



# Scouts

## 6th Sevenoaks (Kemsing)

**Preparing young people with Skills for Life**

**Annual Report**

**1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023**

**Trustees' Annual Report and  
Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023 (accompanying document)**

**Charity Number: 308193**

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Role	Dates acted if not for whole year
Anthony Hitchings	Chair	
Chris Thompson	Secretary	
Julie-Anne Hudson	Treasurer	
Matthew Henning	Deputy Chair	
Stuart Holden	GSL	
Fiona Thompson	Membership secretary	
Caroline Copleston	Beaver Leader	
Phil Seabrook	Cub Leader	

Type of governing document	The Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
How the charity is constituted	The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.
Trustee selection methods	The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.
Relevant information	<p>The Committee consists of four independent representatives (Chair, Deputy Chair Treasurer and Secretary) together with the Group Scout Leader, individual section leaders, parents' representation and other committee members. The Committee normally meets on a Thursday every 8 weeks.</p> <p>A Membership Secretary and data officer have been appointed as part of the Committee with a view to ensuring data accuracy and correct levels of data protection.</p>

<b>Objectives and activities</b>	
Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	The Purpose of Scouting Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

	<p><b>The Values of Scouting</b>  As Scouts we are guided by these values:  Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.  Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.  Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.  Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.  Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.</p> <p><b>The Scout Method</b>  Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- enjoy what they are doing and have fun</li> <li>- take part in activities indoors and outdoors</li> <li>- learn by doing</li> <li>- share in spiritual reflection</li> <li>- take responsibility and make choices</li> <li>- undertake new and challenging activities</li> <li>- make and live by their Promise.</li> </ul>
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<b>Financial Review</b>	
Charity's policy on reserves	The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources within our current account to continue the charitable activities of the group. The group Trustee Board considers that the Group should hold a sum equivalent to not less than 3 months' running cost in the current account.
	The Group is seeking to build reserves to assist with the new headquarters. As such we are holding a high amount of reserves to cover future costs.

# 2022-23 Trustee Annual report

Bankers Barclays Bank,  
Charity Address % P'Nut Holden, 36 Dynes Road, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent,  
TN15 6RA

## Structure, governance and management

The Kemsing Scout Group's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. 6th Sevenoaks (Kemsing) Scout Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

The Trustees, the Group Trustee Board, are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), either by election or approval of their nomination; other trustees may be co-opted during the year to serve until the next AGM.

6th Sevenoaks (Kemsing) Scout Group, which is an educational charity, is managed by the Group Trustee Board, the members of which are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities.

The Group Trustee Board exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting their responsibilities and to provide support for the charity.

## Risk and Internal Control

The Trustees have in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include two authorised signatories for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

## Objectives and Activities

The Purpose of Scouting - Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Values of Scouting - As Scouts we are guided by these values:

- Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
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- Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we cooperate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method - Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

# Group Trustee Board Report

## Chairman's Report

It has been pleasing to see the Group emerge strongly post Covid. The activities that the leader's have been able to put on have been varied and enjoyable. The Group has been an active part of the local community running events at the village fete, attending Remembrance, helping to organise village picnics and running an end of year event for all young people in the village. The Group has also been actively involved with Scouting at both the Sevenoaks District and Kent County level which provides an opportunity for the youngsters to meet a broad range of young people from across the County.

