

Scouts



6th Christchurch
(Bransgore)

Annual Report 2021

GROUP CONSTITUTION

The 6th Christchurch Scout Group (Bransgore) exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. The Group achieves this by following guidance found within the Scout Association Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR).

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/>

GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT 2021

Following the disruption in 2020 from the covid pandemic and having just got the group back up and running, 2021 started with a resurgence of infections and all Scouting was once again put on hold for the first term. We were able to restart at the end of April and with all the risk assessments, PPE and processes already established from 2020 all sections restarted with a full programme of meetings.

Unfortunately, many of the District events and camps were cancelled due to the covid disruption, general uncertainty and lack of time to organise them so the group did very limited off-site camps or activities.

Leaders have put in a huge amount of effort to make up for some of the lost Scouting and to fill in some badge work and Scouting skills that had been missed with the lockdowns. We recruited some new section assistants and although we said goodbye to a Beaver and a Cubs SA, we have kept their support to group in other roles. We have a full set of Young Leaders across the sections and hope that some will stay on as leaders when they reach 18.

We have maintained a strong and proactive Executive Committee as well as parent supporters who have supported the site development project in Anne's Lodge. With restrictions having been reduced the Bransgore Beer festival was able to run and this saw a return to our regular fund raising: The committee and parents delivered two days of steak wraps at the event and we then supported the Christchurch Runners Xmas 10k running event in December.

Braggers Explorers have returned following the pandemic and loss of the Leaders team. Danny Short (DESC) has restarted the group at our site on Wednesday evenings with a varied programme including cooking, pioneering and fires on-site and some off-site activities already completed.

If I look back at last year, then getting the sections all back up and running was a great achievement by all involved after such a turbulent year in 2020 and the return of covid in the winter. However, the major success from the year has to be the transformation of Ann's Lodge and the huge increase in interest for hiring both halls by other organisations and clubs. During the year we received some additional government funding as a result of the pandemic and Mike Manley and Dave Tickner (Warden for Braggers Wood) with a team of supporters re-insulated the entire hall, fitted a new kitchen, shower, toilets and upgraded the electrics, heating, lighting and fire exits to meet modern standards. Almost all of the work has been carried out voluntarily and we hope that this will be signed off by the building inspector in the near future.

I would like to give a huge thanks to everyone involved in the group last year as we have seen the sections restart and make up for lost time and the site facilities upgraded to support the scouting and local community for many years to come. It's fantastic to see what volunteers can achieve.

Mark Linney, Group Scout Leader

SCOUTS REPORT

And we're back.... The end of April 2021 finally saw the return of face-to-face Scouting as coronavirus restrictions slowly began to ease. It was an awkward start with lots of restrictions still in place, such as social distancing and wearing face masks etc, but the Scouts all handled it well. For the leaders, the break of over a year in face-to-face meetings created a lot of challenges. Many of the older Scouts with skills either aged out during the break or decided not to return. The remaining Scouts had missed many months of Scouting due to the pandemic. This meant that the core skills that they would have learnt from their older peers during activities had not happened. So, we found ourselves in a unique situation with many of the Scouts having less in the way of core skills. This combined with a large influx of new Scouts coming up from cubs, has meant a large troop of predominantly younger Scouts with limited skills.

2021 was an interesting time in relation to the leadership for all Scouting sections at Bransgore. When I first started as an assistant Beaver leader, there were 3 of us in Beavers, 5 leaders in Cubs and 5 leaders in Scouts. The old adage that many hands make light work was definitely true, and because of that being a leader was really enjoyable. Since then, leaders who had served for many years, and in some cases decades, stepped down, or moved to district roles within Scouting. Post covid, all sections have struggled for leaders. For Scouts we were down to Robin Thorpe, Kat Angel (who could not attend most weeks due to education) and myself. This was challenging as for many weeks it was just me and Robin. I felt meetings were frenetic and maintaining order whilst running activities was a major challenge. I was close to giving up and discussed this with Amy Kefford (ADC for Scouts). Amy agreed to start helping every week. I would like to say a massive thank you to Amy for her continued mentoring and support. The Scout leadership team has thankfully been bolstered recently by Claire Gyles and Brett Troye who have joined us as section assistants. The difference that the extra hands make to how a meeting runs is massive, I am a lot happier with how the immediate future of the Scout troop looks. I would like to personally thank Claire and Brett for stepping into the team and helping regularly, but also to both Robin and Kat, who continue to be my right hand in the organisation and running of everything. It's a real team effort, and I am hugely grateful to you all!

