

365 DAYS OF ADVENTURE. HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED...

12th Wallasey Scout Group
Annual Report 2014



Group Annual Report & Financial Statement 2013/14

A year to be proud of

Change, Challenge and Growth have continued to be the theme set by the Scout Association, with some specifics thrown in... so let's report firstly on what we've done well!

Scouting at the 12th has...

Proven to be somewhat successful, given we're at bursting point with young members, and have waiting lists for each section!

Had a positive impact on our local, national and international community, with examples being the work and commitment of all those who made it possible by providing jumble to sell, to manning the event and the administration behind the 12th contributing yet again to Shelterbox® and helping the people of the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan.

Been very much shaped by the Young Members as their voices are heard, and especially our older members who are encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas about what we can do to give them the best possible everyday adventures.

We hope we're making progress towards all of our young members at the 12th feeling:

- Empowered
- Valued
- Proud

And we know we can't stop working to ensure each and every member of the group feels this way!

Where we need to do better...

- Continue being more open, accessible and accountable.
- Grow our Leadership Team & Adults members!
- Operate more digitally
- Tighter Administration

So what for the Year Ahead?

Here's just some of what we have to look forward to over the next 12 months:

- **Chamboree 2014 (Scouts)**
- **Remembrance Sleepover (All)**
- **Night Hike (Scouts)**
- **Family Camp or Big Adventure**
- **Wallasey District Camp (All)**
- **Monday Nights (Of Course)**

i.Scout...
WHY DON'T YOU?

**Want to join the
adventure?**

**Think you need special skills...
...think again!**

You could simply help occasionally, or help with anything you have an interest in, or, join the adventure and have fun training to have even more fun!

All of the team delivering the Groups Scouting are volunteers and do it because it's not all hard work; there is a lot of fun to be had!

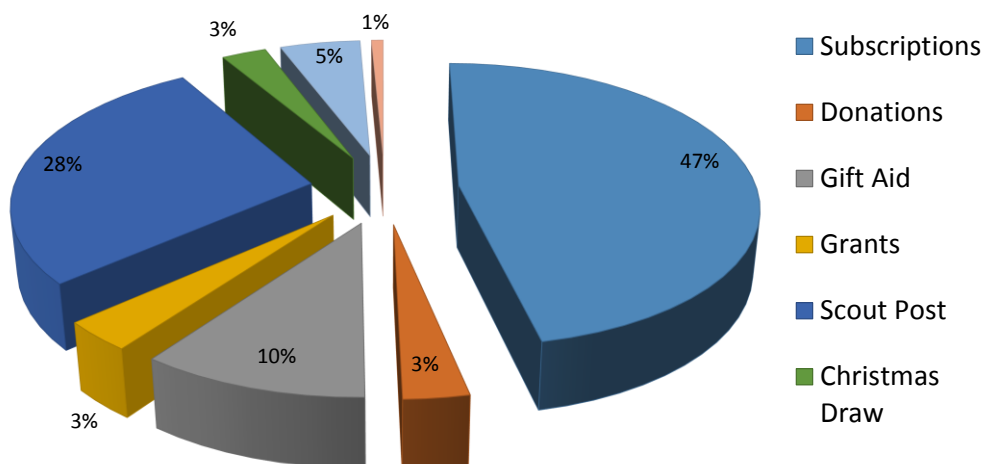
**Missing out on the fun?
Enjoy a little adventure?
Want to Make a Difference?
Can you help Make it Happen?**

Speak to Hawkeye!

Treasurers Report

Group Income 2013/14

TOTAL £14,804.67



Balance at year end
£278.08

Group's financial position year end:

Current Account
£8,991.20

Deposit Account
£871.01

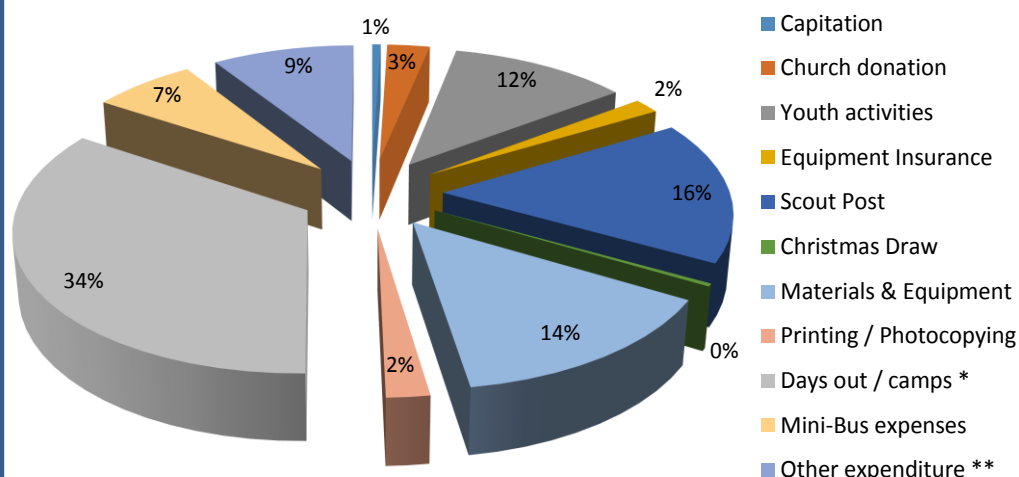
Scout Association Investment
£1,068.73

* This includes the camp fees of this summer's Chamboree. Payments for this camp will be included in next year's accounts.

