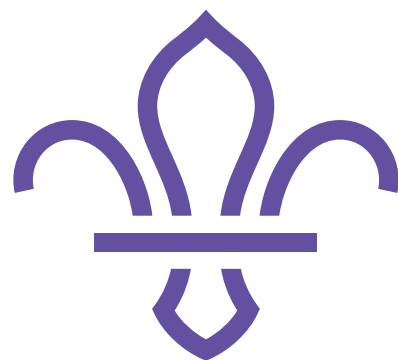


**Scouts**  
Ash Green



**Group AGM**  
Report 2023

**BEAVERS**

**cubs**

**SCOUTS**

**EXPLORERS**





**Ash Green Scout Group – At New Ash Green Youth and Community Centre,  
Ash Rd, Longfield DA3 8JY  
[www.ashgreenscouts.org.uk](http://www.ashgreenscouts.org.uk)**

## **Ash Green Scouts Group AGM 7pm 9 June 2023**

### **Agenda**

**Please note all reports have been made available on the Ash Green Scouts website, a small amount of printed copies are available.**

1. Welcome, apologies and adoption of AGM Minutes 2020
2. Group Scout Leader Report – Peter Lewis
3. Chair's Report – Louise Banks
4. Treasurer Report – Gill Lewis, including Financial Report – Income and Expenditure
5. Revision of the Scout Group Constitution – bringing in new changes from the Scout Association
6. Re-election and nominations for Executive Committee – Secretary, Treasurer etc
7. District Commissioner's Address – Frances Wallace
8. Any other business
9. Presentation of Awards
10. Refreshments and activities

## **Group Lead Volunteer's (formerly Group Scout Leader's) Report for the year ending April 2023**

### **Overview of Group Progress**

The Group has continued to thrive, and all Sections have run reasonably smoothly over the last year. However, as always, we could really do with more volunteers! The new changes in Scouting will make it easier for new volunteers to become involved with Ash Green Scouts and we hope that some parents and supporters will take up that mantle!

As a Group, we continue to be the largest (by membership) of all Groups in the Swanley District. We have a long list of young people waiting to join us and we expect to continue to have a full membership going forward. Our limitation on growth is largely due the lack of available premises/times for any new Sections. That, plus the availability of new Volunteers to run any new Sections, prevents us from expanding further.

Financially, the Group is in a very stable, healthy, position due to the diligence of the Leadership Team and the careful monitoring of our finances by our Treasurer. Please review our published accounts and our Treasurer's report.

### **Changes to Scouting**

Following a long review process, Scouting is undergoing a significant change in the way it is being promoted and seen publicly. The changes from Scouts Headquarters should not significantly change the way Ash Green Scouts operates as at Ash Green we already have the organisation and structure largely in place to accommodate these changes. Nevertheless, there will be some minor 'tweaks' necessary, but these should not directly impact on our Sections and/or young people.

One of the first changes is the renaming of our Group Executive Committee to **Group Trustee Board**. This has been introduced to make the role of the Trustee Board and the role of the Trustees a little clearer to everyone. Additionally, there have been some 'role title changes' – Group Scout Leader has now changed to *Group Lead Volunteer*, and all other uniformed leaders now should be known as *Volunteer Leadership Team Members*.

These changes impacted on the wording in the current Ash Green Scout Group Constitution and that has now been updated. The revised Constitution document will need to be approved at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Group Membership and Annual Census**

- For the Annual Census (2023) we reported 94 young people, which was slightly down on the previous year. However, we still have 58 young people on our Waiting List, of which about 36 will be eligible to join in the 2023/24 financial year – assuming we can find spaces for them all! We paid a total of £5,264 in membership costs for the year.

### **Youth Awards**

- We like to recognise individual progress in the Beaver, Cub and Scout sections and we will be presenting some trophies for the Beaver/Cub/Scout of the Year Award during our AGM. These awards are decided upon by the Section Leader Team and are in recognition of the progress that child has made over the year. That progress is not solely related to badges, but also looks at participation, personal development, individual achievement and overcoming personal difficulties. *Well Done to you all!*
- We also are delighted that former Group Scout leader Emma Jones will be presenting the Emma Jones Award again this year. That award specially recognises one young person across the whole Group who has best met Emma's award criteria. Nominations have been sent to Emma for her consideration.

