

SPARKS HALL, PYNE ROAD, TOLWORTH, KT6 7BN.

OUT

OF

Enjoy the Outdoors.

Games, Visits,

Hikes

and

Wonderful Camping.

THE

BLUE



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1040958

Group Scout Leader	John Bowman	gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk
Group Chair	Martin Smith	chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com
President	Mrs Margaret Warry	margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk
Circle Chair	Mrs Margaret Warry	margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk

DIARY OF EVENTS

MAY

Fri 29 April

to Mon 2 May Bank Holiday Troop Camp. Buckmore Park Scout Camp site, Chatham.

Tue 3 Group Executive. Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.

Tue 10 Air Rifle Club. Open to all from Cubs to Explorers. Sparks Hall. 19.00-20.00.

Thu 19 Circle visit to Brooklands Museum, Weybridge.

Tue 24 Air Rifle Club. Open to all from Cubs to Explorers. Sparks Hall. 19.00-20.00.

JUNE

Tue 7 Group AGM. Sparks Hall. 19.45 for 20.00.

Tue 14 Air Rifle Club. Open to all from Cubs to Explorers. Sparks Hall. 19.00-20.00.

Tue 28 Air Rifle Club. Open to all from Cubs to Explorers. Sparks Hall. 19.00-20.00.

Wed 29 Circle visit to "Happy and Glorious". Epsom Playhouse. Curtain up 14.30.

JULY

Tue 5 Group Executive. Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.

Fri 15

to Sun 17 Everest Cubs Camp. Walton Firs Scout Camp Site, Cobham.

Thu 21 Circle meeting.

Sat 23

to Sat 30 Troop Summer Camp.

Other events and any amendments are advised by Leadership Team members and for the Circle by the Chair.

All contributions for the **July** issue of **OOTB** to be delivered **by 11TH June**

to

SHEILA JONES, E-mail: sheilamjones@blueyonder.co.uk

GSL'S REPORT

I would like to say a huge welcome to the 1st Tolworth (St Matthew's) Scout Group and my first Annual Report as GSL.

WOW, what a first year this has been! At the start we were just coming out of lockdown and Scouting had just gone to "green" which meant that Sections could meet normally and camps could restart. The Scout Section were the first to manage to get away for a summer camp and went to Phasels Wood in Hertfordshire for one week at the beginning of July. Although not the best of weather they had a great time!

The start of the relaxation of rules meant that the Group began to grow again. The Beaver Section started off well with new members joining, which was hard work for Rachel and Peter as almost none of the Beavers had been involved before. The Colony has done really well and currently has 14 Beavers. Well done Rachel and Peter and a massive thanks to their Young Leader Thomas Cheatle. I would also like to welcome Marcelina Marczuk who has just taken out a Colony Assistant role.

I would like to say a huge thankyou to Rachel for everything she has done for the Beaver Colony and getting it where it is today. Unfortunately, Rachel left us this St George's Day as she is moving to Kent and will not be able to continue. I know I can say she will be missed, not only by the Beavers but also all the Leaders.

Reg mentioned in his last Annual Report that we would be having a new Cub Leader. I am very happy to say that Megan has taken on the role. She has also added to her team Peter Smorhit, Luke Taylor and Marina Ter. Megan has a very strong team and is well supported by her Young Leader team of Giacomo (Jack) Blows and Matthew Pearson. The Pack has gone from strength to strength and currently has 17 Cubs and a healthy waiting list.

Megan is taking the Cubs on their first weekend camp to Walton Firs with the help of Caroline's Nights Away permit.

The Troop managed to weather the storm of Covid by meeting online with Zoom until they could go back to face to face. Caroline and her Leaders have done a great job of keeping things going. They have managed to do a couple of Expedition Challenge hikes and night hikes. They also have weekend and Summer Camps booked.

With the growth of the amount of Scouts, the leadership team has also grown. I would like to say a big hello to Keira Pearson, Holly Powell and Lex Bryers who have all taken on a Leader role since becoming 18 and welcome back to Jamie Pickard who was an ASL with us before.

Welcome Atlas!

1st Tolworth now has an Explorer unit "Atlas". Although this is a District Section it is mostly 1T Scouts who go and has 1T Leaders, so a huge THANKYOU to Millie Edgar-Gibson for taking on the role as Explorer Leader with Keira Pearson, Peter Keen, Lex Bryers and Jamie Pickard for taking on ANOTHER role within Scouts at 1T!