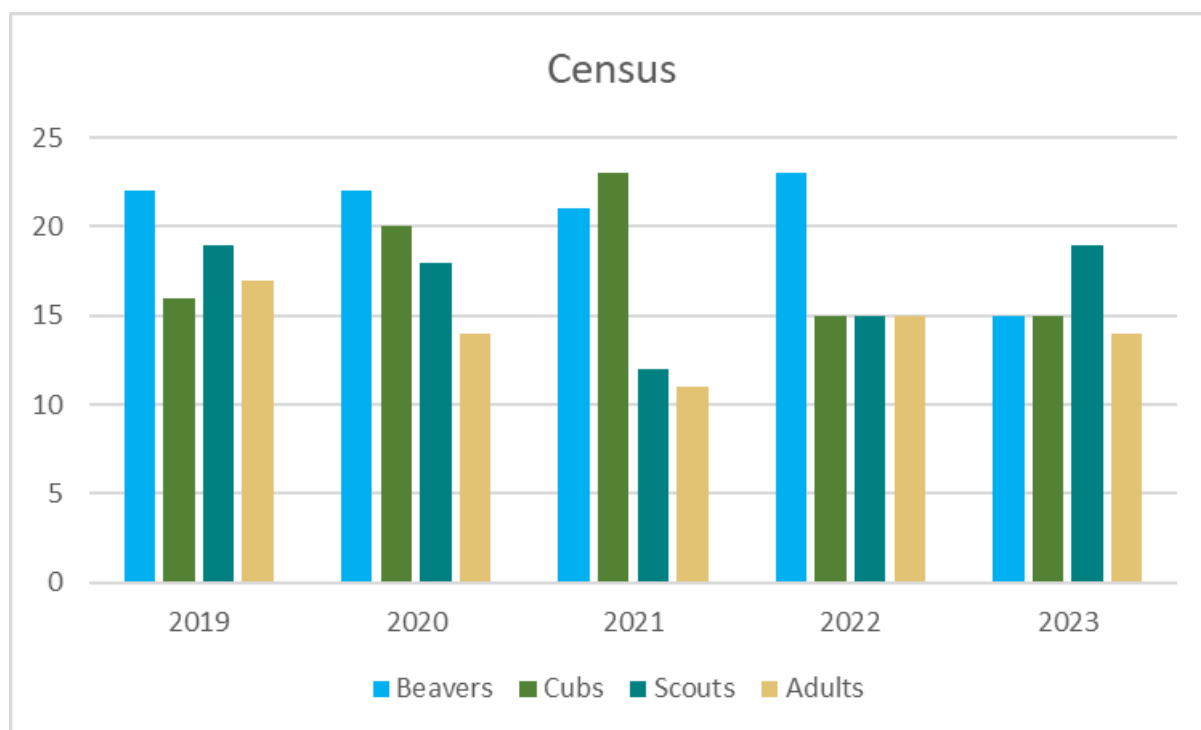
Fundraising during Covid was challenging not being able to meet face to face. As such it was positive to be able to run our jumble sales and raise some funds that support the day to day running of the Group.

The Group faces a significant funding task to ensure that a new headquarters can be developed. Our feeling is that the Group is such an essential part of the Community that it has a strong case when requesting funding support from grant making organisations. There is now a group with strong momentum working on options for the new HQ. Should you want to be part of the team that is working on such an exciting project do please let us know.

Volunteers are essential to ensuring Scouting provides both fun but also an environment to learn skills for life. This last year has seen strong support from our Young Leaders and also new Leaders joining the team. It would be ideal to have additional support working alongside the Trustee board - it need not be as a member of the Trustee board but having a team to be called upon for HQ maintenance, looking after equipment as well as helping with fundraisers. The time commitment can be occasional and without significant commitment but will really help to make a difference.

## GSL Report

Each year, we are required to report our membership numbers as of 01 January, from which our annual subscriptions to the District, County and Central HQ are based. The chart below shows the number of young people and adults within the group over the past five years. We are pleased to see that our numbers have remained relatively steady throughout the pandemic and beyond, with a slight dip in the younger sections this year, but again in the Scouts.



The Census is only ever a snapshot in time. One insight I'd like to share is that of the 20 Scouts currently in the Troop, 13 began their Scouting journey with us as Beavers and have stayed through Cubs and four joined as Scouts with no previous experience.

Of course, what keeps our young people coming back is the exciting programme of activities that our amazing volunteer leaders plan and deliver. Between them, they have clocked up a staggering 147 years of dedicated service to the development of young people through Scouting! Nik might consider himself the baby of the group with one year under his belt. Not too far ahead are Emma and Cham who have each completed two. Chris has recently passed 15 years, while both Caroline and Sheila will hit 30 next year. I was particularly proud to see Sheila presented at MAG7 with the *Award for Merit* in recognition of all she has given to Scouting in that time.

Scouting is a *movement*. That means as an organisation we change, we evolve, we adapt. Over the years we have added new sections, opened up to girls, swapped our uniform and increased the activities we do. We are now in the early stages of the next transformation, which aims to make volunteering as an adult easier, simpler and more inclusive. Over the coming months, you will notice a few little differences, for example, this will be my last report as Group Scout Leader... by next year it will be titled the Group Lead Volunteer report. The adults in our sections will work together closer as teams, sharing responsibilities more widely between them so that they can achieve more. It's an exciting time - why not be a part of it? Speak to any of the Trustee Board or leaders about how you can join in the fun.