During the year we have tried to focus on many of the core skills, so there has been some map reading, knots, first aid, axes and knives etc, but we have also done lots of other great activities, including: making bat and bird boxes, rifle shooting and pumpkin carving where there were some really creative pumpkins produced! We managed to do a summer camp at Butchers Coppice, which was amazing fun! Due to covid, some of the Scouts had not even camped before, but all coped well and had a fabulous time, and found it hilarious when I fell asleep in a chair one afternoon between activities! Another great time was just before the summer holidays: we had an end of (school) year blow out where we went to the New Forest Water Park. Unfortunately, half the troop missed out with mandatory isolation, so we ran two weeks in a row so that everyone had a chance to go. This was superb fun! All the Scouts had a blast, and I got to be a big kid, which is half the reason I love being a leader! :-D

Once again, I would like to say a massive and very heart felt thank you to our Scout leadership team and to everyone who supports Scouting, as we really could not give the Scouts the opportunities and experiences without you all. Hopefully 2022 will get better and better as covid restrictions continue to ease and life returns to normal.

Phil Reeves, Scout Leader

CUBS REPORT 2021

As with all the sections Cubs activities were suspended throughout the first quarter due to the covid pandemic and a lockdown. Cubs restarted in April 2021. With the support of the Leaders, Young Leaders, GSL and some parents a full programme was delivered for the rest of the year. The meetings contained the regular badge activities as well as a successful bike ride in the forest with a great turn out of Cubs and parents. We also visited Christchurch as part of the local knowledge badge, did some new pioneering games, fire safety with some campfire cooking and many new and old favourite games. The pack maintained around 16 Cubs on average but the break due to Covid meant that we needed to work with many of the Cubs to catch up on the usual Scouting skills each meeting.

A combined Scout and Cub summer camp was run in August at Butchers Coppice. Good attendance with 21 YP altogether and a great opportunity for the Cubs to join the Scouts and get to know the Scout leaders before some of them moved up. We still had a lower than ideal number of adult leaders but the Young Leaders did a great job to keep the meetings going and supported the planning, Risk Assessments and running the games in particular each meeting.

Thanks again to all involved in keeping this section going through such turbulent times. And a big thank you to one of our section assistants who finished at the end of the year only to go on to support the Scout section.

Cubs Leadership Team

BEAVERS REPORT 2021

It was another strange year due to the pandemic. We were unable to restart our face-to-face meetings until after Easter but managed to get out and about welcomed lots of new Beavers. We worked hard on several badges that we had missed out on. We had a visit from one of our ex-scouts, who helped us with our Disability badge by showing us her wheel chair and gain an understanding of how she lived with her disability on a daily basis – thank you Bethany.

We managed to go pond dipping in summer and didn't get too wet! In our Autumn term, we had visitors come in and help us with our help and fitness badge. Thanks to Rob (Gym Tin) and Claire (Lymington Yoga) for showing us different ways of exercising and keeping fit. We also held our first Beaver Bistro for our families to attend, as part of our Christmas party.

I would like to thank Kittiwake (Kathryn) our Colony Assistant who has now moved up to cubs, for all the brilliant work she did with us. I would like to welcome our new Colony Assistants, Nuthatch (Gemma) and Ostrich (Paul), says thanks to our young leaders, Penguin (Toby), Finch (Jude), and Flamingo (Amber). These people are invaluable help every week and help the Colony to run smoothly. Finally, a big thank you to all the parents who have stepped up to help at our meetings. It is great to get to know people, and for the parents share the meetings with their child.

Vicky (Puffin), Beaver Leader

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Leader Support

Mark Linney	Group Scout Leader
Helen Williams	Membership Secretary

Beavers

Vicky Stimpson	Beaver Leader
Gemma Nurdin	Section Assistant
Paul Wilson	Section Assistant
Toby Hancock	Young Leader
Amber Stimpson	Young Leader
Jude Thorpe	Young Leader

Cubs

Ben Linford	Assistant Cub Leader
Matt Gregson	Section Assistant
Ian Chapman	Section Assistant
Warwick Stimpson	Young Leader
Harry Williams	Young Leader

Scouts

Phil Reeves	Scout Leader
Robin Thorpe	Assistant Leader
Katherine Angel	Assistant Leader
Claire Gyles	Section Assistant
Brett Troye	Section Assistant

COMMITTEE TEAM

Committee

Marc Stimpson	Group Chairman
Kevin Dawson	Group Treasurer and archery and rifle permits Secretary
Jim Hanford	Committee member
Simon Williams	Committee member
Donna Reeves	Committee member
Jo Donaldson	Committee member
Mike Manley	Committee member
Claire Gyles	Committee member
Alun John	Committee member
Damian Wynn-Hughes	Committee member
Suzi Troye	Committee member

