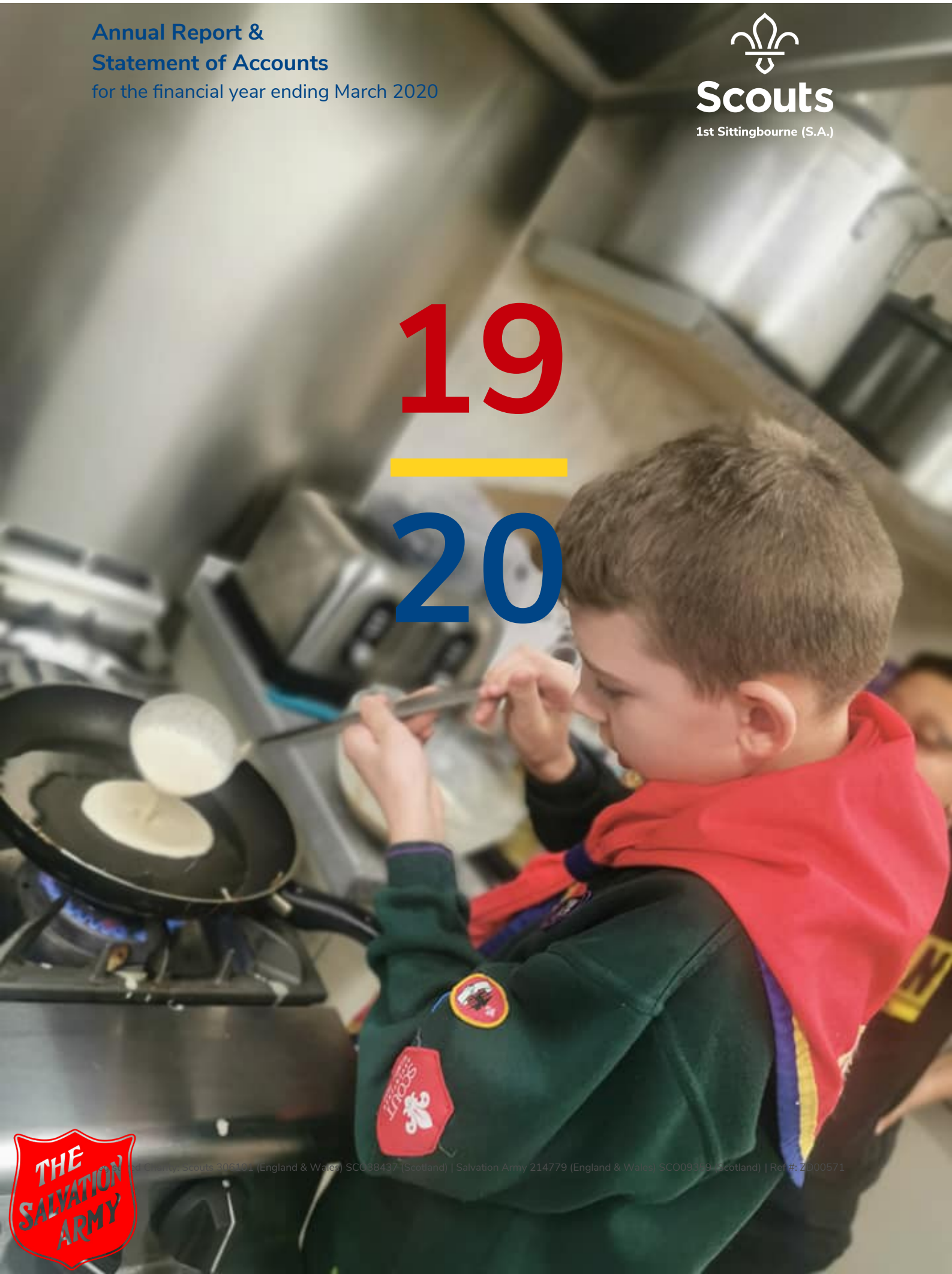
Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

for the financial year ending March 2020

Scouts

1st Sittingbourne (S.A.)



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Kent County Scouts 306101 (England & Wales) SCO38437 (Scotland) | Salvation Army 214779 (England & Wales) SCO09359 (Scotland) | Ref #: ZD00571

1st Sittingbourne (S.A.)

