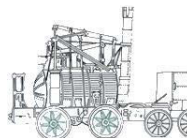




**5th Dartford Scout Group
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 16 June 2018**

**Activities Report
1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018**

Our special thanks to Lloyds Banking Group Community Fund, Dartford Borough Council, the Hedley Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation, British Telecom and the Co-op Local Community Fund



1 Welcome from the Chair

Welcome everyone to 5th Dartford Scout Group's activity day and AGM. I hope you find this newsletter detailing the Group's activities informative.

The AGM is part of the necessary governance of any Scout Group and it is the job of the Group Chair to support the Scouting aims of the Group and to ensure that money and facilities are available to pursue those aims in the interests of our young members.

The AGM and the individual section reports in this newsletter cover April 2017 to March 2018.

At last year's AGM, we announced that we were working with award-winning architects, Zedfactory on plans for a New Hall and the biggest news of the non-Scouting year for the Group is that our plans have been approved by Dartford Borough Council.



So, all we have left to do now is finish the fundraising efforts and to build a New Hall.

The Executive Committee made a decision in the last financial year to increase subscriptions by £2 per month, which came into force this year. This is our first increase since September 2008. I would like to emphasise that we want to promote Scouting for all and if any of our members have any problems affording this increase, I would encourage you to speak discretely to Group Scout Leader, Paul Boreham.

As ever, the success of 5th Dartford relies on people like you volunteering to help the 5th Dartford family. I hope we can encourage more of you to give up a little bit of your time to help all of our children gain even more from being members of 5th Dartford.

I want to make a special mention of Lyn Medcalf. Lyn's family (together with lots of other family groups) have been the backbone of 5th Dartford for well over 60 years. Lyn is our current Assistant Group Scout Leader. Her late husband, Dick Medcalf was Group Scout Leader for many years, his father was one of the people who built the current hall in the 1959 and Lyn's sons were both members of the Group throughout their youth, have been active fundraisers and continue to support the Group.

Lyn is tireless in her efforts for the Group. In addition to running a section and helping out with other sections, she is the person most responsible for our current fundraising efforts and she is brilliant at obtaining the kind of large scale fundraising that we need from organisations like Garfield Weston and the Veolia Trust.

One of the challenges for the Group during the year in question was the difficulty of recruiting adult leaders and helpers. It is a problem for Scouting across the country and we are not alone. If anyone is interested in becoming a part-time helper, or full-time helper or leader, please speak to Paul Boreham or to me as we would love to welcome you.

I would like to take this opportunity, on your behalf, to thank Paul, our GSL, and his team of section leaders, assistant leaders, activity leaders and all other helpers. His team of dedicated volunteers are critical to the success of our Group and of the wider 5th Dartford family. Thank you to you all for your time, energy and commitment.

Scouting is a fantastic modern success story. Our kids will be better adults, because they were once Scouts. The 5th Dartford family are an excellent example of that and I thank you all for your support.

Neil Young

Chair, 5th Dartford Scout Group

2 Group Scout Leader's Report

What another busy year! As always, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge all our volunteers that go to make up 5th Dartford Scout Group – the leaders, instructors and helpers for all the time, knowledge and skills they give - and congratulate them for making Scouting safe, enjoyable and fun. Special thanks also to our Executive who support us so the Scouting side can run such an active programme of events; they provide the governance to our group, ensuring that we achieve the high standards expected and remain fully compliant with the Scout Association and Charity Commission rules and best practices.

As a Scout Group, we pride ourselves on being part of the local community, taking part in such events as Dartford's Remembrance Service, District St. George's Day celebrations, County's Air Camp, Freemason craft fairs, the United Reformed Church's centenary celebrations and local schools' fetes. Last year's Family Camp was held at Hope Hill Campsite in Meopham with 120 people camping out over the May bank holiday weekend and parents getting involved with Scouting activities - including the Sunday morning saunter which ended up at the local. These eagerly-awaited and well-attended events build on the family and community spirit of the group.

Like many volunteer organisations nowadays, with the ever more demanding work environment, we are struggling to recruit new leaders and instructors, especially with the younger sections (Beavers and Cubs) who meet late afternoon/early evening. With regret we have made the decision to suspend Edward Beavers, inviting all Wednesday members to transfer over to Friday evening's Peacock Colony. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Abi, Martin and the Explorer young leaders Ellie and Callum for all their endeavours with Edwards Beavers. If you are interested in helping out with any of the sections or activities and have maybe an hour or so a week, or every other week, please contact me to discuss the best way to get involved.

