



12th/14th Battersea Westside Scout Group

www.westsidescouts.org



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017-2018 OF

THE 12TH/14TH BATTERSEA WESTSIDE SCOUT GROUP

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INTRODUCTION

The Group has delivered another successful and productive year for all its sections. Sections are full and our finances have improved dramatically. I would like to thank the GSL, all the members of the Executive Committee, section leaders, support members and parents for their help and support during the year. A more detailed overview of the activities of the Group sections can be found in the various section reports below.

Group Scout Leader Andrew Cheeseman (Cheesey) has continued to be very active over the past year, and has driven a number of initiatives. One of these was the first ever Annual Scouts vs. Parents Rounders Competition, held in the garth on Friday 21st July. Continuing the sporting theme, congratulations to both our Cubs and Scouts (who entered a joint teams with the 16th Battersea Sea Scouts), for winning their respective section's District 5-A-Side Football tournament, held at the Wandle Recreation Centre.

Four successful camps have been held over the past year and we are delighted that the Group will be represented at the 24th World Scout Jamboree, to be held in late July and early August 2019 in West Virginia, USA, since Scout Leader Josh Cleall and scout Alice Wyles have been selected to attend. This is a significant achievement and both should be congratulated. The Group held a well-attended and successful Quiz Night to raise funds to help assist with the costs for both Josh and Alice to attend the Jamboree. However, we are looking for further support Josh and Alice attending with the costs of their trip next summer. Please consider helping them as part of one of their fund raising activities if you are able to.

Online Scout Manager (OSM) has become the Group's core administrative tool. This has been realised in no small part to the efforts of Mark Palmer and Craig Hawes. There are a number of key reasons why OSM is now mandatory for the Group:

- Attendance register
- Finances and subs
- Gift Aid
- Badge records
- Events and programmes
- Communications across all Sections and the Executive
- Data protection legislation.

One important legal reason is that General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) becomes law on the 25th May 2018 and the Group has been working towards becoming compliant. OSM enables the Group to meet its compliance requirements. The Group is in a good state of readiness for the deadline of 25th May - focus is on documenting data flows and details of data storage, plus providing transparency on the purposes for which data is used within the 12th/14th Battersea Westside Group. The new Privacy Notice will be posted on the website shortly and data collection forms will provide a link. I thank Bidy Wyles for her significant help and advice on the Group in meeting its GDPR compliance.

Another benefit of OSM is in terms of subs and general finances. In March 2017 the Group became a registered charity. This enabled the Group to collect Gift Aid from subs. Andreas Giannopoulos, the Group Treasurer will explain more about this has significantly benefitted the Group, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Andreas for his hard work in moving the Group finances onto a firmer footing. Please see the Appendix for a more detailed overview of the Group Financial Statement.

As I mentioned in my Annual Report last year, two aspects of the Group's role in the local community remain key to its ongoing success.

The first is the "social contract" that the Group has with St. Luke's Church and Broomwood Methodist Church. The key element of this "contract" is that the Group is to attend, as uniformed events, a number of church services. These include Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday, the Christmas Carol Concert, Christingle, Harvest Festival, St. George's Day/Spring Celebration and Mothering Sunday. Over recent years attendance has become increasingly poor and we continue to need to address this.

While the past year has seen much support from parents and volunteers, we continue to need more volunteers to help run the weekly meetings of the sections which otherwise may become unsustainable. As mentioned previously, this does not have to be weekly commitment but we do need to increase the pool of volunteers to ensure the continuity and continued success of the Group.

Anthony Hamber, Chair

GROUP SCOUT LEADER REPORT

First of all, a very sincere and well-earned **Thank You** to all members of both the Leadership & the Executive Committee for their continued commitment and tireless efforts over the last 12 months. Those individuals are the reason that your child is able to have such a brilliant and rewarding experience in the Scout Movement; whether it be the regular weekly meetings, visits to local community interests, or weekend activities, excursions and Adventure Camps. These individuals give up their time to plan it, make it happen, and clear away afterwards – and really do deserve a long and hearty round of applause.

As you know we are a very well attended and successful Group. Here's how we breakdown Westside Scout Group (WSG) into its various Sections:

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- 2 Beaver Colonies 24 x 2 = 48 members Broomwood (Mon) & St Luke's (Tues)
- 2 Cub Packs 36 x 2 = 72 members Broomwood (Tues) & St Luke's (Tues)
- 1 Scout Troop 32 members St Luke's (Tues)

So, basically, we are full. Beavers & Cubs have been at maximum capacity for many years. Scouts has recently moved from Friday to Tuesday meetings which has seen an uptick of 90% in members...which is fantastic, but of course brings its own logistical and Leadership challenges – and more help from Parents is certainly needed and desired....more on that in a minute.