Our section leadership teams have been especially blessed to be bolstered by young leaders from within Scouting and also others completing their volunteering for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Former and current Scouts Luca and Joseph were joined by William in supporting the Beavers. Toby has been a constant presence with the Cubs since Feb 2020, Jess and Scarlett joined the crew for the summer 2022 term and Luke has been present since summer 2023. In Scouts, Dan returned to the troop in 2022 for his DofE time and followed in 2023 by Jamie. The energy and enthusiasm these young adults bring cannot be understated and we regularly received feedback from the members, parents and community of the positive impact they make.

As a group, we have continued to have a positive presence in our village community and also in the Scouting communities at District, County and even International level! Here are some of the highlights from the past year (and a bit).

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee Picnic

The Scouts teamed up with the local Guides to run a village picnic so as to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This was another great event to help bring the community together following the relaxation of covid restrictions earlier in the year. Games and activities were laid on for all.



### Kemsing Village Fete



Kemsing Scouts made our annual appearance at the Kemsing Village Fete running our biggest range of activities and covering the largest area on the school field to date. In addition to the now traditional offering of tomahawk throwing we offered archery for all age groups, fire-lighting, Nerf gun target range and a pancake stand. Over £350 was raised to go towards Aiden and his trip to the 2023 World Scout Jamboree in South Korea.

In 2023, we looked to offer something different - no tomahawks! - instead making use of the Districts investment of laser taggers, which proved popular for all.

### **Kent Reconnect Summer Event 2022**

In the final week of school term Kemsing Scouts organised an afternoon full of fun activities as part of Reconnect Kent. Children and adults enjoyed bubble football, soft fencing and the slip'n'slide slope on the Common Field . Sales at the bbq and pancake stand also took over £1,000 towards Aiden's fundraising goal for the World Scout Jamboree. It was wonderful seeing so many people enjoying this event.



Becoming known as the 'Race to the Rec', we were back in 2023, offering once more the bubble footballs, slip'n'slide, bbq and refreshments helping raise funds to support the group.

### **Taking to the skies**

Fourteen Scouts spent the day in May 2022 with the Kent Scouts Air Activities Team. As



far as they know, this is the only Scout-run Microlight in the country. Each of the 14 who attended, enjoyed a flight to around 10-15 minutes in tandem with one of the experienced volunteer pilots. From up to 3,500ft, they took in views across the county and London in the distance. They were given a talk on navigation, principles of flight and also how to evade the RAF in a microlight!

## HMS Cavalier

The Cubs and Scouts were able to enjoy the night on the last remaining destroyer of the Second World War, HMS Cavalier at Historic Dockyard Chatham in July 2022. We took the opportunity to invest Nik as the newest member of the leadership team!



## Kent International Jamboree

Kemsing Scouts was one of nine groups from Sevenoaks that participated in Kent International Jamboree. This week-long event comprised some 4,500 young people from across the world coming together for a week of camping and activities at the Kent County Showground, Detling. Kemsing paired with Otford Scouts for this event to provide leadership support and share resources.

Twelve Scouts from Kemsing and seven from Otford attended, taking part in activities including Climbing, Abseiling, Caving, Power Kiting, 4x4 driving, Woggle Making, It's a Knockout, Shooting, Archery, Fancy Dress, Rocket Races and a day trip to Hastings where they enjoyed crazy golf, a swim in the sea and fish and chips.

The Scouts also got to explore global issues, engage with technology, watch shows and artists on the big stage, learn about the history of Scouting and swap badges, stories and friendship with others. A particular highlight was one of our own Scouts, Luca, winning the sub-camp talent competition with his stunning rendition of Whitney Houston's 'I Will Always Love You'.



We are grateful for the time given by the Leaders to make this happen - from Otford, Jan, Rik and Nicola and from Kemsing P'Nut and Phil. We are also indebted to the support given by Josie Holden as camp cook for the week, and day visitors Lorna and Jo.



As the Manager of the Kent Scouts Tomahawk Unit, our GSL, P'Nut, also put together a team of more than 20 adult volunteers to deliver the activity for all over the course of four days.



