

Trustees Report 2024

A lot has happened since the AGM in November last year. The Phoenix Hall is finally in use. We have welcomed new Leaders to the group and this term opened a Squirrel Drey and another Beaver Colony. All the sections are providing a good range of activities and experiences supporting the Scout Association's aim of providing young people with skills for life.

After the difficulties we have had completing the new hall, and the disruption of the Covid pandemic it is good to see the group moving forward and growing in numbers.

Other changes have seen Malcolm Walters hand over the role Lead Volunteer (formerly Group Scout Leader) to Allan Hill, and Steph Owen take over as Deputy. Subject to confirmation at this AGM we will have new members joining the Trustee Board, with Malcolm Walters taking over the role of Chair. Anne Greenhill, who has been our treasurer for many years is stepping down and I am sure the Group will want to record their thanks for her support and service.

The Group had not increased subscriptions for several years, but increases in costs have forced us to make a change this term. This, with the increased membership of the group should ensure we can meet our running costs, but the group still needs to build a modest reserve to deal with any unforeseen circumstances. Additional funds will be needed to complete work on the upstairs room at the hall. We are awaiting the outcome of an application for a grant from Heart of Bucks and aiming to take part in the Marlow Santa fun Run.

The annual accounts for 2023/24 are included in the agenda and have been posted on the group web site. They have been approved by the Trustees and audited by an external Auditor.

If the accounts are accepted, they will be submitted to the Charity Commission in due course.

The Statement of Financial Activities is a summary of the income and expenditure during the 12 months to 31st March 2024.

The 22-23 Income and Expenditure figures on the right were those reported to the Charity Commission for the previous financial year.

Historically the Scouts and Cubs / Beavers have had separate bank accounts for their activities however all monies form part of the Group finances. To simplify management of the group finances balances from the Section accounts are gradually being transferred to the Group bank account. The Group bank account will be the main account going forward and the Section accounts will be shown as closed in the 2024-25 accounts.

The loan received from the Woodlands Explorers is shown as a liability and the annual £1,000 repayments are being made along with interest. An additional £4,000 loan towards the kitchen costs has been secured from District. The other Liability is the Castle Water

deposit that was required as the Group was a new customer. The deposit has been used to offset recent bills.

The 3 sections continued to resume activities during the year resulting in an increase of subs collected. A £633.64 profit was made on the Group Camp. Gift Aid was received thanks to claims submitted to HMRC by John Summers. Various grants and donations have been received for the ongoing Rebuilding costs. The Miscellaneous Income shown in the 2022-23 accounts represented transfers from the Section bank accounts. The accounting software used for the 2023-24 accounts treated the transfers in a different way.

These are the main differences this year and I don't propose to spend time with all the other explanations. However, if anyone would like further detailed information about the income and expenditure, please ask.

The £14,788.58 deficit during the 12 months was mainly due to the new build costs.

As noted in previous reports the Group urgently needs to find ways to increase income. One way is to encourage all parents / guardians, if appropriate, to complete Gift Aid forms to enable HMRC claims to be continue for the subs received. £11,012.31 was claimed during the year however this did include some claims for previous periods.

The next financial year to 31 March 2025 will continue to be a challenge for the Group as the final parts of the rebuild are completed and there will be ongoing maintenance costs now that the hall is being utilised.

And finally, we would like to welcome Paul Saunders who is taking over the Treasurer role after the October half term.

John Summers
Chair of Trustees

Anne Greenhill
Treasurer