This is my second year as GSL, and I can honestly say it has really lived up to our high aspirations for a fun-filled and adventurous 12months at WSG.

This is reflected in the new-look website (www.westsidescouts.org) which has been a great success – and also serves as an efficient portal for all newcomers.

We had a very busy year camping – with the leadership running 4 Outdoor Camps for the first time in a generation (Summer, Autumn, Winter & Easter). Camping is at the very heart of Scouting - where the different age groups are given the opportunity to mix, learn and work with each other in a very challenging, healthy and safe environment...where all abilities are equally catered for. You just can't get this positive experience anywhere else – and it's a fantastic antidote to an increasingly technology-obsessed World.

Special mention has to go to the small army of Parents (you know who you are!) who provide the support workforce on these Camps to make it possible for the Leaders to function and run the events smoothly & efficiently... whatever the weather!

We DO have something special here at WSG – a real positive, can-do spirit from both the members & the leaders...and, as you will read in the Section Reports below, we achieve much for ourselves & also for the broader Community (Church Events, Children's Society, Poppy Appeal). However, as Anthony and I mentioned twelve-months ago in our respective Reports it seriously needs supplementing by more adult resource, to protect what we have built. None of us have free time these days...it has to be carved out...but when you do & you give say 1hr a month to Beavers, or take on a minor occasional admin role to help out the Scout Leader, or join us & your kids on a weekend's Camp...you invariably get as much from it as you give. It

isn't difficult, and I promise you we will make sure you will not regret it. Don't take my word for it – ask one of the other Parents who put their hand-up this time last year.

We are in particular urgent need of two Assistant Leaders (Scouts, Cubs) to help out on Tuesday nights. You don't need to come every week, you just have to put up your hand and say you will give a small defined amount of your time in a planned fashion over the coming Term, and see how it goes. If you are interested in hearing a bit more – grab me after the AGM ends.

My final Thank You has to go to our Treasurer – who has genuinely revolutionised our financial transaction processing – making it far easier for Leaders to handle the various monies involved in running such a large Group – for which I am very grateful. I doff my cap to you Sir!

Here's to our continued journey of adventure into 2018 and beyond!

Cheesey, Group Scout Leader (WSG-GSL)

GROUP TREASURER'S REPORT

The Group Financial Statement is found as an Appendix to this report.

The actions with respect of the Group's finances, as documented in the 2016-2017 Annual Report, have now been fully implemented and the benefits are filtering through.

The increase in Subs has defrayed much of recent years' increases in Capitation Fees. As a result, there is no current need to increase Subs again for 2018-2019.

The implementation and collection of Historical Gift Aid - enabling the Group to reclaim tax on donations made by UK taxpayers – has resulted in the reimbursement of £2,300 to the Group. The Group may qualify to receive a similar amount annually.

During 2017, the Group's Executive Committee agreed that the Group would not be a beneficiary of an annual donation from the Trustees of The Nightingale Walk, considering that other charities involved in The Nightingale Walk had a greater need for such donations.

The Ella Bartlett Trust balance (NS&I 138077655) received interest and currently sits at £71,680.60.

OSM is now fully operational and mandatory for the Group. Annual benefits from Gift Aid are meaningful and even more so with the increase in subs. Under Gift Aid, 25% of documented subs payments can be recovered. Among other things, OSM has been designed to create and populate the mandatory HMRC application forms for Gift Aid, making the application process efficient and accurate. OSM is also a key compliance mechanism for new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), in force from 25th May 2018

Andreas Giannopoulos, Group Treasurer

SECTION REPORTS

SCOUTS ANNUAL REPORT

The Scout Troop have had a highly successful year, we've had a spike in numbers, some fantastic camps and an action-packed programme.

From September the weekly Troop night moved from a Friday to a Tuesday after a successful consultation with parents. This has contributed to a real boost in Troop numbers with the number of Scouts in the Group doubling since this time last year. We currently have 32 Scouts meeting weekly for adventure, fun and teamwork activities.

Highlights of the year have been the annual bowling trip, a trip to a trampoline park, geo-caching, CPR training, wide games, cooking, the church tour and guest speakers.