Committee support

Lord Willie Manners	Honorary President
John Malins	Auditor
Amanda Linford	Hall Bookings Secretary

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well, that was a very strange year!!! The rules seemed to change daily. The group was allowed to open sometimes, but not at others. Indoors some weeks, outdoors at others. Masks worn, no masks. I truly admire the way the Leaders and the young people coped with such difficult changing circumstances. Though it has been amazing to start the journey back to normal, we are not quite there. Hopefully 2022 will be the year we get back on track and start to grow the group again.

It hasn't been all bad news though. The lock down at the beginning of the year meant that two amazing people with a bit of time on their hands came forward and started to rebuild Ann's Lodge for us. We had had planning permission for nearly three years and had been looking at ways to renovate the hut for a few years before that. However, the work seemed too much to achieve and too expensive. Ann's Lodge was the old Boys Brigade hut that we inherited in 2004 and had not had much work done on it since. The building was so run down that it would either have needed to be pulled down or rebuilt and the decision was made to save it. Mike Manley and Dave Tickner came in and saved the day. They didn't do it by themselves, but they were the driving force behind the transformation. Ann's Lodge is not quite finished, but it is now an amazing new space that can be utilised by everyone. It has been turned into a modern building fit for the 21st century, which will be an asset for the group and the wider community for years to come. We did have to pay for some tradespeople to come in and for materials, but without all the volunteers that have helped on the project the transformation would not have taken place. There are too many people to mention here, but they know who they are, and I would like to express the gratitude of the whole group to them.

Ann's Lodge wasn't the only Hall to get a makeover last year. We also made several repairs and redecorated the main hall in HQ. It is looking very smart, and we hope to replace the carpet as soon as finances allow.



Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all the Leaders and Committee for their help and support over the last year, and, of course, I must thank our landlord and Honorary President Lord Manners for his continued support of the group.

Marc Stimpson, Group Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

From a finance perspective 2021 was a 'mixed bag'; receiving further Business Support Grants from NFDC, reinstating the collection subscriptions for members and a return to some fundraising at the Bransgore Beer Festival. However, by far the most notable item in the accounts is paying for the refurbishment of Ann's Lodge. This has progressed well to the point where the hall can be used again, including by some new groups, but there is still more to be done (which requires more fundraising to complete).

Last year's report mentioned a couple of items that would affect the finances during 2021, but that did not happen to the extent forecast:

- 1) The Capitation fee in 2021 increased by £6.50 per young person, and not by the projected £8.
- 2) A drop in membership numbers meant the level of capitation paid by the Group was about the same as in 2020.
- 3) The amount of gift aid was down to £787, less than 30% of the amount for previous years.
- 4) The level of subscriptions by the end of 2021 is similar to that pre-COVID
- 5) The level of income from hall hires has increased by nearly 50% over pre-COVID years

The financial position of the Group worsened during 2021 with a deficit of **£34,637** of payments over receipts leaving a closing balance of **£18,195**.

My thanks to John Malins, who again conducted the independent examination of the accounts with few comments.

Looking forward to 2022, we have already received some good news to start the year:

- 1) One of our fundraising events, the Village Fun Day where we sell tea, coffee and cake, makes a welcome return on the early May bank holiday
- 2) Christchurch District have announced that they have set their portion of the Capitation fee to £0 and have also agreed to pay the County portion (£8.50 per young person) of the fee, too. This will save the Group around £1,000 this year.

Kevin Dawson, Group Treasurer

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT SUMMARY

For the year ended 31st December 2021

	This Year	2020
	£	£
Total receipts for the year	25,859	17,117
Total payments for the year	(60,496)	(5,652)
Net receipts / (payments) for the year	(34,637)	11,465
Cash, Bank and similar funds brought forward	52,832	41,367
Cash, Bank and similar funds carried forward	18,195	52,832

The above account and accompanying statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 12th January 2022, and signed on their behalf by

M Stimpson – Group Chairman

K Dawson – Group Treasurer

RESERVES POLICY

The Group's policy on reserves is:

- 1) To hold sufficient funds as contingencies to enable the Group to operate normally in the event of any unanticipated loss of income or increased expenditure, and
- 2) To maintain a specific building fund to cover future liabilities associated with the premises of the group

At the 31st December 2021 the general reserves of the Group amounted to **£18,195**. This figure includes a security fund of £5,000.