Annual General Meeting

for the financial year 6th April 2019 - 5th April 2020

22nd July 2020

Agenda

Key business

1. Welcome & Introductions from the Chair
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Group Council
4. Receive & approve the annual report for the 2019/20 year
   Members of the Group Executive Committee are available to answer questions on the report.
5. Receive & approve the Financial Statement for the 2019 financial year
   Members of the Group Executive Committee are available to answer questions on the financial statement

Appointments and elections

6. Group Scout Leader's explanation on Appointment of Executive Committee
7. Closing remakes from the Group Scout Leader & District Commissioner
8. Close of business

Registered Charity: Scouts 306101 (England & Wales) SCO38437 (Scotland) | Salvation Army 214779 (England & Wales) SCO09359 (Scotland) | Ref #: ZD00571

Reporting on the 6th April 2018 - 5th April 2019 Financial Year
Meeting held on 17th July 2019 at Bexon Lane Scout Campsite, Bexon Lane, ME9 8HG

1st Sittingbourne (S.A) **Annual General Meeting** **MINUTES**

In attendance: *Kyle Mortimer, Candice Sterling, Sarah Mortimer, Gary Chadwick, Janice Chadwick, Laura Bartlett, Louise Winzar, Jonathan Bartlett, Wendy Cooper, Ryan Condron, Emma Chambers, Debbie Woods, Heidi Payne, Kayleigh Payne, Aaron Toother, Maureen Coles, Jackie Curling, Donna Curling, Chris Barton, Tracey Tewkesbury, Michael Roff, Leanne Jones, Danielle Rowe, Lisa, Springate, Shellie Nicholson, Anna Hickmott, Maria Camber, Rob Hook, Colin Fletcher, Alanna Fletcher, Marilyn Gilbert, Dawn Martin, Sharon Turner, Mike Rogers, Janine Macet, Tony Macey, Sophy Azzopardi, Donna Dowling, Stuart Dowling, Brandon Dowling, Karen Woodfine, James Tinkler, Anita Righton, Kate Hix, Mark Barbier, Ludo Barbier, Rachelle Coote, E Dubrowska, Trevor Browning, K Dent*

1) **Welcome** Kyle Mortimer welcomed everyone in attendance. He introduced himself as Group Scout Leader and also did introductions for Janice Chadwick as Assistant Scout Leader, Candice Sterling as Chair and Laura Bartlett as Secretary.

2) **Apologies** Officers Nigel Schultz and Judith Schultz

3) **Minutes from 2018 AGM** Candice recapped the minutes and they were available for everyone in attendance to read.

4) **Annual Group Scout Leaders Reports**

Kyle thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for all the support the leaders, parents, children and committee have provided over the last year. Kyle is very happy with the leadership team that is currently in place and there is Shellie and Laura joining the cub team in September. Julie the current assistant cub leader is stepping down for now but she is still undertaking her role within the district. Julie has been a great help over the past few years and we look forward to welcoming her back when she is ready.

The executive committee have done a fantastic job this year and it's the best we have had in terms of fundraising. The admin support has been a great help. Kyle did a massive thanks to the committee and advised there is still space available if anyone is interested in joining.

5) **Section Reports**

Beavers – Jon reported that the Beavers have had a good year and they have given out 4 chief scout awards this year. The Beavers had a busy year with visits to a farm, pets at home and Go Outdoors to name but a few.

Cubs – Gary reported the Cubs are running well and consistently have 16 children each week. There have been quite a few Beavers move up and the Cubs have a very good link with the Beavers and

Scouts – 87 badges have been awarded this year including 1 Chief Scout award. Gary thanked the leadership team and young leaders for their support. Gary reported there are currently 21 Scouts with an average of 19 attending each week. 3 members have moved up to the District Explorer Group. 130 badges have been awarded.

6) **Financial report including OSM – Online Payments**

Louise reported that it has been a good year financially and the group is in a strong position. There has been lots of changes with the move to direct payments and this has helped greatly with the collection of subs for all sections.

Over the summer we are looking to move all payments to OSM to include subs and trips etc. More information will be sent out regarding this.

7) **Salvation Army Link Report**

Unfortunately, this is not available as the Salvation Army in Sittingbourne currently do not have a Minister as Nigel is being relocated. We are hoping for a new Minister to be appointed later on in the year.