Traditionally in Scouting lots of the activities we undertake are training for the annual Summer Camp where skills are tested and put to practice. Last Summer we went on a week-long camping trip to Kielder Water in Northumberland, a journey we made almost entirely by train. We had a fantastic week and sailed, canoed and rafted our way across biggest reservoir in the UK. This summer we again plan on running a joint Summer Camp with 16th Battersea Sea Scouts, and are making our way to Newtown Creek on the Isle of Wight, with cycling, kayaking and beach BBQs planned.

We've also been able to take Scouts to two additional camps, we went to a cold Winter Camp at Gilwell (with 4,000 other Scouts) and joined the Cubs at a muddy dinosaur-themed Easter Camp. Both events were a great success and the attendees were able to take part in a number of adventurous activities, from 4x4 driving to zip-wire, laser tag to tank driving.

The single biggest event in the Scouting calendar is also approaching, every four years Scouts from every country across the world meet at a World Scout Jamboree. The UK is only allowed to send around 5,000 adults and children, this year the event is being held jointly between Canada, America and Mexico, with the main camp being held in North Virginia. We're delighted that one of our Scouts, Alice, has been selected to represent Wandsworth and South London at this amazing international experience.

With so many Scouts running ambitious and safe evenings can be a challenge, we've implemented a code of conduct for the young people and have put into place a Parent Rota and we really do need that parent support and would urge any parent to help when they can. It all wouldn't be possible without the support of the other leaders, thanks to Andrew and Alexander, and our two Young Leaders Harry and Nat for helping evenings run smoothly – we make a great team!

Josh Cleall, Scout Leader

ST. LUKE'S CUBS ANNUAL REPORT

We've had another fantastic year at St Luke's Cubs, this is both thanks to the Leaders and parents who have made it possible, as well as the wonderful young people in our pack!

September saw Alan's departure. He was a fantastic Akela, it was a pleasure having him as a leader and we're sorry to see him go. This year we have welcomed Lucy to the team, an experienced Scout Leader who has been invaluable to keeping St Luke's going!

Over the past year we've seen new activities such as the communicator badge, Tin Can Pancakes, Origami & Hapkido. We've also enjoyed some of our stalwarts: Wide Games, First Aid and a visit to the local Fire Station. Looking to the year ahead, we're always looking for new activities. Parents with hobbies & interests please do come forward! You bring the expertise and we have the experience in running Cub evenings to make an engaging and interesting programme!

One theme I would like to explore would be to get more involved in the local community: visiting local organisations, elderly out-reach, community projects. If you have any connections we would love to hear from you!

Events have been well attended this year. 40 Cubs at Autumn Camp, 25 at Easter, 3 football teams and a fair number at the smaller events through the year. A huge B-R-A-V-O to everyone that came to help with the Poppy Appeal.

One challenge this year has been sharing St Luke's with the Scouts on Tuesday evenings after their move from Friday. Overall we deem it a success, it has caused some challenges, however we can't argue with how many more members are staying in Scouts when they move on from Cubs. This does raise a concern about the potential lack of spaces as we go forwards. We have 2 packs feeding the Scouts which is already at capacity. At the moment we're doing ok and no Cub leavers have been denied a place at Scouts, but we should keep a watchful eye.

Approaching this AGM we see ourselves with an extremely young Pack. We've had a large number of members move on up to Scouts which has enabled us to draw on the waiting list in addition to St Luke's Beavers. This does mean many of our members have only been with us for about a year. We'll be looking to ramp up our schedule over the coming year to more challenging activities as the experience in our pack grows.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all those who earned their Gold awards in the past year. This is no short achievement and I encourage all Cubs to give it a go!

Yours in Scouting,

Craig Hawes – Akela, (a.k.a King Akela), St Luke's Cub Scouts

ST. LUKE'S BEAVERS ANNUAL REPORT

This year St Luke's Beavers have had another exciting year with a number of activities to get the colony introduced to scouting. From putting up tents and practising knots to cooking s'mores on the 4th of July, we've practised different communications techniques, learnt about road safety, and had fun sewing and learning about planets and healthy eating. We've combined classics such as climbing and the Fire Station visit with exciting new sessions such as Hapkido! Over Christmas, we joined cubs in 'Operation Christmas Shoe Box' to wrap up donated toys to send to less fortunate children around the world. We've also enjoyed doing more things in coordination with cubs and with other groups in Wandsworth. This month we attended a Promise Renewal event organized by the District where beavers were able to appreciate scouting beyond our colony or group and have fun playing games with beavers from other groups.

We have also seen an increase in the number of beavers in our colony from 17 to our full capacity of 24. We have had some challenges with behaviour which we believe has been driven by a larger, younger cohort as we have expanded, as well as a small number of individuals whose behaviour is driving down the overall colony. We have been particularly concerned about ensuring that quieter members of our group have not felt overwhelmed by this change, taking action with individual children where necessary.