They are a new unit and have only just started so I wish them every success for the future.

All this could not happen without the hard work all our volunteer Leaders put in to run and support the sections, but none of this would happen without all the work people behind the scenes do, the ones you hardly see, but hear mentioned.

Firstly, our Executive members led by our Chair, Martin Smith. It is not the easiest of jobs at times, trying to find the right balance to make things work smoothly and our Treasurer Terry Goodall who manages to find the money, somehow, to keep us going.

All this needs to be recorded and we now have a new Group Secretary, Tina Lefevre, who accepted the task from Sheila Jones who stepped down after more than 40 years! So thank you Tina and thank you Sheila for all you have done.

I want to thank Martin and all the other Exec. members for helping me through my first year as this has been a huge learning curve. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Megan Taylor because in October 2021 she was awarded the Medal for Meritorious Conduct! This is the highest award an adult can receive and is only awarded by the Chief Scout.

The award is for determination and courage and for continuing with Scouting ever since her accident in 2011. Until Megan got Rowley, her assistance dog, she could never tell when, or more importantly where, she would pass out. This never stopped her from living a normal life and did not give up.

Megan continues to prove that disability is not a barrier and that anything is possible.

John Bowman
Group Scout Leader
gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

GROUP PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This time last year I wrote that the end of Covid-19 was in sight. This is not quite true unfortunately although things have improved. The Group Executive has been meeting in the flesh but well-spaced out and our sections have started up again, much to the pleasure of our young people. We are not required to wear masks unless we wish.

During the First and Second World Wars 1st Tolworth stayed open and actually had a role in the Borough of Surbiton. This has not been possible with this infection but we have stayed in touch with the membership and done a lot of things remotely. Now we are getting going again.

I want to express my thanks to the leadership teams and I am looking forward to reading about activities. By the time you read this 1st Tolworth would have attended a St. George's Day service at St. Matthew's church, followed by presentations at the RBL.

Megan Taylor, our Akela, has continued Scouting in spite of problems and this has been recognised by the Scout Association with the Medal for Meritorious Conduct which recognises outstanding character, conduct, perseverance or initiative. She received this award at Hampton Court Palace at a County Scout reception in February. Congratulations!

Rachel Ferris, our current Beaver Leader is leaving the District with our thanks and to our regret. So we need another leader. If you are interested, please get in contact.

So there it is! We hope for a lot of good weather this year so we can get out and about, camping, etc. If you would like to join us or know anyone who does, we look forward to hearing from you.

My good wishes to you all.

Margaret Warry
Group President

GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT

I would like start my report as always by inviting all members, families and supporters to the 1st Tolworth (St. Matthew's) Scout Group Annual General Meeting to be held at Sparks Hall on Tuesday 7th June 2022.

Please do come along and join us. It would be great to see as many of you as possible. The meeting will start at 20.00 and again we have the opportunity to reflect on the previous year's

activities. The formal meeting is usually a reasonably short affair. Refreshments, drinks and nibbles will be available following the meeting. Use this opportunity to raise any concerns you may have regarding the way the Scout Group is managed or just come along for a chat. It would be great to see you there.

At the time of writing this report, we are almost back to a normal way of life in the UK. Hopefully, our St. George's Day Service and yearly Awards Presentations, the first one in three years, scheduled for after the deadline of the reports, will be a success.

To continue:

This report as always will be a review of the last year.

As you are aware, we had some changes in our Leadership and Group Executive roles. John Bowman took over from Reg Lefevre as our Group Scout Leader, Megan Taylor was officially welcomed as "Akela" Cub Scout Leader and Tina Lefevre took over from longstanding Sheila Jones as Group Secretary. And I am pleased to say they all survived their first year in these roles.

The Scout Troop were back with face to face meetings as soon as the Covid restrictions were eased. By the end of September the Cub and Beaver sections were also meeting face to face and we were starting to feel normality returning.

Well done and thanks to Caroline, Megan, Rachel and your teams for all your efforts.

We even had, on a smaller scale than normal, our November Fayre planned which was a great success only made possible due to our very dedicated Fayre Planning Committee. As we hadn't had the opportunity to hold our yearly presentation service during the pandemic John took the opportunity to present some of the awards missed over the previous two years.