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8) **Sittingbourne and Milton District Scout Group**

Trevor Browning District Commissioner was in attendance and he said that 1st Sittingbourne SA is an amazing group and offers fantastic opportunities. Trevor thanked the parents for bringing the children along to the 3 sections each week and said the children are learning skills for life. It helps the children to integrate into society and make new friends. He thanked the leaders etc for giving a lot of their time to support the group.

Group Chair and all trustees retired from post at this point. GSL assumed chair.

9) **Election of Executive Committee**

Chair	Candice Sterling	*Proposed by Gary Chadwick, seconded by Jonathan Bartlett*

Group Chair reappointed.

Treasurer	Louise Winzar	*Louise is our link with the Salvation Army*
Secretary	Laura Bartlett	*Proposed by Julie Gilson, seconded by Chantelle Shilling*
Beaver Parent	Donna Curling	
Cub Parent	Leanne Jones	
Scout Parent	Alannah Fletcher and Lisa Springate	
Fundraising Coordinator	Emma Chambers and Ryan Condron	

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10) **Presentation of Group Special Awards**

Badges were given out to all sections.

Beaver of the year:	Loki Cootes
Cub of the year:	Madison Tye
Scout of the year:	Kayley Thorn

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11) **Thanks, and Closing Prayer**

Thanks were given to everyone in attendance

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https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/1stsittingbournescouts/

Group Executive Committee 2019/20

17th July 2019 - 23rd March 2020

Ex-Officio Members:

Chair	- Candice Sterling	Group Scout Leader	- Kyle Mortimer
Secretary	- Laura Bartlett		
Treasurer	- Louise Winzar	Fundraising coordinator	- Emma Chambers
Assistant Group Scout Leader	- Janice Chadwick	Scout Leader	- Gary Chadwick
Cub Leader	- Chantelle Shilling	Beaver Leader	- Jonathon Bartlett
Group Chaplain	- Simon Perkin		

Elected Members:

Group Council (Beaver Parent Representative)	- Donna Curling
Group Council (Cub Parent Representative)	- Leanne Jones
Group Council (Scout Parent Representatives)	- Alannah Fletcher and Lisa Springate

Bankers	- Natwest Bank	Registered Address:	The Salvation Army, Shortlands Road, Sittingbourne, ME10 3JT

Group Leadership Team as of 1 July 2020 by section

BEAVERS

Assistant Beaver Scout Leader	-	Chantelle Shilling
Beaver Scout Leader	-	Jonathon Bartlett
Young Leader	-	Bethany Hook
Occasional Helper	-	Candice Sterling

cubs

Assistant Cub Leader	-	Shellie Nicholson
Assistant Cub Leader	-	Dan Gray
Cub Scout Leader	-	Chantelle Shilling
Young Leader	-	Alice Jepson
Occasional Helper	-	Laura Bartlett

SCOUTS

Assistant Scout Leader	-	Julie Gilson
Assistant Scout Leader	-	Kate Chambers
Scout Leader	-	Gary Chadwick

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

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. The Group is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Committee consists of three independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the Group Scout Leaders, individual section leaders (if opted to take on the responsibility) and members' representation and meets every 3 months.

Members of the Executive Committee complete 'Essential Information for Executive Committee' training along with regular refreshers in Safety and Safeguarding.

This Group Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of Group property;
- The raising of funds and the administration of Group finance;
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- Group public occasions;
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
- Appointing any sub committees that may be required;
- Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

RISK & INTERNAL CONTROL

The Group Executive Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them.

The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to the trailer and equipment. The Group have requested the use of safe enclosed parking and storage of the trailer at neighbouring organisations such as other Scout Groups.
The Group has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The Group, through the membership fees payable annually, contributes to the Scout Associations national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken and approved by the Group Scout Leader on behalf of the District Commissioner before all activities.

Reduction or loss of leaders. The Group is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the group. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or the group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario the complete closure of the Group.

Reduction or loss of members. The Group provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 14. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section. In the worst-case scenario the complete closure of the Group.

RISK & INTERNAL CONTROL OF FINANCES
The group has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss; these include clear budget setting, two signatories for all payments, a robust finance policy with spending authorisation schedule and well considered and scoped comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Reduced income. The Group is primarily reliant upon income from membership subscriptions. The group does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the group on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

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.