### **Volunteer Leadership Team and Trustee Board**

- The leader team is currently standing at 22 excluding Young Leaders and Occasional Helpers. Clare Hambleton (Secretary), Gill Lewis (Treasurer) and Louise Banks (Chairperson) have all been awarded the Chief Scouts' Commendation for Good Service and Paul Richardson has gained his wood beads as Timber Troop Section leader – Well done, and well deserved everyone!

### **Safeguarding & Safety**

- There have been no incidences of safeguarding or safety reported throughout the year. The Group maintains a 100% Compliance record and all the Leadership Team are fully up to date with their required training.

### Section Reports

- Section Reports will be available separately.

### Equipment

- We have spent a considerable amount (approx £7,900) on equipment during 2022. Our main expenditure has been on Zorbs, Stainless Steel Camp tables, a S/Steel Gas Griddle and Crossbow equipment. The INDOOR use of Crossbows (under Instructor supervision) has been approved by the Youth Centre. We have also obtained written permission (legally required) from the Village Association (the land owners) to use crossbows at Village events and other specified dates as needed by the Group. Due to the potentially higher injury risk of Crossbows, we have invested in special trauma medical kits for Crossbows/Tomahawks and Archery use, in case an accident should ever occur.
- We also approached the Kent Police Property Fund for a grant and we were successful in receiving £500 towards the cost of 4 'Little Annie' resuscitation dummies which we have now bought. These will be used to train our young people (and others) in CPR.

### Storage of Equipment etc:

- Our local garage storage is fully stocked with equipment. We needed to have the roof re-felted in early 2023.
- We have also acquired (courtesy of Ash Church) some shared storage space at Ash Village Hall. We have purchased a security cage and additional racking for our storage there.

### Charity Registration

- We completed our Charity registration during the last year and we now have the Registered Charity Number 1199314.

Registration does increase our responsibilities towards producing our annual financial accounts and Group Return, which has to be submitted to the Charities Commission within 6 months of our AGM.

### Fund-raising and Community Involvement

- The Group ran a fund-raiser at New Ash Green Co-op in support of the Community Cupboard. We also held a successful 'open house' 'drop-in Café' at the Youth Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> May in support of the **Big Help-Out**.

#### St George's Day Promise Renewal (April 23rd)

- Despite the weather, we had a 'reasonable' number of young people turn out for our annual Promise Renewal and Parade.

#### Coronation of King Charles

- We have provided every child and adult leader with a Commemorative badge which can be worn on uniforms for 12 months.

#### Jamboree on The Trail (JOTT)

- We took part in JOTT on 13<sup>th</sup> May. A Family Hike was well attended by both young people and adults. We hope everyone enjoyed the Hike.

#### Village Day (24<sup>th</sup> June)

- We will be providing Archery and Tomahawk throwing at Village Day this year, so come along and try your hand at these skills!

#### Activities for other Scout Groups

- We have been approached by Everard Scouts in Stone, Dartford with a request to provide Tomahawk/Angel evening for their Scouts. As we have the resources – and the skilled trainers, we are happy to oblige and we will be running a session for them shortly.

### Finally:

Thanks, again, to all the Leaders and supporters (including members of this **Trustee Board** 😊) for the effort and time you put into Scouting in New Ash Green. Your continued support is really appreciated! If there are any parents etc who would like to join our team of Leadership Volunteers please let me (or any other team member) know!

**Peter Lewis, Group Lead Volunteer** (formerly known as Group Scout Leader)

## **Chair's Report - Ash Green Scout Group AGM June 2023**

Another successful year for Ash Green Scouts. My thanks go to all the volunteers on the Trustee Committee, the Group Volunteer Leader (formerly GSL), Assistant Group Lead Volunteer, Treasurer and Secretary. Special thanks to the leader team for their hard work and commitment to provide our young people with exciting activities. We have been able to go on more events and camps this year. We also had the special event for Scouts and Explorers with the Kent International Jamboree, which was an amazing experience for all those able to go.

Running a section takes time, the teams of leaders meet for their various sections to plan the programme of activities, as well as giving up their time for camps and special days out. But their commitment to ensuring your child is able to learn new skills and enjoy adventures is appreciated by me and I'm sure you'll want to say thank you too.

As the old adage says, many hands make light work. If you could give up some time to support your child's section, your help would be welcome. We have some information here today about volunteering, so please ask after the AGM.

