



[www.stokegiffordscouts.co.uk](http://www.stokegiffordscouts.co.uk)

# **1<sup>st</sup> Stoke Gifford Scout Group**

## **REPORT TO GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JUN 2016**

### **Group Overview – by Ian Butcher, Executive Committee Chairman**

This has been another successful year for the Group, with all sections healthy in terms of both numbers and their programmes. We continue to have a very healthy demand for places within the Group. As you will see from the report below, our finances also remain in excellent shape.

As has been the case for many years, the only cloud on the horizon relates to leadership challenges as noted by Paul in the GSL's report below.

The Group's activities would not be possible without the support of the adult and young leaders and parent helpers who generously give up so much time, our fundraising committee and also our Executive Committee members. I would like to offer the Group's thanks to all of them, especially those who put in the hours behind the scenes.

### **Finance Report – Ian Butcher, on behalf of Sue Gibbs, Treasurer**

The figures below from the 2015/2016 and 2014/2015 accounts show that the Group's finances are healthy. We kept close to our operating plan and finished the year with a £2130 surplus (prior year surplus £1268). The end year position regarding assets (£15208) overstates the Group's financial strength, as some large payments (capitation and rent for example) which fall early in the financial year and reduce the balance significantly, and the account is currently also holding money set aside for camp. The Group has however maintained its agreed reserves position which stands at £5,000, representing ~1/3 of annual running costs.

Whilst subscriptions income was slightly down on last year, Gift Aid receipts rose as a result of a slightly better collection rate. BBQ income was also up on last year, boosted in particular by donations received at the Stoke Gifford Fete in May. Other fundraising (bag packing etc, and Grants from Stoke Gifford Parish Council and South Gloucs Council to cover the cost of our 25th anniversary badges and 4 new tents respectively) also made a big difference this year. As some parents now pay for camps online, their payments flow through the Group account rather than the separate camp fund accounts managed by Section Leaders (which are checked periodically by the Treasurer but not formally audited).

Expenditure over the past year has been broadly in line with last year for most headings. Equipment spend was significantly up due to the purchase of 4 new tents (mostly covered by the Grant mentioned above), and BBQ costs were up (partly offsetting the increased BBQ income). Activities spend was also up which is very pleasing. Sections are set budgets for the year, reflecting expected Group income, and are getting better at spending the funds set aside.

## Financial summary

<b><u>Receipts/Debits</u></b>	<b><u>2015/16</u></b>	<b><u>2014/15</u></b>
Receipts	18843.46	14,731.51
Payments	16713.68	13,463.22
Net balance for year	2129.78	1,268.29
 <b><u>Monetary assets</u></b>		
Bank Account	14801.45	8,464.35
Cash in Hand	407.15	456.46
	<b>15208.60</b>	<b>9,239.61</b>
 <b><u>Income</u></b>		
Gift Aid	2016.25	1,840.05
Subscriptions	9846.08	10,311.56
Camp contributions	1212.83	0.00
BBQ Takings	1732.87	1,234.91
Donations/Fundraising	3276.43	624.99
Contributions towards activities	759.00	720.00
 <b><u>Outgoings</u></b>		
Rent	3459.00	3,379.93
Capitation to district	4074.00	4,074.00
Insurance	172.67	168.82
Consumables	230.91	192.16
Equipment	1878.04	702.77
Activities	4378.75	2,873.03
Leader training	195.00	292.00
Leader's Uniforms	182.52	68.74
Manuals/Badges	1280.83	1,229.93
BBQ costs	677.57	217.11
Gifts	0.00	43.00
Other	184.39	221.73

## **Group Scout Leader's (GSL) Report – Paul Smith**

The Group has had another good year. All the sections are flourishing with 111 young people attending each week, which is slightly up on last year. We have been able to offer places to those on our waiting list in all sections, with some exceptions. There are 111 names on the list: 52 aged under 6; 20 aged 6; 14 aged 7; with 49 aged between 8 and 10 years old.

All sections have had an exciting year, with varied programs centred on earning badges, learning new skills, and having fun. Our sections try to camp at least twice a year, in addition to fitting in numerous visits and activities, such as archery and rifle shooting.

There are 22 regular uniformed leaders supported by Young Leaders who come from the Explorer Scout Section.

To enable the continued training of our leaders we now have three Qualified Training Instructors; Marcus Booth, Christopher Smith and Myself. This has helped us get our leaders through the training scheme quicker.

Several leaders are about to change their circumstances by moving house, changing jobs and roles within the Group. This means we are looking for new leaders. Right now we face a particular challenge with Scouts, so if you think you can help in any way please talk to a uniformed Leader or myself. Also given the size of the waiting list, we would love to re-establish the 2nd Beaver colony and 2<sup>nd</sup> Cub pack. If you think this might be for you, and you would like to give it a try we would like to hear from you. Full training would be given.

This year we celebrate 25 years of Scouting in Stoke Gifford. To celebrate this we are planning a week-long camp near Oxford at the Youlbury National camp site, from 23rd-30th July 2016.

Currently there are 11 attending for 4 days and 25 for 7 days. It's not too late to go, so if you would like your child to attend this camp please talk to us. We want to like to take as many members of the 1st Stoke Gifford Group as we possibly can, so please contact a Leader or use your access to OSM (Online Scout Manger) to book your place

None of this would be possible without the support of our Executive Committee and of course our uniformed leaders and occasional helpers. I would like to take this opportunity to formally record my appreciation for all their hard work.