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 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

FINANCIAL REVIEW
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. The Group Executive Committee considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs.

At the end of the 2019 financial year, the Group held £8,229.41 cash held in the Group's current account.

Investment Policy
The Group's Income and Expenditure is relatively small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The Group has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service.

Public benefit statement
The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Group Executive Committee Chair's Report

Once again I am very pleased to report that the Group has had another successful and productive year. The trustees have been focused on the fundraising for a new star mess tent and increasing the Groups reserves.

The Executive Committee have been fully committed in supporting the Group leadership team develop the Skills for Life growth and development plan to layout the roadmap for the future of our Group and Scouting locally.

The trustees largest and highest priority element of the plan is the acquisition and access to high quality equipment and resources to enable our leaders to deliver great programmes to our young people.

As always I'd like to thank my fellow trustees for their continued support and enthusiasm. Our thanks to Kyle, Janice and the leadership team for their hard work and dedication in giving our young people the opportunity to learn skills for life.

Candice Sterling
Group Executive Committee Chair

Membership & Committee Matters 2019/20

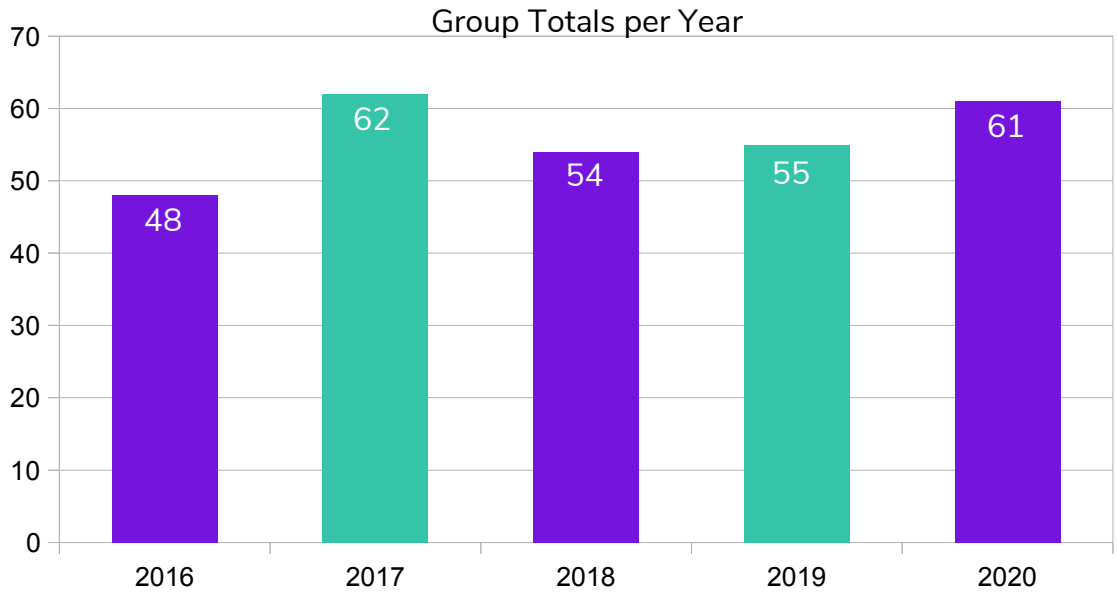
Trustee meeting attendance					2019/20
Candice Sterling	5 (100%)	Laura Bartlett	5 (100%)	Janice Chadwick	5 (100%)
Emma Chambers	5 (100%)	Louise Winzar	5 (100%)	Gary Chadwick	3 (60%)
Kyle Mortimer	3 (60%)	Simon Perkin	2 (40%) *	Donna Curling	4 (100%)
Lisa Springate	4 (100%)	Alannah Fletcher	1 (25%)	Leanne Jones	2 (50%)

Simon Perkin was appointment to the Group after our 2nd meeting of year

Executive Committee Meeting Dates		2019/20
11 September 2019	30 October 2019	08 January 2020
04 May 2020 (online)	15 June 2020 (online)	

Membership Information 2020 OSM Census					2019/20
Beavers	10 (13)	Cubs	24 (16)	Scouts	27 (26)
Group Total	61 (55)	Group Growth	10.9% (1.1%) increase		

Last Years figures in brackets



Fundraising Report 6th April 2019 – 5th April 2020

This year has been another successful fundraising year. We participated in 10 fundraising events from quiz nights to cake stalls, bucket collections to sponsored events. The committee have decided that our Quiz nights should be a once a year event to maximise the sponsorships for the silent auction and capital raised from them. The sponsored events were hugely popular with the young people and a great success. The committee plans to hold sponsored events annually to help bring together all the young people in scouting while fundraising for the Group.