At the moment we are guilty of calling on the same few climbing, target shooting and archery instructors, hence we are looking to schedule instructors' courses so that we can continue to offer these adventurous activities going forward. If you are interested in getting involved, please feel free to contact me.

Recently I watched with interest the BBC1 documentary 'The Doctor Who Gave Up Drugs' presented by Dr Chris van Tulleken, about fresh ways to approach mental health and wellbeing which focussed on outdoor living and activities - all of which follows the Scouting ethics that Baden-Powell wrote about over a 100 years ago and which are still fundamental to Scouting today.

After successfully celebrating our centenary Summer Camp at Les Manigys in Guernsey, this year's Summer Camp has been booked at Linnet Clough on the edge of the Peak District, with three minibuses booked and activities planned. However, this year it will be with a twist - no tents! - with the barn accommodation reserved and the bothy booked for the overnight expedition.



Just in case you missed any of the earlier prompts, if you are interested in making a difference by getting involved, please feel free to speak to me or any of the leaders.

Yours in Scouting

Paul Boreham

Group Scout Leader

3 Section Reports

3.1 Philpott Beavers

We started off the year with 8 Beavers attending St. George's Day Parade, on a lovely dry, bright day and then a few weeks' later had 35 Beavers and their family members take part in Jamboree on the Trail, an annual event along the River Darent finishing in Dartford Park.

At the end of May, 7 Beavers joined in with their families at the group Family Camp at Hope Hill Campsite - even Auntie Beaver paid a day visit in time for the judging of the best decorated sedan chair.

In June we were lucky enough to have a visit from the RNLI and with the boys bringing in 10p coins to make a 'silver river' we were able to donate £45 to a very worthy cause as well as learn lots about keeping safe near water.

With the weather still very good in July we spent one Thursday at the park 'over the tin bridge' and the following week enjoyed our traditional water games and water fight night. A large batch of our Beavers said 'goodbye' and moved up to Cubs so when we returned in September we were down to 12 boys.

An afternoon in the woods at Joyden's Wood saw all but one Beaver turn up and make the most of the still good September sunshine.



In the October half-term we held our annual Halloween Party to which both Edwards Beavers and Peacock Beavers were invited along with their parents resulting in 42 spookily-dressed characters turning up and joining in the traditional games.

In November we made a large 'guy' and burnt him on a fire, then toasted tea cakes on the dying embers.

In December we joined in the group's 101st Birthday Parade and celebrations followed by the usual Christmas activities.

January to March saw us concentrating on badge work in the hall (only having to close one week because of the snow).

Over the year, 10 Beavers attained their Chief Scout's Bronze Award and all turned up very smartly dressed for the relevant presentations at Christchurch.

Very many thanks to my dedicated band of leaders for all their help over the last year: Big Beaver, Skippy, Joey Junior, Bearded Beaver, Eager Beaver and, since December, Happy Beaver and Cheeky Beaver. You all do such a brilliant job.

Auntie Beaver (Wendy Hurd)

3.2 Peacock Beavers

Peacock Beavers have had a busy year with a small colony of 9 Beavers. We have completed a number of exciting events which have included making volcanoes, trips to Christchurch and the Sikh gurdwara, a Build a Bear workshop (to make a new bear mascot), growing plants and working on an allotment, Halloween and Christmas parties, a visit to a pantomime to see Ebenezer and more recently the Jamboree on the Trail.



In addition to these activities we have cooked, learnt new games, craft skills, learnt songs and acted out play-scripts using our handmade puppets.

I would like to thank Indy and Jane for all their ongoing support in helping run the colony. George is now at university and is missed for all the exciting games he organised. We plan to try a parent support rota in the future to give us even more adventurous activities and fun.

Lyn Medcalf

Assistant Group Scout Leader

3.3 **Edwards Beavers**

Edwards Beavers have had a good year participating in a wide range of fun activities. These included cooking, painting, craft activities, a range of games and sport. Many thanks to Abi, Martin and two Explorer Scouts who have given their time and energy during this time. Unfortunately, Abi is no longer able to continue as a leader due to family commitments and lack of time. We wish her well in her future ventures. Edwards Beavers have joined other 5th Dartford colonies where I am sure they will continue to enjoy their Scouting.

