



THIS IS

1st CUFFLEY

SCOUT GROUP

2015 – 2016

Registered Charity Number 302555

GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and LEADERS
As at 31 March 2016

Chairman	David Holt
Secretary	Christine Parker
Treasurer	Elizabeth Ward
Group Scout Leader (GSL)	Maureen Ward
Assistant Group Scout Leader (AGSL)	Diane Cracknell
Explorer Scout Leader (ExpSL)	Paul Kaye
Scout Leader (SL)	Steve Rowsell
Cub Scout Leader (CSL)	Jean Holt
Beaver Scout Leader (BSL)	David Gill
Scout Active Support Manager	Peter Cracknell
Committee Members	Denise Young
	Tony Mayo
	Lynn Samuelson
	Lisa Toye
	Sarah Payne

Honorary Scouters

Ken Stroud
John Parkes

We invite you to attend
1st CUFFLEY SCOUT GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
to be held on
Sunday 11th September 2016 at 1st Cuffley Scout Group HQ at 2.30 pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM held September 2015
3. Reports (circulated)
4. Adoption of the Accounts (circulated)
5. Election of the Executive Committee:-
 - Approve the Group Scout Leader's nomination of the Group Chairman
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Section Leaders' Confirmations:
(Paul Kaye ExpSL, Steve Rowsell SL, Jean Holt CSL, David Gill BSL)
 - Existing Committee members available for re-election
(Denise Young, Tony Mayo, Lynn Samuelson, Peter Cracknell)
 - Elect any new members and approve any nominated members
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Any Other Business.

The following are entitled to vote at the meeting:-

Leaders, Recognised Supporters, and the Parents or Guardians of Explorer Scouts, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

Minutes of the 1st Cuffley Scout Group AGM

4.30 pm Sunday 6th September 2015

1. Introduction & Welcome to the AGM, apologies for Absence

- i. David Holt formally opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.
- ii. The names of those attending were recorded.
- iii. Apologies for absence were declared.

2. Minutes of the last AGM (28th September 2014) AGM

- i. The Minutes of the 2014 AGM, the reports from each of the sections and the accounts had been circulated before the meeting
- ii. The minutes of the 2014 AGM were adopted without objection.

3. Reports

- i. Reports from each of the sections were as circulated
- ii. David thanked all who had supported the varied activities

4. Adoption of Accounts

- i. The accounts were presented by Liz Ward and adopted as presented.

5. Election of the Executive Committee

- i. As is the custom the Chairman, David Holt, stood down and was re-appointed, unopposed, by Group Scout Leader Maureen Ward.
- ii. The following Ex-Officio Executive Committee members were re-elected:

Chairman	David Holt	Appointed
Secretary	Christine Parker	Appointed
Treasurer	Elizabeth Ward	Appointed
Deputy Chairman		Open

Leaders who had agreed service as an ex-officio member of the 1st Cuffley Scout Group Executive Committee

Maureen Ward	Group Scout Leader
Diane Cracknell	Assistant Group Scout Leader
David Gill	Beaver Scout Leader
Jean Holt	Cub Scout Leader
Steve Rowsell	Scout Leader
Peter Cracknell	Scout Active Support Manager
Paul Kaye	Explorer Scout Leader

Existing Committee Members Available for re-election

Denise Young	Appointed
Tony Mayo	Appointed
Lynn Samuelson	Appointed

New Executive Committee Nominated Members, nominated by the Group Scout Leader. The nominations were approved at the Group Annual General Meeting:

Lisa Teye	Approved
Sarah Payne	Approved

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Christina Knight was approved as the Independent Examiner.

7. Any Other Business

- i. Awards were made to:

Pam Staunton	20 yrs service
Diane Cracknell	20 yrs service
Jean Holt	15 yrs service
David Holt	5 yrs service
Steve Rowsell	Assistant Scout Leader (He is now Scout Leader)
- ii. Gold Awards were presented to Jessica Charles, Jack Brosi and Rachel Toye.
- iii. Matthew Kaye gave a presentation following his participation in the Scout Jamboree in Japan.
- iv. The achievements made by the Explores, working for their Queen Scout Awards were summarised. The Explorers expected to be presented with their awards in April included Becky Harvey, Ross Staunton, Pip Collis, Emma Cracknell and Elizabeth Sartori.

David Holt reiterated his thanks to all those who gave their continued support to the running of the 1st Cuffley Scout Group and formally closed the AGM.

Group Chairman's Report 2015 - 2016

It's been another successful year for The Scout Association and for the 1st Cuffley Scout Group. We continue to adapt our programmes to ensure Scouting is shaped by young people in partnership with the adult leadership. Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The activities offered continue to inspire many and to be a foundation for future generations' positive contribution to society. The leaders' reports provide an insight into some of the achievements. Five Queen's Scout Awards were presented to members associated with our Group. One of our Explorers had a wonderful experience representing 1st Cuffley at the World Scout Jamboree in Japan. It is particularly satisfying to see the adventure, achievements and awards across all sections.

The Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Sections have strong membership and are enjoying a wide range of activities. The 1st Cuffley Service Crew is actively providing key Scouting skills assistance and supporting the Group. It is a pleasure to see how young people's individual contributions evolve as they undertake their journeys through the sections.