## Remembering our Patron

Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was patron of The Scout Association throughout Her Reign. She was a remarkable ambassador for Scouting and embodied the values we hold at our core in all she did. As a group, we remembered her at services hosted by St Mary's Church. Some of our members also made the journey to London and waited in the queue to pay their respects at Westminster Hall.

## Paddleboarding



Both Cubs and Scouts have enjoyed a few trips on the water using the Sevenoaks District Paddleboards. Trips have included District run paddleboard days as well a specific session arranged for Kemsing Cubs as an end of year treat. Badges have been earned as a result.

## MAG7 District Camp

MAG7 is a District-wide camp for all sections, held every four years. The event, held over the Spring Bank Holiday in 2023, was a tremendous experience where the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were able to participate in many activities over four days of camping including Paddle boarding, Laser tag, Archery and Air Rifles, to name a few.



Themed around royalty, Kemsing Scouts introduced some much needed presence to the event with our own marquee version of Buckingham Palace, a State Banquet, the Coronation of King Joshua and installation of Prince Ethan, followed by a procession through the campsite for all to hear!



## Winners!



In June 2023, a team of four represented Kemsing Scouts at the Bromley District Scouts Moonwalk - an overnight challenge hike in which teams had 6 hours to navigate their way in the dark to as many of 23 bases as possible to complete challenges and activities to score points. We are super proud that they did so well they won the 'Out of District' Scout Trophy!

## Beavers

10 young people were welcomed to Beaver Scouts this year on what could be the start of their Scouting adventure, and we hope all will be invested. They will join the older Beavers, 2 of whom completed their Bronze Chief Scout Award which was presented in July. 5 have made the transition to Cubs this September after working hard at their badges and joining in all activities.

In April, 5 Beavers camped overnight at the Mag 7 District Camp. They had a fantastic experience with the range of activities on offer. During the year, we paid our regular visits to Cotmans Ash nature reserve, for exploring and campfires. We also make full use of the Common Field and woods around our HQ, staging a Treasure Hunt, a Cycling Badge evening and water games. Indoors we've had an Escape Room Challenge, celebrated Burn's night and practised knots and basic navigation, also looked at France for our International Badge. We used Kemsing library for a board games evening and ended the year with party games at the Pavilion.

Inside or outside - our Beavers know how to work together as a team to have the best fun!



We are very fortunate to be able to use the land at the Cotman's Ash Lane for some of our outdoor activities, with toasting marshmallows over the fire being practically a rite of passage for all Beavers!



### Chief Scout Awards



The Chief Scout Awards are the highest attainable in each section - Bronze for Beavers, Silver for Cubs, Gold for Scouts and Platinum for Explorers.

In 2023, Cody and Sam were presented their Bronze at the County Activity Centre, Lower Grange Farm in Maidstone by the Kent County Commissioner, Dean Harding.

In the Scout Section, Aiden and Owen had the tenacity and drive to push themselves to get their Gold Awards. No photo of them yet, we'll be presenting them at the AGM!

### Master-at-Arms

We are fortunate to have two certified Archery Instructors (Cham and Phil) within the group, which has enabled the Scout section to run two full series of sessions enabling 14 Scouts to achieve their Master-at-Arms badge. This requires improvement of their archery skills over at least six sessions and taking part in a supervised competition.





We would especially like to thank Peter Drewry, from Fox Archery Instructor and advisor to Sevenoaks Scouts for all his time, equipment and support for setting up a secure range and training in our hut.

Additionally, in 2023 both Cham and Phil trained to be certified youth air rifle instructors.

To support leaders in running these activities, the Trustee Board has been able to source grant funding for equipment to safely deliver these target sports within our HQ with our own equipment.

### **World Scout Jamboree 2023**

After more than two years of planning, preparing and fundraising, Aiden set off on 28 July to join 40,000 Scouts from all over the world in Korea to celebrate and experience some of the very best that Scouting has to offer.

We look forward to hearing about his adventures.



## Accounts for the year ending March 31 2023

**Please see the stand alone document**

### **Safety and safeguarding**

All leaders are up to date with safety and safeguarding at the time of writing

### **First Aid**

First aid training was a priority post pandemic to ensure all leaders had current qualifications. It is pleasing to report that all adult volunteers are all up to date at the time of writing.