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

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

The accounts have been drawn up on the receipts and payments basis, which is consistent with the previous year.

Approved by the Trustees on 12th January 2022 and signed on their behalf by

M Stimpson – Group Chairman

RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	This Year	2020
	£	£
MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS	5,627	3,605
Less Capitation	3,668	3,763
	<u>1,959</u>	<u>(158)</u>
 INVESTMENT INCOME RECEIVED		
Bank Interest	0	0
Building Society Interest	18	136
	<u>18</u>	<u>136</u>
 DONATIONS / GRANTS		
Use of Halls	2,825	1,088
Other	17,825	12,834
	<u>20,650</u>	<u>13,922</u>
 ACTIVITIES		
Camp Fees	495	605
Outings	158	11
	<u>653</u>	<u>616</u>
 FUND RAISING (Gross)		
Bransgore Fun Day	0	0
Tent and Marquee Hire	50	0
Beer Festival	1,721	0
Sundries	0	118
	<u>1,771</u>	<u>118</u>
 OTHER INCOME		
Uniform	23	0
Income tax Recovered	787	2,483
	<u>810</u>	<u>2,483</u>
 SUNDRY RECEIPTS		
Badge Receipts	0	1
 ASSET AND INVESTMENT SALES	0	0
 TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR	<u>25,859</u>	<u>17,117</u>

PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	This Year	2020
	£	£
PREMISES		
Ground Rent	50	50
Water Rates	507	323
Light and Heat	868	774
Insurance	2,501	2,497
Internet	0	10
Maintenance	805	25
Caretaker Fees and Key Cutting	538	282
Improvements	0	0
	5,270	3,961
ACTIVITIES		
Camp Costs and Food	1,237	300
Outings, Entry Fees and Sundries	1,547	261
	2,784	561
FUND RAISING EXPENSES		
Bransgore Fun Day	0	0
Tent and Marquee Hire	0	96
Beer Festival	494	0
Sundries	126	0
	620	96
DONATIONS / GRANTS	1,000	0
ADMIN / ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES		
Stationery	0	0
OTHER EXPENSES		
AGM	0	0
Admin charges	275	205
Thankyou/Gifts	97	34
Uniforms	0	0
Training	0	0
Sundries	672	349
	1,044	588
PURCHASE OF BADGES, NECKERS AND HANDBOOKS	792	446
SUB-TOTAL	11,511	5,652
PURCHASE OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	1,217	0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE: ANN'S LODGE	47,769	0
TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	60,496	5,652

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	This Year	2020
	£	£
MONETARY ASSETS		
Bank Current Accounts	18,001	52,596
Cash in Hand	194	236
	<u>18,195</u>	<u>52,832</u>
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS		
Tax Claim for Year Ending (Estimate)	1,200	700
Debts due to Group / District	0	0
	<u>1,200</u>	<u>700</u>
INVESTMENT ASSETS		
Government stocks at market value	0	0
Other quoted securities at market value	0	0
Other investments	0	0
Property held for investment purposes	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
NON-MONETARY ASSETS (Assets for Charity's own use)		
Badge Secretary's Stock	200	200
Group / District Shop Stock	0	0
Land and Buildings	380,000	350,000
Scouting Equipment, Furniture, etc.	35,000	35,000
	<u>415,200</u>	<u>385,200</u>
LIABILITIES (Payable after more than one year)		
Loan	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND FUTURE OBLIGATIONS		
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the Trustees of the 6th Christchurch (Bransgore) Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the Group for the year ended 31st December, 2021 which are set out on the previous pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Group's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required this year (under Section 32(2) of the Charities act 1993 (the 1993 act)) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under Section 43 (3) (a) of the 1993 Act);
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 43 (7) (b) of the 1993 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Group and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: _____

Name: J Malins
Qualification: Chartered Management Accountant (A.C.M.A.)
Address: 205 Salisbury Road, Burton, Christchurch, Dorset. BH23 7JT
Date: 1 April 2022

QUORUM FOR MEETINGS

The quorum for meetings of the Bransgore Scout Group is as follows:

(a) Group Scout Council – 10

(Two of whom must be the Group Scout Leader, Chair, or member of the Executive Committee)

(b) Executive Committee – 5

(Two of whom must be the Group Scout Leader, Chair, Secretary or Treasurer)

(c) Sub-Committees of the Executive - A third of the membership of the sub-committee

(no less than 3)

Decisions are made by a majority of votes cast by those present at the meeting. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast on either side the chairman does not have a casting vote and the matter is taken not to have been carried.