Finally, we have been delighted to welcome not just one but two new assistant leaders, both of whom have already run successful sessions, and in addition we have had two reliable and enthusiastic Duke of Edinburgh youngsters join us as well. Needless to say that we couldn't do everything we do without the help from many parents and we thank all of you who've participated in the sessions throughout the year.

Trevor Sayers, St Luke's Beaver Scouts Leader

BROOMWOOD CUBS ANNUAL REPORT

This is my 32nd month being Akela at Broomwood Cubs ably assisted by Christie Marie and James McCormick.

We have been lucky to have a number of Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Gold Award participants who have joined Broomwood Cubs - Raphy Pescud (Silver) and Joe Morrison (Gold). Both have continued to grow into their rolls.

For Broomwood the last year has been another stellar one and we continue going from strength to strength.

Attendance is frequently 90% each weekly meeting.

Badgework

During the Summer Term last year we participated in two sessions of sporting activities – were introduced to Ultimate Frisbee through Craig Hawes and his colleagues, ventured onto Clapham Common on our bicycles and completed experiments for our Scientist Badges. The finale was the combined St Luke's / Broomwood Cubs End of Term waterfight.

We also had a record Broomwood Cubs turn out for the successful Nightingale Walk.

Autumn Term started with completing our Communicator Badges before our very own Broomwood Olympics. The following week we proactively brought Christmas to those who are likely to get nothing through Operation Christmas Child. Thanks to parents and Cubs for being so generous. The rest of the term started with joint Wide Games and then covered Mental Well-being and mindfulness and then achieving their Air Activity Badges. The terms finale was our Xmas Party with St Luke's at Broomwood Hall.

Spring term was an introduction of knots for pioneering followed by an indoor campfire. We learnt a few camp fire songs and how to cook marshmallows. Never a section to not tackle current issues, we were lucky to have Guest Speaker Lynne to highlight the effect humans have on the planet through plastic waste and how we can play our part in helping prevent and mitigate the impact of plastic waste through our daily choices. Christy organised an excellent evening mapping out the history of scouting followed up with Emergency First Aid. A dark evening is best for Wide Games and so we had our second Wide Games evening with St Luke's adjacent to Tooting Running Track which was very popular. Raphy and Joe organised an evening showing the clothes and kit required for their DofE expeditions to help familiarise the Cubs with preparing for Easter Camp.

Activities

Cubs love Wide Games. They are one of our packs most popular' activities which are jointly held with St Lukes – so far we have managed doing two so far this year. We have seen record numbers enjoying the various games. Thanks for parents who help marshall and ensure safety for these occasions.

We also had a section visit to Clapham Town Fire Station.

Easter Camp 2018

Broomwood Cubs had 14 Cubs attending Easter Camp with Christie overall in charge.

Certainly the most attended camp in my memory it was also the wettest and, probably, the best yet.

Thanks to all the other section leaders and parents who helped make the event run so well and ensure that there were lots of happy Scouts. Without these volunteers such events would not be possible.

Future plans

Nightingale Walk 2018 is also approaching and not only is it good exercise; it also helps towards the Hiking Badges whilst raising money for an excellent cause.

Chessington World of Adventures is another fun event that we are planning on the 6th May

Parental helping & Assistance

This we intend to develop further to help with the evenings and outside activities. It is a lot of fun and is important for the pack to thrive. Thanks to James McCormick and James Ratzer who are my current go-to parents with DBS checks. James M might be relocating later this year so if a few parents (plus the usual one's that always offer) who can step up to assist that would be greatly appreciated. We work as a team and it is thoroughly rewarding.

Future Goals

The leadership team would like to encourage parents to assist with our camps - Easter Camp or Autumn Camp during the next year. We will continue our focus on badgework as we would like to get a good proportion of Cubs attaining the Cub Scouts Silver Award when they leave whilst ensuring that the Cubs have an excellent time in their and your busy calendars.

Thanks for your continued support.

Mark Palmer – Akela, Broomwood and the Broomwood Cubs Team.

BROOMWOOD BEAVERS ANNUAL REPORT

It's been a busy year at Broomwood Beavers with many new beavers joining the pack.

Traditionally girls seemed to join St Luke's Beaver Pack with Broomwood only having one or two but in most cases none at all.

However I am pleased to say that we now have four young ladies whom seem to really be enjoying their time at Beavers.

Three of these young ladies went for a day trip to the Easter Camp with Louise one of the Broomwood Leaders.