The Remembrance Sunday service held at Surbiton War Memorial, another event that was welcomed back after the lockdowns, was well attended and it was great to see so many people in attendance and great to see so many youth group members there including those from 1st Tolworth, all looking really smart. The 1st Tolworth Scout Group wreath, which is normally laid at the Polyapes War Memorial, was laid by our treasurer Terry Goodall.

Our Group minibus following the two years of inaction is back on the road. However, it is looking rather untidy, even after the wash and brush up we gave it. Thanks to Richard Ford for getting the bus back in working order. The Executive Committee have discussed replacing the minibus, not only because of its age but also because of the ever threat of the expanding ULEZ, which if it did extend to Surbiton would cost the Group £16 every day it was used.

During the summer months and before all the sections were fully back meeting in the hall, the Group Executive Building Maintenance team replaced the six florescent lights in the hall and one in the stairwell. These were replaced with "daylight glow" LED lights. The hall also had a thorough clean. Using the tower we hired so the lights could be replaced, we cleaned the RSJ's and steelwork that supports the roof.

The metal tables that were propped up against the climbing wall have been put into the outside storage area. At the same time the climbing wall had some work done. Evidently, the karabiner arrangements we were using were no longer the correct method and were replaced. There is a climbing technique called Bouldering which limits the height you can climb up the wall. A red line denotes this height. But the idea of Bouldering is to move across the wall.

The benefit of this is that no instructor is required so all sections can do this activity as part of a normal section meeting. Unfortunately we still have some safety issues with using the wall for full height climbing and these are being addressed.

The new Group Website is almost ready to launch and I would like to thank Staxoweb for their efforts and support in bringing this about.

Sad News

Unfortunately we lost a dedicated Scouter and long-time supporter of 1st Tolworth when Barry Pegram, Father Christmas for many years at our November Fayre, sadly died in July.

On March 5th 2022 the Group celebrated its 113th year since being founded. None of those 113 years would have been possible if it wasn't for the volunteers past and present who take on the roles as Group Scout Leader, Beaver, Cub and Scout Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Young Leaders or Executive Committee members and the regular helpers who all do so without any payment and in some cases, with cost to themselves. Thank you all.

I would like to thank the Group Executive members for their support during the last year and look forward to their continued support in the next. Although mainly in the background, the Executive Committee does a wonderful job in managing the Group's funds and assets so I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of everyone in the 1st Tolworth family to thank them for their support. And a big thank you to my wife, Viv, as without her continuous support and understanding I could not fulfil my role as Group Chair.

Looking Forward

As previously reported, Graham Warnes decided it was time to step down from his role as Jumble Sales Manager. Graham, with the help of his lead team of Ken Warnes and Margaret Warry and his extended team of volunteers, has done a marvellous job over many years managing the Jumble Sales. And we thank them. However, as we had no volunteers forthcoming to take on this role, as a Group we have had no choice but to cease holding any further Jumble Sales.

As you can imagine, the funds raised from not only the Jumble Sales but also the Car Boot Sales and other Fayres Graham and his team attended, have greatly contributed to the Group's income and helped to keep the subs at a reasonably low cost.

As an example, the costs of keeping the Group running for a year are approximately £8,500, made up of the following:

Membership fees £2700 (based on 60 members)

Hall insurance including equipment £1700 (based on last year)

Minibus insurance (£1000 comprehensive)

Road tax £280. MOT £58

Council Tax £240 (only 4 payments of £60 this year). This will increase.

Electricity £1200

Water £240

Scout shop (badges) £1000

Fire Extinguisher yearly Safety Inspection £80

Currently our subs income is £500 a month which is £6000 a year so we are not breaking even. Gift Aid can add to this and was about £500 for the last 12 months.

The November Fayre could, if we have a good one, bring in a further £2000 if all goes well. We currently have a small financial buffer but as a Group we will not be able to survive for

long on just about breaking even so unfortunately a rise in subs will be on the Executive Committee's agenda in the coming year.

The last 26 months have certainly been a challenge to us all with unusual and unprecedented times. Hopefully as we enter the Group's 114th year we can get back to normality and look forward to another year of great Scouting. I'm sure that whatever the future holds for us we will, in true 1st Tolworth family tradition, rise to the challenges that present themselves and we will continue to do what we do best - provide great times, life skills and excellent Scouting for the youngsters in the area.

Hope to see you soon. Stay well, stay safe.

I am so proud to be part of 1st Tolworth (St. Matthew's) Scout Group.