As you will read from the Group Lead Volunteer report, we are still going strong, if a little reduced on last year, and continue to have a waiting list to join, we are still the largest group in Swanley District. We have a decent reserve budget and have had to replace the roof on our garage in New Ash Green, and we benefited from some free storage in the Ash Church garage, which helps to find a safe place to store our bigger items.

A number of our volunteer committee, and leader team have received awards and commendations. Again, Peter has outlined these awards in his report, but I am pleased to congratulate all of you.

Village Day was another successful day, with Archery, Tomahawks, Coconut Shy it was a great opportunity for the group to raise its profile as community group and to talk to new people about the benefits of volunteering in the group.

We've also enjoyed group celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III, Jamboree on the Trail, and completed fundraising for the Community Cupboard in the Co-op New Ash Green.

Beavers, cubs and scouts will all be enjoying their various camps this year across local sites, including Horton Kirby and Thriftwood in Essex.

Again, we'll be at Village Day on 24 June 2023, which is at the Pavilion field. We'd welcome your support and encourage your friends and family to come and have a go at Archery and Tomahawks.

We look forward to many more adventures that will challenge and inspire your children.

**Louise Banks – Trustee Committee Chair**

## **Section Reports**

### **Little Foresters**

Currently: 17 Beavers with 4 starters

Beavers have transferred to Forest Cubs

Programme highlights

- We have a weekly newsround and a termly challenge.
- Badgework- Air Activities level1, Safety, Creative, International and many more
- Celebrating the British patron saints, as well as our international scouting family.
- Pioneering With Peter. Photography with Robin. Halloween with Wren
- Archery and Fencing with Friday Akela
- S'mores and Angels with Chip
- Playing games - learning some new ones like Rag Hockey and 'Friends who'
- We have supported and donated to the Community Cupboard. We are planning a visit this summer.
- We have supported and donated to the Community Cupboard. We are planning a visit this summer.
- We have been learning campfire songs and read poetry.
- Making friends! Beetle drive with prizes!
- We had a Crazy Chemists evening.
- Visit from Hartley Owls, we are looking forward to their return in the summer
- 8 Beavers have completed their Chief Scout Bronze Awards

Plans for 2023/24

- To continue working towards badges and the Chief Scout Bronze award
- The Beavers to experience a sleepover.
- To continue to promote self, group, local, national and international identities. In particular, what our promise means to us
- And the Beavers are always keen to play more games and litter pick!

### **Penny O'Reilly – BSL Little Foresters**

### **Little Dambusters**

Little Dambusters currently have 4 leaders. Hawkeye, Malak, Chip and Chatter. Chatter helps out every other week but is always in attendance at our planning meetings so he is up to date with everything related to our colony.

There are currently 18 Beavers showing on our books. 3 have joined us this term and have attended 2 meetings. They are settling in well and have enjoyed their meeting so far. We have one new Beaver due to start with us in May. Two of our Beavers will be linking with Cubs in May and are finishing off their badge work which

will see them achieve their Chief Scout Bronze Award. We have invested 3 new Beavers This year so far.

In January we awarded two of our Beavers with the Chief Scout Bronze Award, we are very proud of all they achieved with us at Beavers.

We have had a busy 2023 so far. The Little Dambusters have enjoyed cooking, such as pizzas and camp doughnuts, practicing our pioneering skills by building catapults and building with marshmallows and spaghetti. We've played favourite games such as hungry hippos, curling and dizzy ball. Our Beavers also worked towards their Navigator badges through games and learning map reading skills.

We were proud to have 8 of our Beavers attend the St Georges Day parade and they did us proud.

In the upcoming term we will be working towards our Adventure Badge, Hike, Experiment, Faith and Cyclist Badges. This will be done through some of the following activities;

- Hikes
- Visiting a place of worship
- Den building
- Climbing
- Trail laying

And much more.

We also have a camp planned for May, with 12 Beavers due to attend. This will be a Spy Camp and we have lots of fun things for the Beavers to do for their night away. This will be held at Horton Kirby.

We look forward to the term ahead.

**Sarah Ann Jacobs – ABSL Little Dambusters**

### **Jungle Pack**

We currently have 24 Cubs in the pack. 4 Cubs are due to move up to Scouts this term, these are very close to completing their CSS and will hopefully have it done before they leave. Our attendance is nearly 100% for most weeks.