It was a very muddy affair ending in a camp fire sing along and they all had great fun and gave a report to the pack on our return after the Easter holidays.

In the Autumn the Beavers worked on their Friend To Animals badge in a meeting run by one of our Young Leaders Ben Morrison.

Ben also ran another meeting where the Beavers obtained their Healthy Eating Badge.

To finish off the Autumn Term Louise made small gift boxes with the Beavers in which they put sweets to leave out for Father Christmas.

In the Spring Term the pack learnt about Morse Code and were given the challenge of deciphering messages sent by one lodge to another lodge.

They also learnt about semaphore and again had to decipher messages sent in semaphore.

In addition to these two tasks they had to send an e mail and learn their parents contact number by heart.

As such the whole pack earned their Communication Badge.

In addition to the Communication Badge the whole pack also received their Collectors badge with each Beaver bringing in part of their collections and giving a talk to the pack about their collection.

This term has an environmental theme to it. With all the talk in the news recently about no longer using plastic we will be having a recycling meeting where the Beavers will be using junk to make games with.

Also we are kicking off with making seed bombs that will be used by the Beavers to create colour in any corner of their garden or local patch of land. The seeds that we have chosen are butterfly friendly flowers.

The Beavers will also be working towards their Global Issues Badge, where they will learn how to make a water filter.

Of course the summer term at Broomwood traditionally always ends with making paper boats which we sail weather permitting on the Boating Pond on Clapham Common on the last meeting of the summer term.

There are two Beavers this year that I would like to nominate as "Beaver of The Year" these being George Davidson who although very shy has really made an effort to join in and take part in activities. He has also been made a lodge leader and has really tried to do justice to the role despite his shyness.

The other one is Fergus Evans who in the past year has really made a big effort to listen to instructions and carry them out.

Tracey-Jane Faiers, Broomwood Beavers Leader

APPENDIX – GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENT

12th / 14th Battersea Westside Scout Group Accounts for 10 May 2017 AGM

Current Account 4092 3125 - Sort 20-90-69	
Accounting Year Opening Balance	£15,624.76
Receipts 2017-04-01 - 2018-03-31	£27,379.62
Payments 2017-04-01 - 2018-03-31	-£17,838.70
Accounting Year Surplus / Deficit	-£9,540.92
Savings Account	£1.00
Total Current Balance	£25,166.68

Ella Bartlett Trust Balance - NS&I 138077655	
2018	£71,680.60
2017	£71,344.40
2016	£70,918.31
2015	£70,390.38

Previous YTDs

2017 -£1,270.37

2016 -£1,483.06

2015 £5,555.34

Items to Note

1. Subs increase defrayed majority of recent years' increases in capitation fees. No current need to increase again in 2018 / 2019.
2. Historical Gift Aid collection tallied £2,300; could be similar annually.
3. OSM fully operational; mandatory. Linkage to Gift Aid and GDPR compliance.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE 12TH/14TH BATTERSEA WESTSIDE SCOUT GROUP

12th / 14th Battersea Westside Scout Group

Independent examiner's report to the Group Executive Committee

This report is based on my examination of the accounts (receipts and payments) of the 12th / 14th Battersea Westside Scout Group for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Group Executive, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Group's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Philip Brett
Independent Examiner
Flat 28, Osier House, 14 Quebec Way, London SE16 7ER
4 May 2018

THE CRITERIA USED BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER ARE CLASSIFIED BY THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS:

Direction 1: Check whether the charity is eligible to have an independent examination

Direction 2: Check for any conflict of interest that prevents the examiner from carrying out their independent examination

Direction 3: Record your independent examination

Direction 4: Plan your independent examination

Direction 5: Check that accounting records are kept to the required standard

Direction 6: Check that the accounts are consistent with the accounting records

Direction 7: If the accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and one or more related party transactions took place the examiner must check if these were properly disclosed in the notes to the accounts. Checked that the disclosures required by the SORP have been made and are complete –

Direction 8: Check the reasonableness of the significant estimates and judgments and accounting policies used in accounting for the types of fund held and in the preparation of the accounts

Direction 9: The examiner must check whether the trustees have considered the financial circumstances of the charity at the end of the reporting period and, if the accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, check whether the trustees have made an assessment of the charity's position as a going concern when approving the accounts

Direction 10: Check the form and content of the accounts

Direction 11: Identify items from the analytical review of the accounts that need to be followed up for further explanation or evidence

Direction 12: Compare the trustees' annual report with the accounts

Direction 13: Write and sign the independent examination report