Proud to be 1st

Martin Smith Group Chair

chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com

THAMES BEAVER SCOUT REPORT

In September the Beaver Section began meeting for the first time since March 2020 due to Covid-19. All the children who started at this time were new to Scouting and it took time for them to get to know each other and the code of conduct we have during our meetings. But we now have 14 Beavers who are a credit to 1st Tolworth.

We have had lots of fun this year. Some of it has even gone towards badge work! I was proud to have given out over 70 badges this year.

Almost every Beaver has achieved the following 5 badges in the last 2 terms:

Builder Activity

Health & Fitness Activity

Cook Activity

Collector Activity

Money Skills Activity

We even had one Beaver, Sebastiano, who has earned another three badges with his extra-curricular activities outside of Beavers :

Sport Activity

Musician Staged Activity Level 1

Swimming Staged Activity Level 1

On the 24th April we had our St. George's Day Parade with the following awards being given to Beavers:

DAT Award - Archie C

Friendship Award - Avery

Beaver of the Year:

1st - Daisy

2nd - Dylan

3rd - Sebastiano

This is my last Out of the Blue report and as of the 29th April Peter will be in charge of the Colony with the assistance of Marcelina. However, they are still looking for someone to run the Colony.

I was happy and proud to be a part of 1st Tolworth and I wish everyone the best for the future.

Rachel Ferris
Beaver Scout Leader
Thames Beaver Scout Colony
Boys and Girls age 5 ¾ - 8
Fridays 17.45 – 18.45
beavers@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

EVEREST CUB SCOUT REPORT

In September we re-launched our Cub Pack with a brand-new leadership team after a long break during the Covid lockdowns. It has been a joy to see so many new young people joining the Scouting adventure, making new friends and learning life skills!

We have covered lots of badges so far this year including disability awareness, emergency aid, environmental conservation, artist, DIY, personal safety, scientist, book reader, navigator, international, chef, teamwork, team leader, and personal challenge. Our Cubs have worked very hard and I am immensely proud of all their achievements.

During the Autumn term we decorated cakes, made tie dye socks, learnt about Guide Dogs, made clay pinch pots, made fat-balls for the local birds, had a go at soft archery, learnt life-saving first aid skills, had a campfire and wide games evening, made a poppy wreath and learnt about conflict, learnt about Scouting around the world, made ballistas, learnt how to cook sausages and mash potatoes, had a festive party and made Christmas cards for children in hospital.

During spring term we had a go at air rifle shooting, made cardboard castles, made DIY bird houses, held our very own indoor winter Olympics/Paralympics, made paracord snakes, did some cool science experiments, went on a scavenger hunt at the local park and played so many fun team games and sports!

We are now moving into summer term and have lots of fun and exciting things planned including a visit to our local fire station, canoeing, outdoor sports and wide games, fire lighting, a summer camp and more!

I'd like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful leadership team who volunteer their time every week to help our young people grow and learn. I'd also like to say a special thankyou to our Young Leaders who have been invaluable. We are so grateful to have you!

Lastly, I'd like to thank my Assistance Dog, Rowley, for enabling me to become Akela in the first place! He does such a wonderful job every single week, waiting patiently under the table and ignoring so many distractions. It might appear that he is doing 'nothing' but in reality, he is monitoring my condition constantly and will alert me immediately with a nudge to my thigh if he detects any changes in my condition. This allows me to pop upstairs and safely lie down before I become unconscious. Don't worry, the Cubs are left in the capable hands of our assistant leaders whilst I'm managing my condition. Once the episode has passed, I am able to go back downstairs and continue running the session. Without Rowley it would be a very different story. What he does is life changing and lifesaving. He has definitely earned his place in our Pack and the title of Honorary Cub Scout!

At our St George's Day presentations I announced our Cub Scout of the Year winners! I am very proud of all of our Cubs and I hope that you are too. Here's to another fantastic year of Scouting!

Megan Taylor
Cub Scout Leader
Everest Cub Scout Pack
Boys and Girls age 8 – 10 ½
Wednesdays 18.30 – 20.00
megan.1sttolworthcubs@gmail.com

SCOUT TROOP REPORT

What a joy it is to be back meeting on Friday evenings, planning camps, being so busy that I haven't got enough time to do everything, ie. back to normal!