We still have a leader team of 3 with a parent helper who is available sometimes. We also have two ex-Cubs doing their DofE with us helping out. We had a busy past few terms with different activities including Cave bus, archery, curling, night hike and fencing. Cubs also cooked their own pancakes and Chinese food. We also worked on a badge we have never done before Astronomy, we did various things like track the International Space Station and created consolations.

We continue to do a mixture of new and traditional Scouting activities such as Fire lighting and backwoods cooking and pioneering. We are also booked to do Rifle

Shooting at Hope Hill and Kayaking at Mote park this term. We also have a Karate session booked this term.

We are happy to return to camping this year after the break due to COVID. We are booked to go to Thriftwood along with Forest pack. We are also hoping to have a sleep over this year, so we and Forest pack have a lot of younger Cubs. We are looking on doing more Camp related activities to get badges signed off, for those who can't come to camp with us this year.

As always, we continue to work very closely with Forest pack sharing activities and events when possible.

### **Mike Banks – CSL Jungle Pack**

#### **Forest Pack**

We currently have 23 Cubs with the usual movements of Cubs to scouts and to pursuing other hobbies offset by newcomers from both Little Foresters and the waiting list.

We have a leader team of 3 regular leaders and continue to have support from parent helpers Kate Lewis and Kevin Bass and Steve Bass, ESL depending on our programme.

The leader team has been proud to have awarded 3 CS Silver during the last year - this is lower than in the previous year due to the age of the Cubs - most Cubs are under 10 years old.

We have good regular weekly attendance, behaviour and attitude with Cubs showing a lot of enthusiasm, dedication to badgework and excellent team working skills.

Our focus continues to be to provide a programme that is youth led - Cubs hold a pack forum at the start of each term to decide what activities they want to do. In the Spring term Cubs tried Drumming, Yoga and visited the Cavebus, worked on Astronomy and Emergency Aid activities in addition to evenings celebrating Chinese New Year, Founders Day, Pancake Day and Mother's Day finishing with a Litter Pick in the Village for the Great British Spring Clean campaign and an Easter Egg Hunt.

This term we will be looking to cover elements of various Activity badges including cooking, camping, pioneering and kayaking activities which will also allow Cubs to work towards Teamwork, Skills and Adventure Challenge badges.

Mike Banks, Jungle Pack Akela and I have scheduled in a pirate themed camp early September at Thriftwood where we will be able to join packs together and have some fun activities planned so hopefully lots for our Cubs to look forward to!

### **Julie Bass - CSL Forest Pack**

## **Timber Troop**

We currently have 10 Scouts and 3 Leaders, 1 of these is just linking from Cubs with a couple more on the waiting list, we had 2 move up to Explorers at the beginning of the term. We have been meeting with Wilderness Troop and have a shared programme, this allows us more flexibility in terms of the programme and leaders available, although we have a keen sense of rivalry and rarely run anything as a whole group,

it's easier to manage the numbers in small groups, most weeks see us run at least 2 simultaneous activities.

Several leaders recently undertook YPS tutor courses to run a crossbow shooting activity, our newest Leader Ryan has done really well and has integrated into Leadership with ease, Our summer camp this year is booked for Thriftwood, we have 21 young people booked to take part in a variety of activities. We also have a survival camp planned for the end of May which seems quite popular, and an expedition camp in October that will have details sent out later on.

We are hopeful that we will have a couple Chief Scouts Gold Awards to be resented by the end of the year, the expedition being the key piece for some. This summer we have lots of fun things planned, we are hoping to get to use the crossbows, some tomahawk throwing, zorb football, watersports, community work, wide games, and a river walk to name a few.

## **Paul Richardson - Timber Troop Leader**

## **Wilderness Troop**

We currently have 18 Scouts and 2 Leaders, 4 of these are just linking from Cubs, only 2 are due to move on this year. We have been meeting with Timber Troop and have a shared programme, this allows us more flexibility in terms of the programme and leaders available, although we have a keen sense of rivalry and rarely run anything as a whole group, it's easier to manage the numbers in small groups, most weeks see us run at least 2 simultaneous activities.

Both leaders recently undertook YPS tutor courses to run a crossbow shooting activity, and one also did archery, adding to our list of skills available for the benefit of our young people.