** This includes numerous expenses including group neckers, Gaming License, Web Hosting. Additionally includes the losses the group suffered when a leader's house was burgled and the cash subscriptions money boxes were taken.

Group Expenditure 2013/14

TOTAL £14,526.59



The above details the Group's income and expenditure, although a full Financial Report for the tax year 2013/14 is available for anybody wishing to see it.

You will see the Group just about managed to operate within budget for the year, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. But the contrast to our previous year is the level of fundraising activities undertaken. And before we get too excited about the Group's end of year capital, it is useful to know the capitation payment made to district of £3240.00 did not clear until after the year end date. Additionally, the group received an insurance payout of £1850 for the old mini-bus, but has recently invested in a new bus, costing just under £4000.

Whilst other Groups in the District have increased their membership subscriptions, in some cases to £15 per month, to account for the ever rising costs of everything we do, I am confident we don't need to do that for the foreseeable future. However this will greatly be dependent on everybody taking an active role with fundraising over the coming year to ensure we can continue to support each section, and do what many other groups don't, and that is subsidise our days out and camps.

Steve Winter – Group Treasurer



It has been quite a busy year for the scouts as they have all been working towards the challenge awards, which are required to gain the Chief Scout Gold Award. Not all will achieve it, we know, as it is the highest award available to scouts, requiring active participation in virtually everything we do, as well as needing them to complete some parts of the challenge in their own time. We hope that every Scout aspires to leave for Explorers with their Chief Scout Gold Award, and having such a young section, with some years before many will move up, we will provide them with every opportunity to achieve this.

Whilst there has not been the number of camps as in previous years, this was planned due to the cost of Chamboree, which 12 of the Scouts will attend in August. Although, they have all had the opportunity to attend Wild West Camp, Summer Camp, November Sleepover and the May bank holiday Weekend Camp, with a few older scouts going to the Old School Lodge.

For the first time we challenged the Scouts to climb Moel Famau as part of a three hike challenge, the second hike was the 15 mile Wirral Coastal Walk, which was certainly gruelling for some, and the final hike is in the planning, and will be a through-the-night hike where we will challenge the Scouts to walk the length of the Wirral Way to catch the first train home in the morning from West Kirby. Our prospects of Snowden are on hold, but not forgotten, as we need to make sure every member has the strength and stamina to scale such a challenging mountain hike.

For the first time in decades we have had to close membership of the section, this is as a result of the strength of the whole group, as we need to ensure that there are spaces in the troop available for all those who leave cubs. Of which there will be 8 joining us in September.

We hope that every Scout in the troop continues to develop and work hard, whilst having the most amount of fun possible. And, we know that each and every one of them has the skills and ability to achieve their Chief Scout Gold Award... something they can put on a CV, and be proud of achieving... We're a little way off with the troop given their age range, so here's to their next twelve months of aspirations and adventures.



Steve Winter – Acting Scout Leader

Want to join the adventure?

Adults in Scouting have just as much fun as the children and there is a host of other benefits to being a volunteer in Scouting!

It looks great on a CV

And, can even provide training in areas that help with getting work or promotions!

What are you waiting for?



A Year in the Cub Pack.

Well the cubs have been busy this past year taking part in our own District Camp where the cubs all became Wild West Hero's for the weekend, some even managing to stay on the Bucking Bronco.

Then it was off to see Farmer Andrew at Claremont Farm, sad to say that we never got any strawberries as it had been too wet, but we did get some Rhubarb... and there were a few sour faces pulled including the leaders, but the Asparagus was lovely.

We've also been down to the beach for our annual sandcastle competition, and I don't know who likes it more, the Cubs or their parents, but a good time was had by all. Then all of a sudden cubs had finished for the summer, but we did have our summer camp to look forward to, and what a time we all had, but I think the water fight was the highlight of our few days away.

September saw 6 Cubs move up to Scouts, but no rest, as we then we said hello to 6 new Beavers. The cubs have gained a few badges this year, including our Home Help, where we had some of our mums in to assist, helping the cubs sew on badges (which was a task in itself). We also had a bit of Brass Rubbing session, thanks to Tic Tac for her brasses; oh and for the new Disability Awareness badge the cubs had to write with their feet, which some found very hard, and we also had two Guide Dogs for the Blind, which were loved by all. I must thank Sarah Letten for teaching us all the Rainbow song in sign.