With Atlas ESU opening and meeting at Sparks Hall, lots of our older members, now Explorer-age, have left us but all have gone rather later than they should. Two have achieved Chief Scout's Gold – even tougher than usual with the events of the last 2 years - and I am very proud of them. Four more of our members will have moved up by Half-Term, two of them very close to their "Gold" and having had the chance to be Patrol Leaders. We will be back to under14's in the Troop then. Mind you, it is a real treat to have the older ones to call

on when I need some support, but knowing they are doing what Explorers do, for the rest of the time.

Because we had a gap with very few coming to join us from Everest Pack, we have been able to take in “refugees” from other Groups in the District who were unable to re-open their Troops after lockdown. On the other hand, 6th.Tolworth was able to re-start their Troop so one Scout went back (although two decided to stay with us instead!) and we haven’t got an obligation to take more Cubs from them. This has given us a rich Troop in the way of experience and personalities. However, we have 10 Cubs to join us from Everest between March and September this year so we should be back to our usual numbers of just over 30 Scouts by the end of 2022.

Having done our best to build on Scouting skills over Zoom, it was a relief to return to face-to-face after half-term last summer. We met outdoors until the restrictions eased by September and went to Polyapes to try out their new Shooting/Archery Range and revise our fire-lighting and axe/saw skills.

Once back in the Hall, we have returned to our usual mix of navigation, cooking, crafts, games, sports, world themes, badge work etc. etc.

We have had five Jack Petchey Awards recently and have a stock of trips out saved until the time when the Group minibus was back on the road.

County Cooking Competition was back last October. The theme was “The Continents of the World”. 3 courses, each from a different continent. 2 hours. 4 Scouts. 2 Gaz burners. Tough!! We entered 2 teams who came 4th & equal 5th out of 21 teams and were the top teams in Royal Kingston so came home with the District Trophy. We don’t often collect silverware, so nice for a change. Well done to all.

The County Night Exercise was in March and our two teams both completed the course, finishing 13th & 21st. This is out of 43 teams that started and 23 that completed the course. I was very pleased with how well they did. We hadn’t concentrated to doing well for that event. We had just carried on with our balanced programme, giving them enough skills to take part, without any panic training! As usual, there were many members of 1st.Tolworth joining in the organisation of the event and enabling other Scouts to take part.

We did manage to go to Summer Camp at Phasels Wood last July. It was the first week of camping and that made it complicated, as well as very last minute. I had been hassling the wardens for weeks to know if we could go. So much so that I was christened “That mad woman from Tolworth”! They got that one right, I suppose.... We took 14 Scouts, three Young Leaders and 6 adults. We all so enjoyed being together again, doing what we all love and do best. We almost had the campsite to ourselves and if you have been to Phasels, you know how much freedom that is!

Since then, we have done 2 overnight Expeditions, one last autumn and one in the spring, both starting locally, camping at Polyapes overnight and walking on to finish in Effingham. It is so important to catch up on the opportunities that the Scouts should have had!

We have a weekend camp planned at Buckmore Park Scout campsite which will happen between writing this and the AGM, as well as members going to the National Archery competition with the District Archery Club. Summer Camp is booked too.

As to the leadership team, Stuart & Alex have gone travelling for the whole of 2022 but on the plus side we have acquired several of the Young Leaders who have now turned 18, but probably only until they disappear to University in the autumn. Jamie has returned to us after a few years absence and of course John does not have the obligation to be with us all the time with his new role. With several of the team also running Atlas, the roles and priorities get blurred sometimes, but we cope, and thrive.

Thank you to all of our leadership team for what you do.

Caroline Marsden
Scout Leader
Scout Troop
Boys and Girls age 10 ½ - 14
Fridays 19.30 – 21.30
Contact: Mrs Caroline Marsden – 07889 192 765
marsden697@btinternet.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Group's accounts cover the period from the 1st April 2021 to the 31st March 2022 and have been audited and signed off by Maurice Grant, the Independent Examiner. Thank you once again Maurice. The accounts are in a healthy state for the time being and have fared well during the last two years when Covid had forced closure of our Group due to various national lockdowns. Having given our parents the choice to cancel and suspend subs payments, 18 parents continued to pay throughout those 24 months and I thank them for supporting us.

I also applied for five grants of different amounts made available via Kingston Council from the Government. We were successful with all five and these grants are now a backup for our future finances. Our outgoings had been minimal during those two years but with Scouting returning last September our costs are now on the rise.