We started our EasyFundraising page and have slowly started to receive funds through this venture.

As we have moved towards an online system both financially and in scouting, we have been able to gather all our resources and are placing in Gift Aid requests.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers, cake bakers, bucket holders, stall holders, social media sharers and sponsors for all you do, without each and everyone of you, none of the fundraising would be possible.

Fundraising **1st Sittingbourne (Salvation Army) Scout Group**

Current Event Balance -

£3,229.15

Receipt Codes		Payment Codes	
1	Fees	A	Hire
2	Donations	B	Food
3	Sundry Items	C	Sundry Items

Group

Receipts

2019/2020 Date	Details	Ref	Total	Code	1 Fees	2 Donations	3 Sundry Items
			£4,791.25		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
05/04/19	Egg hunt Refreshment sale		161.00				
11/06/19	easyfundraising chambers		21.00				
21/06/19	cakesale fundraiser		274.30				
18/07/19	E. Chambers funds		20.00				
22/07/19	Fundraising		295.00				
02/08/19	Fundraising		381.78				
20/09/19	Fundraising		153.50				
14/10/19	Aaron auction		23.00				
14/10/19	L. Winzar auction		35.00				
14/10/19	J. Chadwick auction		10.00				
18/10/19	Quiz/Auction		300.00				
11/11/19	Easyfundraising		18.44				
29/11/19	Donation		139.60				
23/12/19	Bag Packing		779.31				
17/01/20	Donation		173.00				
14/02/20	donation		356.52				
26/02/20	Sponsor money (Jayden)		108.00				
28/02/20	Swale council - donation		200.00				
28/02/20	Easyfundraising		242.45				
02/03/20	Chambers donation		21.62				
13/03/20	donation		1,077.73				

Payments

2019/2020 Date	Details	Ref	Cash	Cheque	Code	A Hire	B Food	C Sundry Items
			£1,562.10	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
04/04/19	Refreshments - Iceland		52.38					
05/07/20	Trophies		24.75					
15/07/19	BCT (Mess tent extension)		595.00					
17/07/19	Asda (AGM food)		50.00					
18/07/19	AGM food to Bartletts		87.44					
18/07/19	Iceland AGM food		48.67					
30/08/19	St. Marys PPC (Faversham stall)		15.00					
14/10/19	bookers quiz food		54.67					
23/10/19	Chads (Quiz food)		12.18					
23/10/19	Chads (Christmas fayre deposit)		20.00					
14/11/19	Chads (group exec)		171.70					
17/12/19	Cash (Party)		170.00					
26/02/20	P. Mortimwer (Petrol)		20.02					
27/02/20	Chads (Swag)		240.29					

Finance Report 6th April 2019 – 5th April 2020

Financial consolidation and modernisation of our Group bank accounts have been progressed again in 2019. The Group successfully transitioned to Online Scout Manager (OSM) for subscriptions, payments and event bookings. We are almost at the end of a multi-year programme of account rationalisation. This has allowed our financial operations to be much more robust, accurate and efficient, the benefits of which can been seen in a very timely and smooth accounts closure process this year.

Annual Accounts are presented on the following page. To help clarify the report, here are some notes.

- Subscriptions increased by £448.95 helped by the transition to OSM and reducing leaders workload on Wednesday evenings
- Beaver camp - had a £20 payment before the end of the previous financial year
- Chessington – This was paid on the previous financial year, while the Districts bill was received this financial year
- District Scout Camp - This made a loss of £44.13 as the Group subsidised the leaders and cost of additional meal
- Bowling – The Executive Committee agreed to subsidise each member by £1
- Group wear – This subsidised in part by the Group to reduce costs to members
- Pantomime – The Executive Committee agreed to subsidise the event
- Group camp – This made a loss due to COVID-19. We have received a refund from Lower Grange Farm in this financial year. The Groups refund to members incurred a fee per transaction
- Scoutmob – This made a loss. It was agreed by the Executive Committee to use fundraising money to reduce the costs on young people attending. Additional costs incurred during the camp for transportation to the theme park.