### **Reports on individual sections**

#### **Scout Troop (St Michaels School) – Marcus Booth**

We currently have 25 scouts, 19 boys and 6 girls. Three are due to leave at the end of this term after their 14<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

As ever we have planned an 'outdoors' programme for the summer, including cycling, hiking, a joint event with Wotton Scouts and finishing with a train ride into Bristol for a treasure hunt.. A Spring camp at Cranham has just been completed, with 19 scouts from both Troops attending. Eight from the OSR troop will be attending the Summer camp at Youlbury.

We have presented one Chief Scouts Gold Award at the end of last term and have three more scouts on the verge of achieving it this term. The Personal Challenge badge has been completed by a number of scouts and we're also working on the Teamwork Challenge, and the Foresters Badge (with an evening in June at Westonbirt as part of this).

On the leadership front, Michele is working away for the remainder of the term and Peter is i in the throes of moving to Thornbury with his family. He will be very much missed when he goes. Laura and Chris are still fortunately with us, reminding us 'oldies' of the days when we had fitness and youth on our side! Our young leaders, Calvin and Peter, also lend good support, though both are coming into exam season so we will see less of them for a while.

We had a great evening doing laser quest with the other Troop last term and have an evening at Woodhouse in July, with challenges and the assault course to look forward to, as well as a BBQ to finish.

#### **Scout Troop (Old School Rooms) – Andy Phelps**

The Troop is currently running with 27 scouts (20 boys and 7 girls), 6 adult leaders, 2 young leaders and 4 occasional helpers.

This year we have been busy covering many badges for example, hobbies, chef, orienteering, aeronautics, athletics and sailing, nights away, hikes away, time on the water to name but a few as well as the challenge badges which scouts need to complete their Gold Chief Scouts award.

We have done activities such as caving, power boating, the jamboree on the internet and had a session with 'Black Dog' a volunteer group from Bristol University who helped the scouts to understand the complexities of mental illness. Last term's 'sleeping rough' was great fun, helped by a plentiful supply of large cardboard from a local removal company, and after a hike and hot meal we bedded down in the courtyard behind the OSR and got some sleep. It was freezing in the morning but we all survived and we donated clothes, food and £228 to 'The Julian Trust' Homeless charity who had visited and told us about the causes of homelessness.

We are extremely busy this term purposely trying to make the most of the nice weather but this means we are doing lots of activities on weekends. Our programme this term covers digital citizen, poppy badge with the Royal British Legion researching the 5 fallen servicemen from WW2 (on the village cenotaph), foresters, emergency aid, angler, expedition challenge and conservation with the '40 Acres' group. We've visited the Apple store at The Mall and completed a 40km cycle ride towards our cyclist activity badge. Later this term we have a visit to Cattybrook quarry and brickworks which is part of the Geology Merit badge from The Scouts of America as there is no activity badge in UK system. We have found an assessor in Wisconsin Rose Marie and also made a link with Richard Beauregard Den Leader, 1st Islington

scouts (Westwood, MA, USA) to cover the International challenge award. We also plan to go Sea Fishing from Portishead and Trout fishing in Gloucestershire.

We have challenged the Guides and School Troop on the assault course at Woodhouse Park. The evening will also provide an occasion for the Deputy County Commissioner Stu Ballard to present Gold Chief Scouts awards to three of our troop, Meritorious Awards to two scouts who have thoroughly enjoyed their scouting despite finding it incredibly difficult due to their disabilities, and Platinum Chief Scouts awards to our two Young Leaders. We round off the evening with a BBQ. We conclude the term with a paintballing session at Cribbs Causeway.

The OSR Troop has also taken part in District night hike, draughts competition and quiz, and spent a day stream clearing and litter picking with the '40 Acres' conservation group and South Gloucestershire's councils 'Big Clean Up week'.

We are looking forward to this Summer's 25th Anniversary camp. The funds we have raised by bag packing and sponsored swimming (£1,684.50) will be used to subsidise camp activities.

Apart from the above it is fairly quiet!

### Cubs – Carl Shaw

The pack currently has 25 Cubs, of whom 3 are girls. We also have 4 leaders who all attend regularly. Given the age of Cubs and this number of leaders, ideally we would like to keep the numbers at around 24 (4 Sixes). After the May half-term holiday we will take a further 4 from Beavers increasing our numbers to 29. At the same time one of our leaders (Chris) will be out of the country until September, so we expect this term to be challenging and will need to call upon parents to help out.

The start of this term has gone well, with most Cubs achieving their Cycling badge following a very popular bike orienteering night at Savages Wood in Bradley Stoke. We are also taking part in the National space seeds program and have just had seeds that have been up to the International Space Station and back delivered for the Cubs to grow and compare against a test set that have not been to space. We are also looking forward to our camp in mid-May (joint with Scouts) and in July (for the 25th Anniversary) and will be taking the Cubs air-rifle shooting at the May camp for the first time. Since the clocks have changed, we have planned many more outdoor activities this term.

### Beavers – Sue Baker

Beavers is going really well with 28 children and sometimes as many as 8 leaders and 2 young leaders. We lose 4 to Cubs in June and another 3 in September.

We had a really successful sleepover at Woodhouse in Feb so will be doing another one at Olveston this June.

We have a very full programme covering lots of badges this term.