Our minibus was unused for almost two years. This kept the cost down as it was SORN and only had fire and theft insurance. The Group decided we needed to get the vehicle back on the road so it was usable again for Scouting. The cost of repairing, road tax, MOT and comprehensive insurance cost over £900. There are still some issues to be addressed regarding the cost of other repairs but there is some debate about replacing it with a newer model. We could just sell our present vehicle and hire one when needed. Discussions are ongoing at our monthly Executive Committee meetings about all options available.

Once again many thanks to Richard Ford for his continuing support with maintaining the minibus. Also thanks to all who recently turned out to wash and clean the bus in the car park of the Royal British Legion.

I mentioned that our costs were increasing back to pre-Covid levels but our income is now much lower than it was. Our fundraising has been greatly reduced with our yearly three Jumble Sales having now ceased. The last one was in March 2020. Also, Outdoor Fairs were

cancelled and some even this year are not taking place. During 2021, Car Boot sales continued to bring in welcome income. The last ones attended were in December last year.

We must thank Graham Warnes and his team for years of fundraising which helped boost our coffers and increased our spending power. Alas, Graham has said his years of fundraising are ending due to his advancing years. He has organised, collected, set up, distributed and sold many items along with the help of many others. He, Margaret and his brother Ken, were sometimes the only people from the Group attending outdoor events at the crack of dawn in all sorts of weather. So Graham and team, we salute you for all the dedication and hard work and funds you have put in for 1st Tolworth over many, many years. One BIG thank you.

I may go on about **Gift Aid** and how it is important for our Group, even more now than ever before. We have a full complement of parents who are eligible to sign a **Gift Aid form** but many have chosen not to. Some may not even know they can. It costs them nothing to complete and costs the Group nothing too, as long as the parent is a basic tax payer. I can claim 25% of all total subs contributions in a taxable year. Also, I can claim back up to four years, if applicable. It makes so much sense and helps to finance our Group. Unfortunately, I am only claiming about £400 to £500 later this year when, in the past, I was able to claim at least £1000. It is such a shame that something that is so easy to do is being wasted and which would improve the Group's income.

The hall insurance seems to go up every year and last year it was over £1700. This covers all the buildings and contents. This still had to be fully paid despite the hall not being used due to lockdowns. I am looking into quotes from other insurers to possibly reduce our premium if possible for this year.

The bill for our membership which covers our youngsters for this year has come to £2700 That is £45 a member. I can remember not so long ago when it was £30 a member. If we had 100 members our bill would have been £4500! No doubt this cost will inevitably increase next year.

We are now paying Council Tax again which is greatly reduced because we are a charity. We were paying £122 for the last year but that was for two payments of £61.

The monthly water rates from Castle Water were quite high last year and the company was still taking full monthly payments even though the hall was shut. I managed to get the company to reduce the direct payment and not pay anything for a few months. This may change again depending on when the meter readings are taken.

One major bill increase will be electricity from EDF as our hall is all electric. We will see all our power bills going up by at least 54% and even more in October. I don't have to tell you how important it is to switch off lights and heating when not being used. I estimate the hall bills for the next 12 months will be at least £1500 plus, instead of around £800 to £900 before the pandemic. Thank goodness the summer season is now upon us to help for the time being.

Our Scout Shop is also being used regularly with new leader uniforms, badges and other bits and pieces being purchased. Since we have returned to Scouting we have spent £800 in total. Also, all section expenses have steadily increased too and have to be reimbursed to leaders and helpers.

I mentioned earlier in my report that the Group is now spending more than what is coming into our current account. We seem to be at a crossroads when previously our fundraising

compensated our monthly spending. However, since the start of 2022 the only income is our monthly subs which have picked up to between £500 to £600 a month from a low of £180 a month. The thing is that over the past few months our expenditure has totally outweighed our income.

I do not want to press any panic buttons at this moment in time but our Group needs to assess the next 6 months. Our current account is in the black and the grants are there as a backup but with the current spending I wonder how long the current account will last before being topped up from the grants or the savings account. Only time will tell.

We did raise £600 at a downsized November Fayre last year which was well attended. Thanks to everybody who helped out. Hopefully the Group can stage our normal Fayre this November. This would be our main fundraiser event so I hope it will do well.

I would just like to thank Martin Smith, our Chair, and all the committee members, plus my dear wife, Carol, for all their support over the last 12 months. Also, thanks to Reg Lefevre for his time as GSL and welcome to John Bowman as our new GSL.

I've got to say a big thank you to Sheila Jones for her role as Group Secretary for over 40 years and has now decided recently to step down. Well done to Tina Lefevre for taking on the position as secretary.

