbers in the coming months with some 'bring a friend' evenings.

We now have a well-established leader team and would like to thank them all for their continued dedication to the group. Each member brings something different to the team which allows us to deliver a real diverse programme to our section. The aim moving forward is to be getting into a more traditional form of Scouting with trips and camping to be planned and there will be no excuse as we head towards the summer!

Finally, as a section we would like to thank the group's Executive committee that work behind the scenes maintaining the HQ and supporting all that we do.

**Thank you all for your time from the Cub Section.**

## **The Scout Section Report 2020 - 2021**

It has been a period of excitement and change for 1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scouts over the last 6 months. We have been able to consistently meet without restrictions for the first time in nearly two years which has greatly increased the variety of programmes we have been able to offer our young people.

This variety is reflected in the badges that we are able to hand out tonight, with members of the section having achieved their awards for 'Navigation', 'Emergency Aid', 'Media and Marketing' and 'Mechanics'. The Scouts have had to work hard to earn these badges, but there has been plenty of time for fun as well, including our traditional Halloween party, 5<sup>th</sup> November bonfire and lots and lots of games. Our aim is always to deliver a varied and engaging programme which keeps the Scouts coming back week after week.

The section itself continues to grow. We have welcomed many new members since face-to-face Scouting resumed and our Troop now numbers 20. Having said that, new members are and will always be welcome, so spread the word to your family and friends!

The leadership team has undergone a few changes as well. Lewis has stepped back from the Scout Section to focus primarily on the Explorers, although he still pops in from time to time and knows he is always more than welcome. We are also delighted to formally welcome Adam and Kim, who have joined us from another group in Walsall. They bring with them a lot of experience and enthusiasm and we are delighted to have them on board. I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Jason and Mark for all of their continued support with the Scout section. Always willing to lend a hand and get stuck in, their contribution to the group is invaluable.

This June we are going to 'Strategy' camp in Gloucestershire, which will mark the section's first camp since pre-covid. We are hugely excited to get back to this most traditional of Scouting activities and will be planning several more camps in the coming months and years.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Group's Executive committee for their tireless efforts in keeping the group going under the challenging circumstances of the last couple of years.

Here's to more adventures at 1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell.

**Yours in Scouting, The Scout Section Leaders.**

## **Earhart Explorers Section Report 2021**

Over the last year our young people have undertaken a varied programme of activities. Mainly surrounding cooking, map reading and more recently working towards the Community Impact staged badge.

In addition to our weekly program, we again tortured ourselves in this year's Chase Walk, a 40-mile endurance race across Cannock Chase, during which participants must navigate their own route and carry their own kit along with team equipment. The Explorers entered and gave it their best shot with some setting new personal bests and others completing it on their first attempt - all leaders involved are very proud of them!

After sitting down at the finish point, we didn't think the Explorers clocked up enough miles; two weeks later we travelled to Snowdonia National Park for some mountain walking over Crimpiau and Craig Wen. It was a great weekend and a learning point for both Explorers and leaders.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have helped us in any way over the past year, including parents, fellow leaders and of course the executive committee. We couldn't do it without you, and we are eager to see what the next year brings us.

Lewis

**Earhart Explorer Leader**



## **Item 5;**

### **Treasurer's Report for 2021**

#### **Summary**

1<sup>st</sup> Sandwell Scout Group is a registered charity, with all its income derived from; charitable donations, gift aid reclaimed from HM Revenue and Customs, fundraising and membership subscriptions. There are no paid officers, and all leaders and supporters provide their services on a voluntary basis.

The Scout Group as a trust owns the building, with the land being owned by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and leased to the Group. The group is responsible for all maintenance and running costs associated with the building and the land, along with all costs associated with providing Scouting to its members. In addition, the Group pays an annual subscription to the National Scout Association based on the number of members in the Group. During 2021 the Group, including Earhart Explorers, was operating with virtual meetings due to COVID 19 restrictions. For the National Scout Annual Census that takes place in January each year, we recorded in January 2021 thirty-three members and in January 2022 forty-seven members, showing that the group is continuing to grow as we move out of the restrictions caused by the COVID 19 pandemic.

The Group Executive Committee carries out management of the group's affairs. This committee consists of the Group Scout Leader, nominated and elected officers & members. All elected officers & members are from parents/carers of young members and supporters of the Group. The executive committee members are also Trustees of the Group as required by the Charities Commission.

Accounts for the period January-December 2021 are provided in the form of a balance sheet appended to this report. The Group has a small operating loss of expenditure over income for this period (-£44.32). However, thanks to Government grants of £1,334.00 and Gift Aid claims of £1,754.51 in 2021 we are able to maintain the financial security of the group and maintain a financial reserve to protect us against further financial uncertainty.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents of members who have provided support to the Group and to ask for your continued support. Scouting at this level is only possible because of the time and effort provided by leaders and supporters of the Group. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all Leaders, Members of the Group Executive, and supporters for all their time, thus enabling me to carry out the role of treasurer.

**Alan Dean - Group Treasurer**

## **Item 6; Group Scout Leaders Report**

### **APRIL 2022**

Just twelve months ago we held our first face to face event by hiking around the Sandwell Valley to celebrate St. George`s Day. It was wonderful to get back to real Scouting, but we did wonder if we would be able to continue without further interruptions.