Lyn Medcalf

Assistant Group Scout Leader

3.4 **Leigh Pack**

This year we combined some new activities with our normal, traditional activities.

Our cooking activities included jam tarts (where Cubs made their own pastry), pizza and our traditional pancakes.

Craft activities included splat painting, decorating centenary tee shirts, mother's day gifts (where we decorated a canvas shopping bag) and Picasso-style painting.

We had an egg parachute activity where we tried and tested out the parachutes by throwing them from the climbing wall (the parachutes and eggs, that is, not the Cubs!).

We had our Christmas panto, Ebenezer, at the Miskin Theatre and our firework party at Tracey and Colin Honey's where we made our guys and the Cubs chose Donald Trump masks to put on the guys - what a sight!

We have once again done bug hunting, which is one of the Cubs' favourite activities, and we have started a wormery.

We had the summer sleepover in the hall with the other two Cub packs, which was a great success. The activities were climbing, archery and shooting and we had the barbeque and campfire in the evening with marshmallows.

The highlight of the summer was winning the Cubs Sports Day where each Cub gets to take the shield home for two weeks.

This year we welcomed our first girl, Alex Rutherford Courtney, who has settled in beautifully - so far, she has won the Easter egg hunt and come joint first in the annual Leigh Pack Fitness Challenge, so she's making herself very popular with the other Cubs!

We unfortunately said goodbye to Jacqueline Ellis who has moved out of the area. We miss her very much but wish her well.

Many thanks to our regular helpers and young leaders: Becky, George and Connor, Tracey (for keeping the admin and subs up-to-date) and Tina for her support (does she have much choice?).

Finally, a lot cannot be done without the support of the 5th Dartford Group, which we appreciate.

We recently asked our Cubs what they most enjoyed about their Friday evenings with us and the overall reply was learning new skills and making new friends, so with that we feel we have been successful. Looking back at another fun-filled year I often think to myself, how am I to beat this? I can only try.

Yours

John Akela

3.5 Collins Pack

Collins Pack has a membership of 25 boys. We have had a successful year with a varied programme of events.

The boys have participated in a number of activities that have included learning about first aid, fire safety, communication skills, astronomy, pioneering, fire lighting, aerodynamics and cooking.

In addition to this, team building tasks have included the boys acting out play-scripts, making puppets for puppet shows, Lego challenges, team games, board games and paper aeroplane competitions.

Sports-wise, the Cubs have bouldered, learnt to play hockey, dodgeball, table football and basketball and done archery.

Collins Pack has also attended St. George's Day Parade in Dartford and the Jamboree on the Trail (the Darent Valley walk).

Many thanks go to David, Jason and Louise who have given their time to help run Collins Pack, as well as Paul, Becky and Emily who have also attended regularly, giving their support and time.

Lyn Medcalf

Assistant Group Scout Leader

3.6 Phillips Pack

We have had a busy year awarding a total of 121 badges. This includes 6 Cubs achieving their Chief Scout's Silver Award.

April saw 8 Phillips Pack Cubs join me at this year's St George's Day Parade.

In May, William the bear became Phillips Pack's mascot. Thank you to Tracy for making William's green Cubs jumper and necker.

We made shelters, learned to put up tents and enjoyed a fake wound night.

In June, as part of the World Challenge Badge, we visited a local community food bank project where we saw what types of food and equipment they need to help underprivileged people in the Dartford area.

11 Phillips Pack Cubs joined other Cub members for an overnight activity weekend down at the Scout Hall, having a go at archery, shooting and wall climbing. Thank you to all the leaders that gave up their time to make this weekend a success.

Congratulations to the 5 Phillips Pack Cubs that received their Silver Awards in July. 4 Phillips Pack Cubs joined me at the Dartford District Cubs quiz and tug of war competition at St. Mary and Stone Primary School. To conclude the summer term, 7 Phillips Pack Cubs joined Leigh and Collins Packs for the annual 5th Dartford Cubs Sports Day over Roseberry Gardens. This was not our year to win, but every Cub tried their best and made me proud.



We finished the summer term off with a water fight.

Summer Camp took us to Guernsey this year and one of my older Cubs braved a week away with the Scouts and Explorers - she was a credit to herself and to me.

