



21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Reference details

Registered charity number: 302269

Scout Association registration number: 10014441

Website: <https://21stromsey.co.uk/21stromseyscouts/>

Address of headquarters: Peter Digby Scout HQ, Joe Bigwood Close
Nursling, Southampton, SO16 0YL

Objectives and activities

21st Romsey Scout Group ("the Group") is part of the national Scout Association¹ and operates within the framework given in its "Policy, Organisation and Rules" (P.O.R.)².

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

The aims of the Scout Association are achieved by providing an enjoyable and attractive programme of progressive training, which is guided by the following 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.

The Group operates for the benefit of young people, between the ages of 4 and 14½ years, from any background, regardless of gender, faith or personal circumstances, and thus meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria.

We have one Squirrel Section (Core age range 4 to 5 years), two Beaver sections (core age range 6 to 8 years), two Cub sections (8 to 10½ years) and two Scout sections (10½ to 14 years). Each section is overseen by an adult leadership team that, in consultation with the young people, devises a programme of training that delivers the purpose and is relevant to the age-group. This enables the young people to attain the Scout Association awards relevant to their section.

The principal awards are divided into two groups:

- Challenge Awards: these are core badges that cover areas such as outdoor and indoor skills, teamwork, leadership, world-awareness and adventure.
- Activity Badges: a wide range of badges enabling the young person to show proficiency in almost any sport or hobby that might interest them, or additional skills in areas such as camping, navigation and first-aid.

Attaining all the Challenge Awards and a sufficient number of Activity Badges for their age-group leads to the Chief Scout Award for their section – Acorn, Bronze, Silver or Gold for Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, respectively.

An Explorer Scout section (14 to 17 years), which is the responsibility of the Scouting District, meets at our HQ and links with us through a partnership agreement. The Group also oversees the activities of a Scouting Rifle Club, Archery and Tomahawk.

Achievements and performance

The following is a summary of the year. Further information can be found on our website.

- The section leaders continue to provide active programmes. As a result, we were still able to award many Activity Badges. Fewer Challenge Awards were gained than normal, as these require a greater level of social interaction, which we are still developing since COVID-19. Consequently, far fewer Chief Scout Awards were issued.
- The group held its first group camp in many years in the May of last year. This was highly successful and enjoyed by all sections.
- We look forward to opening our second Squirrel Section later this year.
- The annual census of January 2023 has shown the group has increased from 154 in January 2022 to 166. This total was comprised of 18 Squirrels, 41 Beavers, 56 Cubs and 51 Scouts.
- Towards the end of the year two experienced leaders transferred to us from another District, resulting in the Group having 26 uniformed leaders, a net gain of one.
- The Executive Committee has overseen the administrative and practical running of the HQ and associated resources to ensure that was ready for the return of face-to-face Scouting. Besides routine matters, the following projects were undertaken:
 - We have created a new fire circle with seating to benefit the group.
- The leaders and Executive Committee are grateful to all those who have provided additional financial support to the Group during this difficult year.
- 6 leaders gained “Wood Badges”, signifying completion of all the training modules for their role. Another was awarded the Chief Scout’s Commendation for Good Service, recognising their outstanding contribution to Scouting over a long period.

Structure, governance and management

21st Romsey Scout Group is governed by the Policy, Organisation and Rules (P.O.R.)² of the Scout Association, which provides the framework in which all U.K. Scouting operates. As a charity the Group is also governed by Charity Commission legislation.

Within the Group there are a number of adult leaders and supporters, who give their time and expertise voluntarily, without remuneration, to help the development of young people. The Group is led by the Group Scout Leader, whose role is to co-ordinate the Group's activities and to ensure continuity and development.

All leaders and trustees are subject to satisfactory DBS checks and are required to undergo training that is appropriate for their role. This includes ongoing refresher courses in safety and safeguarding every 3 years. In addition, leaders are required to have first aid training (First Response) every 3 years. Completion of training modules is recorded on a national database, which is constantly monitored to ensure that standards are maintained.

Trustees

The Group's Executive Committee are the trustees of the charity. The Committee consists of the Group Scout Leader (GSL), the Leader of each of the Group's sections, the Leader of the Explorer Scout Unit that is linked with the Group, and other members who are appointed in accordance with the rules and guidance of the Scout Association³. The Committee meets regularly to fulfil the duties listed below. Between April 2022 and March 2023 the Committee met regularly over the course of the year.

Members of the Executive Committee act collectively as charity trustees of the Scout Group, and in the best interests of its members to:

- comply with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association;
- comply with Charity legislation;
- protect and maintain the property and equipment owned by and/or used by the Group;
- manage the Group's finances;
- arrange appropriate insurance for people, property and equipment;
- provide sufficient resources for Scouting to operate and thrive. This includes, but is not limited to, supporting recruitment, other adult support, and fundraising activities;
- promote and support the development of Scouting in the local area;
- manage and implement the Safety Policy locally;
- ensure that a positive image of Scouting exists in the local community;
- appoint and manage the operation of any sub-committees, including appointing Chairpersons to lead the sub-committees;
- appoint Group advisers, other than those who are elected;
- ensure that Young People are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels within the Group.