Our numbers were down as many of our young people had moved away or were too old to stay in the section they were in before the pandemic, we had lost several Leaders, and like everyone else in the Country we were concerned that our Group may fail. We should have known better. We are back, we are delivering good Scouting and our numbers are constantly on the rise.

I am delighted to welcome Kim and Adam, two new leaders, into the Scout leadership Team and Aadastra who was one of our Explorers has joined the Cub Scout leadership team. Because our numbers are rising, we need to actively seek to recruit more leaders, not an easy task, but a problem we cannot ignore. If anyone is interested in joining the leadership team, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the section leaders. Also, if you could all spread the word amongst your family, friends, and neighbours, that would be helpful. It is not all hard work we do have a lot of fun and the bigger the leadership team means the more we can do. Remember many hands make light work.

Our congratulations must go to three members of our leadership team. Ben Hatfield who has been appointed Deputy Unit Leader for the World Scout Jamboree in Korea in 2023, Lewis Tucker, has been appointed as an Assistant Unit Leader and Aadastra has been appointed to the International Service Team. This, I am sure you will agree, shows the quality of our Leaders at the 1<sup>st</sup>. Well done to all three of them we wish them wonderful adventures in Korea alongside all the hard work that awaits them.


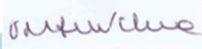
You will see from the slides that there has been plenty going on with lots of variety. We have already had one event to celebrate the Queen`s Platinum Jubilee, this was our Tree Planting Ceremony and the burying of a Time Capsule and there is another Celebration planned for June 5<sup>th</sup>. Our young people are having fun, learning new skills, gaining badges and making new friends, just as it should be. This could not be achieved if it was not for the dedicated and hardworking team of leaders that we have at the 1<sup>st</sup>. I have said it before, and I will say it again `They are simply the best` and we owe them our heartfelt thanks.

Our Executive Committee are a fantastic group of people who are constantly working to make our lives easier by making sure our finances are strong and our building is safe, looked after and improved. It is greatly appreciated, thank you. We also have a wonderful cleaner, who makes sure our Headquarters always looks its best, a special thanks to Denise who made sure that the building was completely `Covid` safe before we returned and continues to do so.

Going forward we have lots of exciting programmes planned, including camps, outings and jubilee celebrations. Thank you to all who have supported us in the last twelve months, we look forward to your continued support in the future.

**Chris Jones.**  
**Group Scout Leader.**

# 1st Sandwell Scout Group 2021

		INCOME		Expenditure	
	2020		2021	2021	2020
£	6,573.00	Subs	£ 2,776.99	Cleaning	£ 600.00 £ 400.00
£	-	Petty Cash	£ 1,075.00	Electricity	£ 696.99 £ 1,224.96
		Transfer from			
		Savings	£ 1,500.00	Refuse	£ 177.69 £ 348.50
£	-	Covid Grant	£ 1,334.00	Water Rates	£ - £ -
£	-	Group Activities	£ 1,088.00	Rent	£ 20.00 £ 20.00
£	10,400.00	Donations	£ 607.35	Insurance	£ 1,721.18 £ 1,803.61
£	3,258.00	HMRC		Maintenance	£ 630.21 £ 624.29
		Explorers Acc	£ -	Training	£ - £ -
£	-	Scout Account	£ -	Equipment	£ 104.17 £ -
£	50.00	Cub Account	£ -	Badges/ Neckers	£ 156.22 £ -
£	-	Beaver Account	£ -	Membership Subs	£ 1,582.00 £ 2,944.00
£	-	Neckers	£ -	Stationery	£ 91.85 £ -
				WiFi	£ 258.24 £ 260.00
				Donations	£ - £ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 20,281.00</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£ 8,381.34</b>	Transfer Account	£ - £ 10,000.00
				To Petty cash A/C	£ - £ -
				To Beaver Account	£ 240.00 £ 111.00
<b>Summary closing2020</b>			£6,512.04	To Cub Account	£ - £ -
2020 HMRC to savings account			£ 3,258.00	To Scout Account	£ - £ 120.00
Opening Balance			£3,254.04	To Explorer Account	£ - £ -
Total Income			£ 8,381.34	To Group Activities	£ 1,652.11 £ 212.52
			<b>£11,635.38</b>	Subs Refunds	£ 495.00 £ 2,850.00
Total Expenditure			£ 8,425.66	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 8,425.66 £ 20,918.88</b>
Balance			£3,209.72		
Balancing figure			£ -	Cheques not presented	
<b>Closing Balance</b>			<b>£3,209.72</b>		
<b>Savings + Petty Cash Account</b>			£ 23,017.89	<b>Savings + Petty Cash Account</b>	
		Interest	£ 77.48	Transfer to Main account	-£ 1,500.00
		HMRC	£ 1,754.51		
		Transfer Account	-£ 1,500.00	<b>Signed Treasurer</b>	 <b>1st March 2022</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 23,349.88</b>	<b>Signed Chair</b>	 <b>1st March 2022</b>
Petty Cash			£150.46		
<b>Total</b>			<b>£ 23,500.34</b>		

<http://www.1st-sandwell-scout-group.org/wp-content/uploads/Annual-Report-and-Accounts-2021.pdf>