Scouts
1st Sittingbourne (S.A.)

1st Sittingbourne (Salvation Army) Scout Group

1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

		This Year	Last Year
Receipts [In]			
Subs		£2,365.50	£5,305.00
0		£0.00	£0.00
0		£0.00	£0.00
0		£35.00	£0.00
GoCardless		£3,388.45	
Beaver camp		-£18.04	£20.00
District Chessington Trip		-£108.00	£108.00
Cub Easter Camp		-£200.00	£200.00
District Scout Camp		-£44.13	£0.00
District Cub Camp		£52.70	£0.00
Bowling		-£65.66	£0.00
ScoutMob France		-£3,549.73	-£568.00
Group wear		-£90.40	£0.00
Fundraising		£3,229.15	£3,820.08
Group camp 2020		-£119.64	£0.00
District Panto		-£55.70	£0.00
2nd Bank account (Manual)		£0.00	£0.00
Totals		£4,819.50	£8,885.08
Payments [Out]			
Beavers		£153.92	£360.24
Cubs		£319.50	£403.69
Scouts		£404.33	£820.32
Group		£5,527.51	£1,259.07
0		£0.00	£0.00
0		£0.00	£0.00
0		£0.00	£0.00
0		£0.00	£0.00
0		£0.00	£0.00
0		£0.00	£0.00
0		£0.00	£0.00
Totals		£6,405.26	£2,843.32
Surplus or (deficit) for the year		-£1,585.76	£6,041.76
Balances brought forward	Bank - 1	£9,715.17	£0.00
	Bank - 2	£0.00	£0.00
	Cash	£50.00	£0.00
		£9,765.17	£0.00
Balances in hand at year-end	Bank - 1	£8,179.41	£9,715.17
	Bank - 2	£0.00	£0.00
	Cash	£50.00	£50.00
		£8,229.41	£9,765.17

Assets and Liabilities: In addition to the above cash balances the unit has equipment to the value of £0.00 and there are no other assets or liabilities.

Prepared by: Gary Chadwick **Signature & Date:** Signed on file copy 11/7/20

Reviewer's Certificate: The above statements agree with the records and vouchers of **1st Sittingbourne (Salvation Army) Scout Group** for the financial year ended **31 March 2020**

Reviewed by: Gordon Bateman **Signature & Date:** Signed on file copy 11/7/20

Group Scout Leader Annual Report 2019/2020

Well it has been another fantastic year for 1st Sittingbourne S.A. Scout Group. I am always exceptionally proud to say I am the Group Scout Leader of such an amazing Group. From laughing at Christmas productions to singing round the campfire: it has been a year of having fun, making friends and achieving new things. There hadn't been very many significant changes this year, well not until the end but more about that later. What has happened this year is we have strengthened our position as a Group and in the way in which we operate to make ourselves more sustainable and more efficient going into the future.

Beavers

The leadership team continues to run a well-structured and organised program and the membership of the Group up until the final part of the year was strong. There have been some brilliant outings. The Beaver report gives a full picture of their year but I am very happy with the Beavers progress this year and congratulate them all.

Cubs

The Cubs have had a superb year, having achieved lots. The leaders have put together a great program of activities and the Cubs have risen to the challenges at every step. The leadership team here remains largely the same as the previous year and will continue to go from strength to strength.

Scouts

The Scout leaders have faced some change this year in terms of personnel and I have been grateful to the adult leaders from all sections who have helped on many occasions to ensure our eldest section still have engaging weekly activities and weekend events that develop them as young people. The Scouts have all achieved a significant amount this year and are as ever a tribute to the Group.