After the summer break we started our Fire Safety badge, concluding with a visit to Dartford Fire Station. This night we also presented one of our Cubs with his Silver Award as we said goodbye to him as he was moving to New Zealand.

1 Phillips Pack Cub celebrated their Silver Award presentation in November. We also completed our Animal Carers badge and enjoyed a fireworks night.

We joined other members of the 5th to celebrate the Group's 101st birthday with a parade down to the Methodist Church for a service, then in the afternoon we enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon at Flip Out in Chatham. 9 Phillips Pack Cubs joined other 5th Dartford members to enjoy a pantomime evening at the Miskin Theatre. We finished the winter term off with a Christmas party.



We began January by completing the Science badge.

In February we had a Winter Olympics-inspired games night. We also started the Kent County "Skills for Life" badge.

5 Phillips Pack Cubs joined me and other members for the 5th Dartford Scout Group annual Easter Camp at Thriftwood.

A big thank you to my Assistant Cub Leaders, Shea Gardner and James O'Brien. Also, to my young leaders, Megan O'Brien and Matthew Butler.

Kay O'Brien
Phillips Pack Cub Leader

3.7 Burne Troop

As of April 2018, Burne Troop currently had 20 invested Scouts.

As a troop, we always strive to have a varied set of activities and this year has been no exception.

Thursday Night Activities:

Firework evening, rifle shooting, mapping and compass, laser evening, water games, pizza cooking, multiple team challenges, Lego evening, tank making, cycling, sedan chair, Christmas sweet making and hot air ballooning.

Highlights (as judged by the Leaders):

- Tank making: The Scouts made tanks from cotton reels and elastic bands. Although a very old toy, they really enjoyed the evening
- Fireworks: Another fun-packed evening for both Scouts and parents, that really did go with a bang.
- Pizza cooking: The Scouts used the new pizza ovens to cook pizzas and apple strudel - I must admit things were a little crispy black.
- Hot air balloons: This took up two evenings, but it was well worth the effort. They flew extremely well over Roseberry Gardens, apart from the one that caught fire when being launched.
- Cycling evening. Thank you to Clive for an evening of games on cycles at Roseberry Gardens.

- Christmas sweet making. The aim was to make Christmas presents. Unfortunately, most sweets were eaten during the evening.

Camps:

During the year Burne Troop took part in the Group Easter Camp and the Group Summer Camp.



Badges:

This year Scouts from Burne Troop have gained many badges including Adventure, Outdoor, Outdoor Plus, Creative, Team Leader and Personal Challenge.

Leaders:

I would like to thank my 3 assistant leaders - Clive, Sean and my new assistant Rob - for all their help this year. Also, a special thank you to Chris for helping between exams. However, we are always looking for some extra help.

Tim Roscoe

3.8 Earley Troop

Troop Nights:

We currently have 16 invested members, a number moving on to Explorers over the course of the year. We endeavour to provide a wide and varied programme with a mixture of practical Scouting including survival skills, navigation, local knowledge, Internet safety, pioneering, field games, DIY, cooking, rocket design and launching, target shooting climbing and not to forget our visit to Miskin Theatre's pantomime, Ebenezer.

Out and About:

We were represented at both St George's Day Parade and Remembrance Parade with the Scouts taking the effort to looking their best to represent themselves and the Group.

8 of Earley Troop Scouts attended the 2017 Summer Centenary Camp at Les Maingys, Guernsey; hitting the ground running, on the first day we were coasteering off the rugged cliffs of the south coast, then visiting St. Peter Port and watching the Rubis Soap Box Challenge, as well as sea kayaking and climbing on the pinnacles on the north of Ladies Bay. When the torrential rain set in we went out on a bus adventure all around the island and had a guided tour of the airport. For the Explorers and older Scouts there was a multi-mode expedition involving busses to the airport, walking the southern costal path, a ferry to

Herm and walking to the top of Herm with kit bags carried by a tractor. The final day was shopping in St. Peter's Port followed by a Ready Steady Cook competition, which was enjoyed by all.

Winter Camp was well attended and provided all the adventure and activities that Gilwell Park, being an international centre of Scouting, can offer.



This year's Easter Camp was held, yet again, at the excellent Thriftwood camp site. Given the inclement weather forecast, we changed our plans and took advantage of the tent village, with hard standing, huts and a fully equipped marquee. A pirate theme was incorporated into the various activities which included fishing, rafting and pioneering.