Our summer camp this year is booked for Thriftwood, we have 21 young people booked to take part in a variety of activities. We also have a survival camp planned for the end of May which seems quite popular, and an expedition camp in October that will have details sent out later on. We are hopeful that we will have at least one Chief Scouts Gold Award to be presented by the end of the year, the expedition being the final piece for some.

This summer we have lots of fun things planned, we are hoping to get to use the crossbows, some tomahawk throwing, zorb football, watersports, community work, wide games, and a river walk to name a few.

## **Helen Richardson SL - Wilderness Troop**

## **Treasurer's Report for AGM 9 June 2023**

The Group's accounts for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March have been prepared and independently scrutinised. They were agreed at our last Trustees Board meeting but now need to be approved at the AGM before they can go off to the Charity Commission.

Although, this year, our expenditure has exceeded our income by £7,145, we are still left with a healthy bank balance of £43,185, of which £20,000 needs to be earmarked for the purchase of a new van when the need arises. While we have such healthy reserves, there is no need to increase our monthly subscriptions of £15 which have remained at this level since September 2017.

The Group's main source of income is from your monthly subscriptions. Another vital source of income is the Gift Aid which we claim back from H.M.R.C. and this amounted to £2,445. If you are the person paying our subscriptions and pay tax, if you haven't already, please consider completing a Gift Aid Form and hand it in to any of our Leaders. For every £1 you pay to us, we can claim back 25p.

Our on-going costs include the hire of the Youth Centre for our weekly meetings, keeping our van on the road, maintaining the fabric and security of our two storage facilities and insurance for our equipment. Additionally, we provide scarves, woggles and badges and also pay for our Volunteer Team Leaders to go on nationally recognised training courses for archery, climbing and crossbows which they all volunteer to do in their own time.

We also needed to pay our annual Scout Membership fee of £56 per head payable to the Scout Association H.Q. and the total bill for this amounted to £5,264 which is another hefty expense for our Group. This Membership fee covers the Group's Public liability Insurance and also personal accident insurance for all our members, as well as Head Office administration.

Fortunately, being in a good financial position we were able to invest nearly £8,000 in equipment this year enabling us to continue to provide new, quality and exciting activities for our Young People.

Last year at Village Day, we raised £428 in our event arena. This year, Village Day is on the 24<sup>th</sup> June and I hope that you can come and support us and enjoy taking part in our archery and tomahawk throwing events.

**Gillian Lewis - Treasurer**

## Statement of Assets & Liabilities for the Year Ending 31st March 2023

	Out £	In £	C/fwd to 23/24
Balance of Gen A/c at 1/4/2022		9,906.03	
Gen A/c Expenditure	40,453.49*		
Gen A/c Income		37,487.00*	
Gen A/c C'Fwd to 2023/24			£6,939.54
Balance of Treasurer A/c at 1/4/2022		733.92	
Treasurers' A/c Income		580.85	
Treasurers A/c Expenditure	959.88		
Treasurers' Cash C'fwd to 2023/24			£354.89
Balance of F/R A/c at 1/4/2022		1,397.83	
F/R A/c Expenditure	1,620.00		
F/R A/c Income		428.05	£205.88
Balance of Savings A/c at 1/4/2022		38,412.60	
Savings A/c Deposits		7,200.00	
Savings A/c Gross Interest received		72.86	
Savings A/c Withdrawals	10,000.00		£35,685.46
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£53,033.37</b>	<b>£ 96,219.14</b>	<b>£43,185.77</b>
Freehold Property (Garage)			£11,500.00
Equipment at estimated insurance value			£35,000.00
Vehicle GF08 YVB			£1,500.00
			<b>£91,185.77</b>

\* Within these amounts are Internal Account Transfers (monies moved between accounts) amounting to a total of £19,120. These transfers artificially inflate the figures shown.