Well here's to our next year, where we will be doing our Community Challenge in September, with hopefully a trip to the Orthodox Church in Rake lane. But first I must thank all my leaders - Steve, Sue and young leaders Alex and Lauren and my mum helpers Carla, Nicki, Sarah, Cathy and Sarah, who without your support I would not be able to give the cubs all the opportunities that I have given them this year.

Akela





The Beaver section has been pretty full all year, with 22 members most weeks, and a nice long waiting list for September! The Beaver Team could not possibly function without each of the adult members, including Debbie (Tic-Tac) and Kathryn (Keeo), and not to mention the pleasure we have to introduce our newest adult member Lezleigh (Rainbow), and our new Young Leader Abby. Much of what we do could not happen without the help and support by many of our parents too, so a big thanks to Kathy, Mark, Carla and more.... Thank you all!!!!

Beavers were out in force at our Summer Camp, at Linnet Clough, where they got to enjoy a variety of adventures, including Archery, Boulderling, Treasure Hunting, The Beaver Trail and all important Water Fight!!! Oh, and the sing song around the campfire too, as well as joining in team games with the Cubs and Scouts. For some of our Beavers, this was their first time camping, and guess what, they came back for more! Great fun was had by all!

We've been doing lots of other stuff too, like Crafts, and experiment and science awards with Tic-Tac; Healthy Eating and Health and Fitness. We also enjoyed our annual torch walk in the Park, and hide and seek really is fun with fluorescent jackets on – they still haven't figured out how we know where they are?

Our November Remembrance Sleepover took us on an Adventure to Under Water Street, with a trip over on the Ferry; we've taken part in the District Bowling competition and District Day out which was diverted last minute to the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester... but our highlights have to be our Strawberry tasting at Claremont Farm, and seeing 14 Beavers at WingDing trying out every activity possible, from crawling through mud to water zorbing! All with the smiles on their faces and worth every minute of the effort put in by the team!

Some special achievements have been gained too, especially all those Beavers who braved the headwind and rain to complete the Wirral Coastal Walk.

I have lots of people to thank for all they do for the Group, but my special thanks goes to Tic-Tac, Keeo and Rainbow for making the section as great as it is, Lauren and Lucy too, without them we simply could not have the numbers that we have enjoying Beavers!

Sunshine



A Message from the Chairman and Group Scout Leader

Quite a busy and challenging, but exceptionally successful year for all sections of the Group, and recognition of our efforts were realised again by our receiving 3rd Place District Commissioners Trophy. Well done everybody!

Growth continues to feature on the requests from County and the District, and ours was slight this year, seeing only a 2.8% increase in members. However, we're full... all three sections are bursting at the seams. But we do need to grow our numbers with Leaders, Assistants, Helpers and the Group Executive Committee. This being one of our challenges for the year ahead.

As the treasurers report points out, the Group has maintained the same subscription charge for the last four years, and we will continue to hold it at the current rate, where other groups have increased theirs to £15 per month to cover the cost of scouting. The running costs of scouting are a challenge, and you will see almost every penny coming in goes to cover the cost of providing the everyday adventures for your children. We want to maintain our low subscriptions, not to mention the subsidising of activities to make scouting affordable for all. We can only do this with your support, and we thank everybody for their time, effort and support with the annual Scout Post, as well as the fundraising achieved through sponsorship. But we can do more, and will be organising other fundraising activities, so that with your help, together, we can make a difference.

In addition to the Section Leaders, and Executive team members, who know who they are, thanks also have to go to every parent who has joined in with helping us throughout the year! We hope you've enjoyed your adventures, and if they've been few and you want more, don't hesitate to ask to join in next time, and every time!

Special thanks do however need to go to Steve, as he has continued as acting Scout Leader for another year, in addition to his supporting Cubs and performing the Group Treasurer role - we are indebted to him for this, as too the Scouts and the Group as a whole!

Just a reminder too, we're all volunteers in this, and don't get paid for what we do, so I do believe we are exceptionally lucky to have the incredible team of people delivering Scouting week in and week out for the benefits of all of the young people we have enrolled as members in the largest Youth Movement in the world – those members are your children!

And so in resounding last year's round up, to our team and all of the parents who make a valuable contribution to the success of our Group, we give considerable thanks for all of your efforts over this last year; it truly has been something quite extraordinary!

Here's to the year ahead!

Yours in Scouting

Group Scout Leader – Andy Pickersgill & Group Chairman – Mark Furlong

Keep up to date with what's going on...



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**12th Wallasey
Scout Group
Making it
happen...**