Leadership:

I would like to thank all the leadership volunteers - Gary Tuffee, Andy Balfe, Kevin Wells, Keith Furlong and Sean Hodder - who make Earley Troop the lively, vibrant section it is.

Yours in Scouting

Paul Boreham

3.9 Johnston Explorers

This year we have had a fall in number to 20 invested, with one reaching adulthood and several moving to a new Explorer group (which opened at their old Scout group, so understandably they wanted to continue Scouting with the YP they grew up with). A couple left due to clashes in interests and as you can only be in one place at a time, we wished them well with their other activities. There was also a notable reduction in Scouts moving up from our two feeder troops, we are however hopeful that we will have stability in numbers over the next year.

The Explorers we currently have formed an excellent social bond and regularly meet up as friends outside of Explorer nights.

Awards:

Following on from last year's Duke of Edinburgh achievements, we have had a further YP complete their DofE Bronze and several continuing to train.

The number of young leaders has grown, and they continue to commit to supporting younger sections and completing their training, with 3 of them achieving their young leader's belt this year, with more to follow next year.

Quite a few are well on their way to achieving their Chief Scout's Platinum awards this year, and in the future as the DofE becomes a more integral part of Scouting.

Numerous activity badges have been gained and, including the merits above, 51 awards have been made this year.



Activities and Events:

The ESU has had another activity-filled year starting with St. George's Day Parade, ten pin bowling (twice), target shooting, climbing, abseiling, Summer Camp, driving range, cooking, Remembrance Parade, Birthday Parade (and a whole bag of fun at Flip Out Trampoline Centre in Chatham thereafter), young leader training weekends, pancake night, pioneering, trading post, egg drop and so much more.

In addition to the group camps, which are always very well attended by the unit, this year saw two Explorer only camps, planned and led by the YP without adult supervision, known as 'On Passport'. This allows the YP to prove they can take responsibility and apply the skills they have learned without being watched over.

We are proud to announce that one of our unit was selected to represent our district, as one of 7 YP from Dartford, at the 2019 World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia. Some of the 'Super7' will be here today to talk to you about WSJ and hopefully raise some funds.

Leadership:

We are still looking for help on Monday evenings, and I have directly contacted former unit members for support, but not yet had any commitment. We would like to thank Sean (who has had to step back from weekly involvement due to work commitments), Dave, Sean and Keith for DofE mentoring, and Tim, Kevin and James for stepping in at short notice to cover.

Anyone with a sense of adventure and good humour would be very welcome to join in to support our unit and help the YP achieve their Scouting goals.

Jason O'Brien

Appendix 1

Volunteering Opportunities

Drinks Preparation	
Description	Preparation of drinks for the Cubs and then cleared away during the section evening break
The role involves	Preparing squash for the Beavers/Cub/Scout for their break, ensuring the kitchen is tidy afterwards
Expected time	30min per week, not required every week
Training	DBS clearance, None

Sub Collection	
Description	To register the subs being paid in monthly, providing receipts
The role involves	Collecting the monies/cheques paid by the Beavers/Cub/Scout monthly, registering the amount, providing a receipt providing a summary to the leader. A basic understanding of taking and proving receipting of monies, with support from the leader and Group treasurer.
Expected time	1 hour per month, not required every week
Training	DBS clearance, None

Games Coordinator(s)	
Description	To coordinate a 15min game(s) as part of the evening schedule, enabling the leaders to prepare for the next badge/tuition session
The role involves	A part of a section evening, depending on the programme for the evening there can be between 1 and 3 games scheduled to break up the different sessions. There is a great number of Cub game resources available on the internet as well as a well-stocked games cupboard. No experience necessary, only a sense of fair play and good fun
Expected time	Between 15mins to 90mins of an evening, noting that this can be alternate weeks
Training	DBS clearance, utilise a number of online resources for new invigorating games as well as the old favourites, Module 01 - Essential information: Safeguarding and safety in Scouting

Badge and Records Keeper	
Description	To keep the Beavers/Cub/Scout achievement records up to date so that they are presented with their badges
The role involves	Confirming with the Leader the activities completed in the section evening and which Cubs completed them successfully, then updating the records, identifying which badges need to be ordered when they are successfully gained. Note that attendance every week is not required, with full support providing by the leadership team.
Expected time	30 minutes every few weeks
Training	DBS clearance, familiarisation of 'On-Line Scout Manager' application and award scheme