Group Executive Committee

Last year I was full of praise for our Executive Committee, this year is no different. Those who have come on board in the current financial year have added something to this collective and helped us to improve the areas that lie beneath the surface that allow us to run such an effective operation. Those who know me personally will know that due to circumstances outside of Scouting this year has been an exceptionally challenging year for me personally. In many regards this has been totally outside of Scouting purely because of the strength of this Group's adult leaders and Committee members. I am more thankful and more indebted to them than I will ever be able to express and thank them for their year of service. The children will always be our focus and our reason for doing what we do but our Committee are the ones who have enabled us to do it so well.

The look ahead

The end of this year has brought a very real challenge unlike anything we have ever faced, with the outbreak of Coronavirus Scouting ceased meeting face to face and had to find new and innovative ways to continue bringing Scouting to young people. Our leaders have done an amazing job at rising to that challenge and the children have been superb at getting involved in a new style of scouting. There has been a drop in numbers of those taking part in the Zoom meetings and we hope to see those numbers grow again next year. The leadership and executive are in the process of putting in place the policies and procedures to make next year safe for all. There will potentially be a financial impact in the next financial report but Scouting's motto was always "*Be Prepared*" and due to the diligent planning and hard work of our team over the past few years we are well placed to cope with these new pressures.

Well done to all who have been a part of the last year and let's go into the next year looking to be even better.

Yours in Scouting,
Kyle Mortimer
Group Scout Leader (GSL)

Beavers Annual Report 2019/2020

The Beaver section has done very well this year despite Covid-19 causing us to stop face-to-face scouting. We have had one Beaver that has achieved his Bronze Chief Scout Award so a big well done to Alfie Bartlett who has now moved up to Cubs. The Beavers have worked very hard at their badge work and many have achieved their Cyclists' badge, International, Health and Fitness and many more. 113 badges have been achieved by the Beavers this year. Many Beavers have taken part in the virtual camps we have done as a Group and they have all enjoyed them. A few of the Beavers have continued to join our weekly meets via Zoom and this has been very beneficial to them.

I would like to say thank you to Chantelle for being Assistant Leader and helping with the programme. Beth our Young Leader has been very active in the Beaver section and has done some very good programmes for the weekly meets. Candice has also been helping with the programme and the weekly meetings. Without everyone's help it would be impossible to do.

Jonathan Bartlett
Beaver Leader

Cubs Annual Report 2019/2020

Chantelle has been leading the Cub group this year with Shellie, Laura and Dan as Assistants and Kate and Alice as Young Leaders. The Cubs have managed to gain lots of badges over the past year. There has been a varied programme to ensure the Cubs gain the most knowledge to gain as many badges as possible. We have covered International, Emergency Aid, Disability Awareness and taken part in virtual camps and over 100 badges have been gained this year.

Since we have been unable to do face-to-face meets since March we have been holding Zoom meetings to stay connected with the Cubs.

Scout Annual Report 2019/2020

The year started off magnificently with the troop heading off to Jambville, France for the Salvation Army International camp to celebrate 100 years of SA scouting in that country. 24 members of the Group travelled by coach & train alongside with our friends from Chatham stopping en route for a brunch, taking over the ordering for 50 meals at a French service area. When arriving at the campsite, the Chatham Group went to their site and we were greeted by our subcamp leader and our very good friends from Canada, who were patiently waiting for us as we had all their camping equipment. The week was spent camping together, the Scouts sharing tents with the Canadians and being a whole group in all the activities during the week. These included, the traditional campfires, wide games (French style and on the theme of Asterix), a trip to the Asterix Theme Parc and Paris, market day and the most enjoyable of doing campsite service, where we went on the back of a tractor collecting used water pipes from a previous camp during a thunder storm. All who took part thoroughly enjoyed the camp and are looking forward to the Holland International in 2022.

When the Scouts returned in September, it was straight back to camping, taking part at the District Scout Camp. During the Autumn term the Scouts continued with project work and the building of the Christmas tree to be displayed at Tunstall Church.

After Christmas, the Scouts were working on science & astronomy badges and preparing for this year's camp.

Then LOCKDOWN. During this period, like all the sections, we have held regular Zoom meetings (who

had heard of Zoom before) and taken part in the Group activities, of around 10-12 Scouts regularly online.

We have 94 badges to award, some of these are from the Cubs, which hopefully will be handed out soon after we are back to face-to-face scouting.

Thanks to all the Scouts and parents especially those continuing to be part of the troop during this time and hope to see you properly soon.

Gary Chadwick
Scout Leader