**INCOME (All sources)**

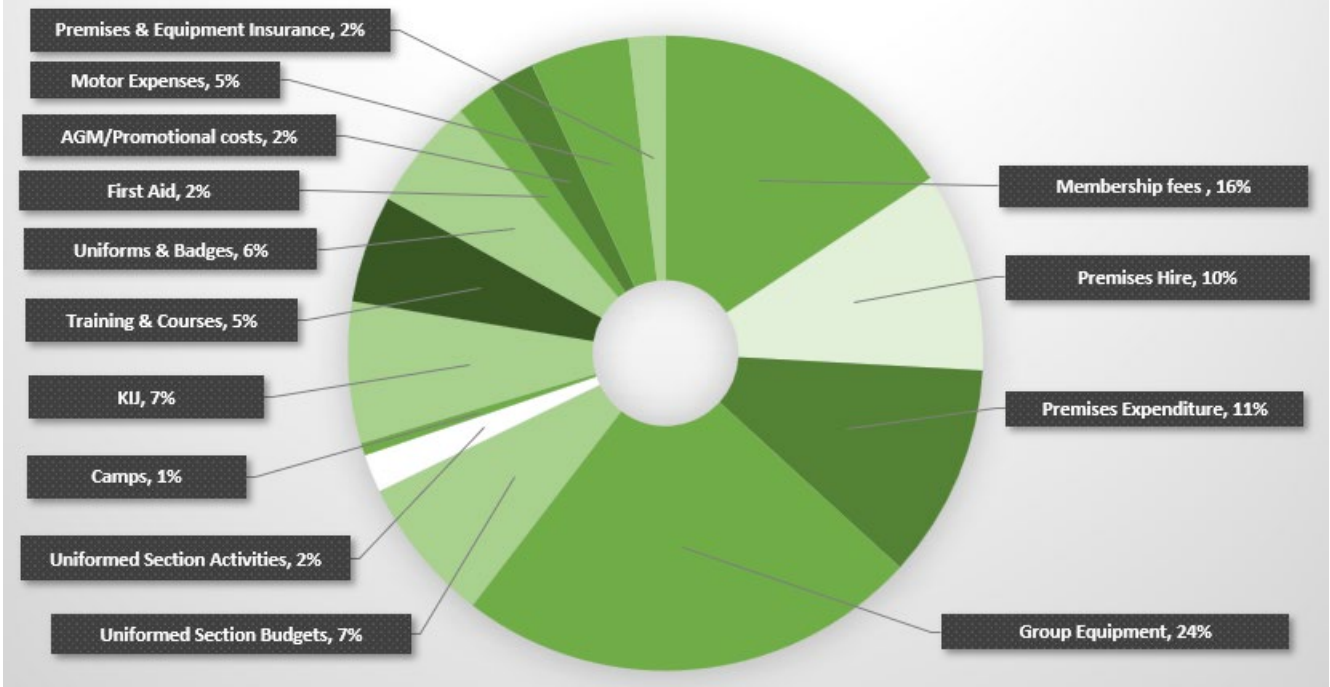
	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
Member Subscriptions	£ 19,052	£ 17,728
Excelsior Explorer fees	£ 215	£ 95
Uniform & Scarves	£ 8	£ 36
Camp receipts	£ 1,183	£ 81
KIJ Camp receipts	£ 2,020	£ 1,990
Fund Raising/Donations	£ 558	£ -
Activities and Group Outings	£ 1,101	£ 584
Charitable Income/Gift Aid etc.	£ 2,445	£ 2,913
Internal A/c Transfers	£ 19,000	£ 8,751
Other Income	£ 114	£ -
Interest (gross) received	£ 73	
	<u>£ 45,768</u>	<u>£ 32,178</u>