Skills Instructor(s)	
Description	To teach basic Scouting skills, aligned to the Beavers/Cub/Scout programme and award system
The role involves	Lead a 30min session with a number of Cubs teaching them new skills, making the subject interesting and enjoyable. The range of subject matter can be, but not limited to, making toffee apples, fire lighting, how to clean shoes to zoology...
Expected time	30mins as agreed and arranged with the programme (ad-hoc)
Training	DBS clearance, Module 01 - Essential information: Safeguarding and safety in Scouting

Assistant Leader	
Description	Supports and assist the Leader
The role involves	As part of the leadership team provide a balance programme of fun activities enabling the Cub to progress and achieve their badges
Expected time	2 hours per week, this role can be shared and flexible in coordination with other adult volunteers.
Training	DBS clearance, Modules 01-Essential Information, 02-Personal Learning, 03-Tools for the Role

Leader	
Description	The manager of the section, coordinating activities
The role involves	As the manager of the section, you form a leadership team to support the Beavers/Cub/Scout to achieve the most out of their Scouting, coordinating a programme of fun events and activities in order they achieve their Chief Cub Scout award
Expected time	2 hours per week, this role can be shared and flexible in coordination with other adult volunteers.
Training	DBS clearance, Modules 01-Essential Information, 02-Personal Learning, 03-Tools for the Role, 05-Fundamentals of Scouting, 06-Changes in Scouting, 08 Skills of Leadership, 09-Working with Adults, 10-First Aid, 11-Administration, 12-Delivering a Quality Programme

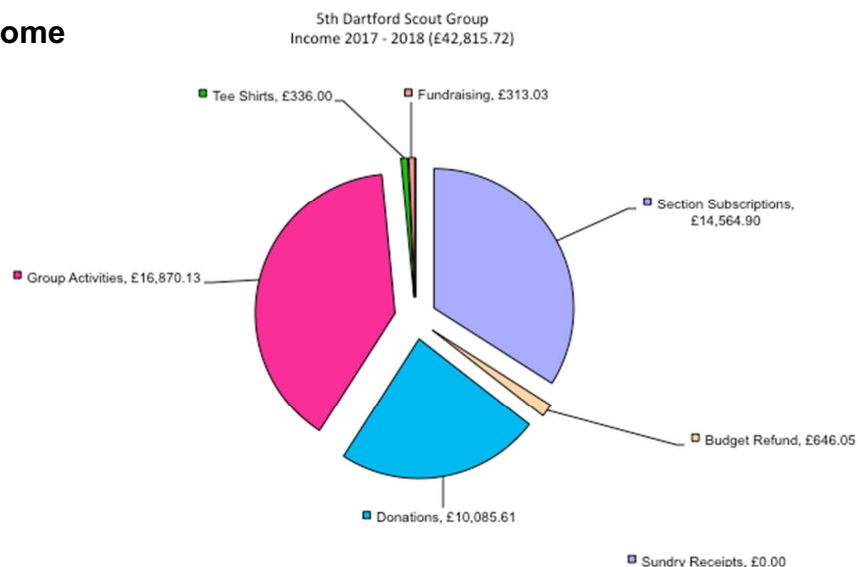
5th Dartford Scouts is a member of The Scout Association, with 28 million members worldwide with 500,000 youth members in the UK belonging to 115 Counties, 895 Districts comprising of 8,000 Groups with 24,000 sections – Whose success is dependent on the delivery of fun and exciting programmes by inspired and motivated volunteers who are properly supported.

Finance Report 2017 / 2018

During the financial year, expenditure was slightly lower than our income from the subscription payments of our members. The surplus of £215.92 was not enough to cover future increases in expenditure, so the Group made the decision to increase the monthly subs from £10 to £12 from 1st April 2018. Our biggest outcome every year remains capitation, the money that we pay to the Scout Organisation for its support of UK Scouting. That accounts for 39% of all member subscriptions and was a cash outlay in the past financial year of £6,006.00.

Net cash funds at year-end, including the New Hall Fund and other savings increased from £162,384 to £167,197 so the Group remains in a healthy financial position, although £129,000 of that money is ring-fenced for the New Hall development.

Income



Expenditure