The following served as trustees during the year ending 31 March 2023. Unless otherwise indicated they were appointed prior to 1 April 2022 and re-appointed at the last AGM.

Name	Principal role on the Committee	Dates of service if not for the whole year	Individual or body entitled to appoint person as Trustee
Rebecca Fouch	Chair		<i>Ex officio</i> . Nominated by the GSL, and approved by the Group Council ⁴
Jason Phelps	Treasurer (previously Group Scout Leader)		<i>Ex officio</i> . Elected by the Group Council 15 June 22
Gillian McKay	Secretary		<i>Ex officio</i> . Elected by the Group Council
Sharon Archer	Parent representative		Elected by the Group Council
Ian Biondani	Asst. Scout Leader		Elected by the Group Council
Hazel Orriss	Hall-hire administrator		Elected by the Group Council
Claire McCann	General member		Elected by the Group Council
Stephen McCann	General member		Elected by the Group Council
Terry Hamer	General member	Stood down January 2023	Elected by the Group Council
Leanne Cooper	General member		Elected by the Group Council
Steve Batchelor	Rifle Club and Asst. Scout Leader		Elected by the Group Council
Craig Wilkins	Cub Leader (Phoenix Pack)		<i>Ex officio</i>
Steve Wallis	Cub Leader (Taurus Pack), then Asst. Leader		<i>Ex officio</i> until 15/6/22, then elected by Group Council
Randell McKay	General member		Elected by the Group Council
Cameron Beale	Deputy Group Scout Leader until 15/5/22 then Group Scout Leader		<i>Ex officio</i>
Tina Elliott	Scout Leader		<i>Ex officio</i>
Kerrie Bowers	Beaver leader (River Beaver Colony)		<i>Ex officio</i>
Graeme Harris-Scott	Beaver leader (Wood Beaver Colony)		<i>Ex officio</i>
Terry Elliott	Explorer leader (Draco Explorer Unit)		<i>Ex officio</i> , within the partnership agreement
Joe Ray	Squirrel Section Leader	From July 2022	<i>Ex officio</i> from 12 July 2022
Louise Harris – Scott	Scout Leader (Atlantis Troop)	From July 2022	<i>Ex officio</i>
Julie Nash	General Member		Elected by Group Council
Andrew Pickles	General Member		Elected by Group Council

Financial review

Further information is given in the annual accounts, but a summary of receipts and payments for the year ending 31 March 2023 is:

	Unrestricted funds 2022 - 23	Restricted Funds 2022 - 23	Total 2022 - 23	Total 2021 - 22
Receipts	£33,352	£16,859	£50,211	£38,548
Payments	£28,074	£22,814	£50,888	£40,987
Net receipts / (payments)	£5,278	(£5,955)	(£677)	(£2,439)
Net transfers between funds	(£5,682)	£5,682		
Cash funds at 31 March	£47,323	£5,523	£52,846	£53,523

Reserves policy

The Group's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the Group should income and fundraising activities fall short of running costs. The trustees consider that the Group should hold a sum equivalent to 4 to 6 months of running costs in the General Fund to cover imminent payments and urgent building repairs should they arise.

At 31 March 2023 the balance stood at £15,536, which satisfies this policy with a considerable additional margin.

The Group Executive Committee also considers it prudent to hold two "designated" funds to ensure that there are adequate reserves to maintain the HQ and equipment to satisfactory standards, as detailed in the notes to the accounts.

Investment policy

The Group has adopted a low-risk strategy to investment, keeping funds in mainstream banks. At 31 March 2023 £8,108 was held in a Virgin deposit account and £41,751 in a Virgin notice account. The majority of the remainder was held in a TSB current account, with minor amounts in cash and on pre-loaded Equals cards.

Signatories to bank accounts

Payments or withdrawals from the Group's bank accounts require authorisation by two of the following people:

TSB current account: Any two from Jason Phelps, Rebecca Fouch, Sharon Archer,
Claire McCann, Andy Pickles

Virgin accounts: Any two from Randell McKay, Andy Pickles, Claire McCann, Lisa Mallen

Independent examiner of accounts

Linda Purkess,
1 Fairway Gardens, SO16 8JJ

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Paper version signed by Rebecca Fouch

Approved at the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 6th June 2023 – the Secretary of the Scout Group holds the original, signed copy.

Name: Rebecca Helen Fouch
Position: Chair of Executive Committee
Date: 6th June 2023

Glossary and references

1. The Scout Association: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/>
2. Policy, Organisation and Rules: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/>
3. Scout Association rules and guidance concerning Executive Committees:
<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-things-locally/executive-committees/the-group-executive-committee/>
4. The Group Scout Council is the electoral body which supports Scouting in the Scout Group, and is the body to which the Group Executive Committee is accountable. Its membership consists of parents of the youth members of the Group; the Group's leaders; patrol leaders (youth members) of the Scout section; the leaders of the Draco Explorer Unit; other eligible supporters; the Romsey District Commissioner and the Romsey District Chair of Scouting.