Finally, it was great to be back in the hall for our Group Executive meetings after many months spent doing meetings by Zoom. The only Zoom I knew before this facility came along was an ice lolly!

May the Powell be with you.

Terry Goodall
Group Treasurer

CIRCLE REPORT

Our last meeting took place in February 2020 and March's was cancelled due to the start of lockdown for Covid-19. We then re-started on Thursday 21 October 2021 as members agreed to hold meetings at the hall during the day rather than in the evenings. It started at 13.00 when members who wished to do so brought their lunch and at 13.30 we welcomed our Group Chair, Martin Smith, who ran his delayed quiz. Thank you Martin.

Our 18 November meeting which was to have been a presentation by Margaret and me called "28 Years of Car Booting" was postponed as Margaret was in hospital. Instead, I had prepared a last minute quiz covering several subjects.

December's proposed Christmas lunch was cancelled on that morning due to the Government's new restriction urging people not to socially mix due to Omicron cases rising dramatically every two days.

We do not now hold a meeting in January and February's became the Christmas lunch. Thanks to Brenda and Pat Coxon for shopping. Weather-wise, there was a bit of a Christmas feel as there were two hailstone showers which left a white blanket around the headquarters.

The March meeting was our Annual General Meeting when Margaret Warry was elected our new Chair in place of the late Pat Frith. Members agreed to cease the experiment of not meeting on Wednesday evenings but being together at monthly meetings on Thursday afternoons instead.

There was also an unusual motion from the floor to cease members paying an annual subscription of £5 due to the amount of money in our bank account. The interest for 2021 was an amazing 5p!!! The motion was carried.

On 7 April five members enjoyed the musical Made in Dagenham at the Adrian Mann Theatre, NESLOT. This was based in 1968 around Ford's Dagenham factory where female sewing machinists went on strike against sex discrimination in their job grading.

In 1966 I had bought my first car which was a Ford Cortina estate with the registration number PPK 618E.

Currently we have 13 members and would welcome some new faces.

Graham Warnes.
Circle Treasurer/Secretary

FUNDRAISER'S REPORT ***1ST APRIL 2021-31ST MARCH 2022***

CAR BOOT SALES £2983-10

Margaret continued to have breathing problems prior to her operation which has now taken place. However, as she continued with recovery she wasn't well enough to help. Instead, my brother Ken and I dealt with preparation and selling.

We attended a record 41 sales between the 17 April and 19 December.

Seven events raised over £100 each, the highest being £150-30 at Hook Road Arena on May Bank Holiday Monday, 3 May. On Saturday 26 June, we raised exactly £100-00. Wow!!

We were lucky enough to be allocated an end position on seven occasions. This meant that we had extra space to display our goods and help us financially.

Everything at three of the sales was priced at 20p each which resulted in income of £181-40 (1042 items gross). These are the items we would normally sell at 20p each plus those items

usually priced up to 50p which were taking a long time to get sold or items that no-one seemed interested in buying. At 20p each, that's the quick way to sell things!!

We went on 17 Saturdays to New Road, Shepperton. Sundays were 8 at Apps Court Farm, Hersham, 14 at Hook Road Arena, Ewell and 2 at Dorking Rail station car park.

OUTDOOR FAIR £374-70

We attended the Ham Fair on Ham Common in September and raised the highest amount ever from our stall. Grateful thanks to Gayna Brice who helped Ken and me with selling for several hours. Thanks also to Ted Hodges for his help.

The popular Richmond May Fair was again cancelled.

CLOTHING SOLD £120-30

This was the clothing left in the Jumble Sale store and donated clothing since our last ever Jumble Sale in March 2020.

THANK YOU

I should like to thank Ken for his invaluable help.

On several occasions we were spoken to - "Oh! You're twins!!!" "Is that your brother? Yes, my twin brother!!!" "I've just spoken to the other man - Oh, are you twins?"

Graham Warnes
The eldest!

POSTAGE STAMPS

The Charity Dog A.I.D. (Assistance in Disability) is collecting Great Britain and International stamps. They request that they are cut from envelopes leaving about 1cm/1/4" of paper around each stamp. Thanks for doing this.

Please leave them in the box in the kitchen at Sparks Hall.

Margaret Warry

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

We have in stock various items of uniform for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Please speak to your child's leader as the stock is kept in Sparks Hall. Thank you.

We also accept donations of unwanted uniforms.

Brenda Pawley