**EXPENDITURE (All sources)**

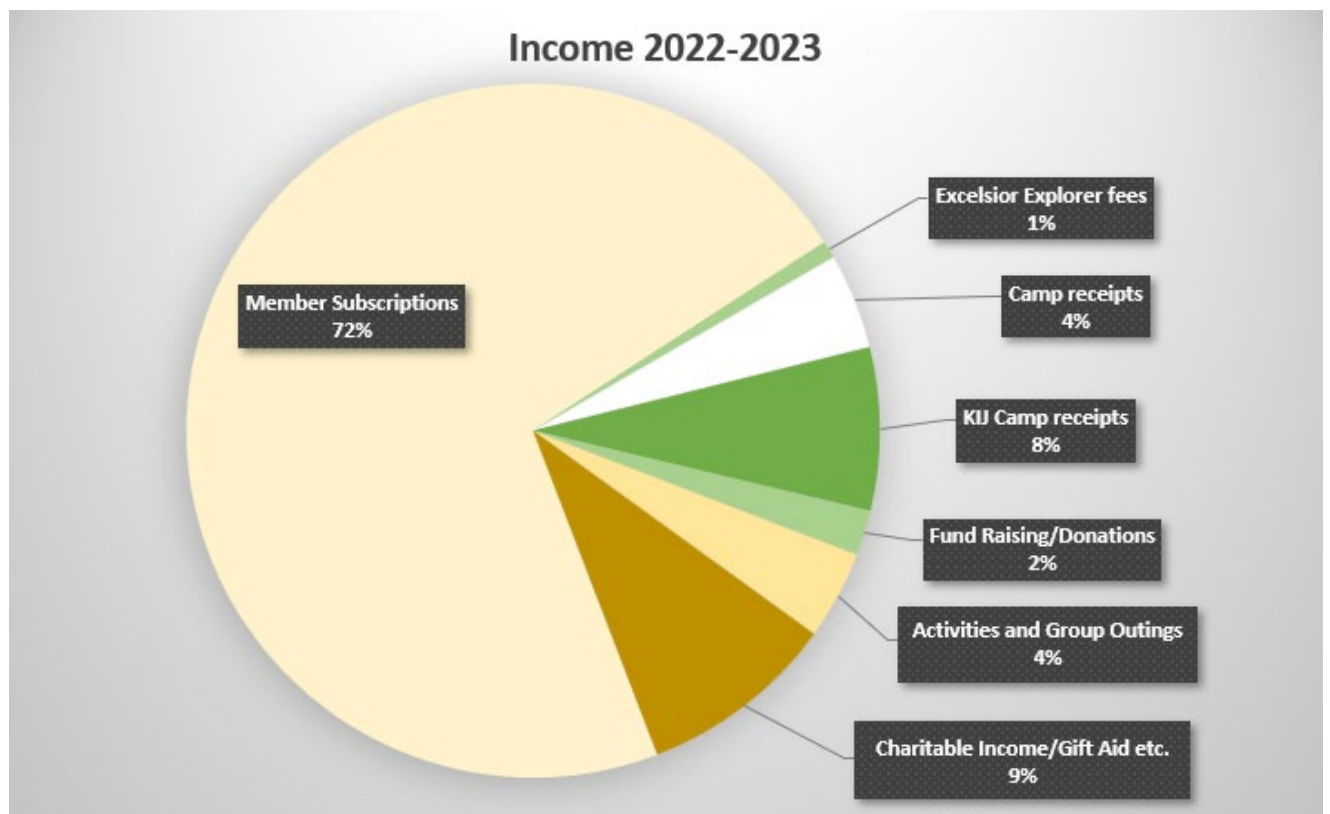
	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
Membership fees	£ 5,264	£ 5,671
Premises Hire	£ 3,401	£ 2,405
Premises Expenditure	£ 3,660	£ 12,350
Group Equipment	£ 7,909	£ 1,809
Group Outings	£ 149	£ 200
Uniformed Section Budgets	£ 2,496	£ 395
Uniformed Section Activities	£ 649	£ 1,060
Camps	£ 213	£ 2,882
KIJ	£ 2,410	£ -
Training & Courses	£ 1,835	£ 454
Uniforms & Badges	£ 1,915	£ 1,591
First Aid Supplies	£ 640	£ 112
Stationery	£ 91	£ 152
OSM, Web	£ 50	£ 56
AGM/Promotional costs	£ 799	£ -
Miscellaneous expenses	£ 47	£ 288
Motor Expenses	£ 1,685	£ 1,290
Premises & Equipment Insurance	£ 625	£ 540
Subs refunds	£ 75	£ 58
	<u>£ 33,913</u>	<u>£ 31,313</u>
Internal Accounting Transfers	£ 19,120	£ 7,200
Less Total Expenditure	<u>£ 53,033</u>	<u>£ 38,513</u>
Surplus for year	<b>-£ 7,265</b>	<b>-£ 6,335</b>

Pie chart representation of Income and Expenditure (All accounts) for the year 2022/2023

General A/c Expenditure 2022-23



Income 2022-2023



# Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of the Ash Green Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

## Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility, without carrying out an audit or independent examination, to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

## Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts summary as set out on the attached documents.

## Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.

Signed: E. Seab

Address: 173 Knights Craft

New Ash Green

DA3 8HZ

Date: 12.4.23.