We have a strong team of very proactive volunteer leaders driving the vision of Scouting forward with enthusiasm and creative new ideas. They do a tremendous job in delivering an excellent Scouting programme on behalf of the Group. The challenge as always is to uphold the aims of the Scout Association and promote fun, friendship and ultimately self-sufficiency for our Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

The Group continues to be financially sound. This is due to the hard work of a relatively small number of people who have supported successful fundraising activities in addition to subscription fees. I offer my thanks to all who have supported the Group this way. We have an ongoing plan to continue to improve the facilities on site and provide better services to the Group. To keep going at this pace we must find additional support from parents who can contribute time, money or a skill to maintain the standard or, in these challenging times, subscriptions may have to rise if the fundraising infrastructure cannot be maintained. Most importantly, a stronger support system will allow leaders to spend more of their time delivering Scouting to young people. We have good leaders in all sections, however, we really need more young adults to take active leadership roles to provide continuity and a vibrant programme.

The Scouting adventure comes in many forms. It's through everyday adventure that we enrich lives and help our communities. I offer my sincere thanks to all the 1st Cuffley Executive Committee, Section Leaders and supporters who provide an excellent service on behalf of the Group.

David Holt

**Group Chairman
1st Cuffley Scout Group**

Group Scout Leader's Report 2015 - 2016

The Group's activities for 2015/16 are well catalogued in the reports in this Annual Booklet – please do take time to read them and appreciate the time that goes into the planning of the many activities undertaken by the various sections both at home and away. All sections aim to give their members a fantastic time, whilst instilling the standards that we all think and hope the younger generation should be embracing. For myself I feel that 'please' and 'thank you' are the simplest and yet the most satisfying words that anyone can use. They usually leave the recipient with a smile on their face and feeling that life is after all worthwhile

It is also worth taking note of the comment by the County Commissioner at the Queen's Scout Dinner –report included in this booklet - regarding the benefits of listing Scouting and the awards achieved, particularly the Queen's Scout Award on one's CV. Just belonging to a Scout Group shows commitment and loyalty and achieving that highest award can be the final icing on the cake.

Some of the Explorers are undertaking Young Leader training and for some of them, their service element is covered by helping at either Cubs or Beavers. In cubs we have Louise, Daniel, Luke and Parees and in Beavers we have James (training complete) together with Nick and also Holly from Scouts.

In my years with 1st Cuffley, I think that I have seen at least a dozen youngsters become adult Assistant or Section leaders in the Group.

As our financial year runs from April to March, we endeavour to submit reports that co-incide with that time span. This can be tantalising if something has happened during this summer that should be reported next year. However, I will break the rule, because this year is the 100th Anniversary of the start of Cub Scouts (originally known as Wolf Cubs) and there are many celebrations this year. One completely different event was the decision by Potters Bar District to offer a Matchstick Model making competition to the Cubs. Those who were interested were supplied with 2000 Matchsticks together with instructions on what could and could not be done. A Cuffley Cub was the winner and received a prize of £20.16 which amount represented 2016 pennies, in celebration of 1916 – 2016.

Finally, I would like to thank all at District level who annually provide all the District activities for our members, and also all of the 1st Cuffley team of leaders and Executive Committee together with the parents (after all, you provided us with the members!) and you also willingly help when we ask.

Maureen Ward – Hathi (GSL)

Over many years, it has been customary for photographs to be taken at various section meetings, activities, presentations and events both to maintain the Group's valuable archives and to record key moments for our members.

These pictures are sometimes displayed on our noticeboards within the Scout hut, on our closed Group Facebook page or in other presentations within our Group meetings to share our vast and varied programme with parents and friends, record our achievements and keep our members up to date with our busy Group life.

If any parents or carers would prefer their children not to be included in any of these photos, they should write to their section leader so that we can note this for future occasions.

TREASURER'S REPORT for year ending 31/3/2016

As you can see from the attached accounts, we have an excess of receipts over payments this year. As previously reported, the majority of works relating to the new buildings at the Scout hut premises have already been completed. During this financial year, the costs relating to maintenance are far lower than the previous year. Last year we were continuing with capital expenditure relating to the main hut but this year we have only needed to spend on the general upkeep of our premises including a weekly clean. We have also seen a decrease in the expenditure relating to our Wi-fi at the premises as Tony Mayo kindly organised a change in provider (from BT to TalkTalk), resulting in a reduction of around £48 per month. Our subscription income has decreased slightly this year, and Explorer income and expenditure continue to be amalgamated into the Potters Bar group reporting. We also had another donation from HSBC of £500 via Peter Cracknell. Unfortunately our investment income continues to be low and this is, of course, due to the continuing low interest rates available. In addition, we have asked for, and received, an increase of another £100 in the donation made by both Guides and Brownies for the hire of the Scout Hut for the year; both now pay £400pa. This review was certainly due as these donations had remained the same for many years despite the rising costs of hut usage such as electricity etc.

As you can also see from the accounts, expenditure and income relating to activities and trips continues to be high and this is due to much being organised for the benefit of all our young people both in terms of days out and also camping expeditions.

Camps/hikes/activities included Scouts' climbing/abseiling activities, Scouts' fireworks, Tolmers' Scout Camp, Scout Summer Camp, Stanborough Water Day, New Year's Eve Scout Party, Quasar Scout meeting, Cubs' Campers' badge camp, Tolmers' 75th Birthday weekend, Cub Summer Camp, Cub County Night Hike, Cubs' bushcraft activity and Beavers' Gillwell Funday.

Our fundraising activities continued throughout this year with the Jumble sales being particularly successful as we not only saw an increase in income but a decrease in related expenditure meaning the net proceeds were £1291. Nevertheless, ongoing extra help at the jumble sales can only mean extra revenue so do try to volunteer if at all possible. Many thanks to those who have worked so hard in this regard. We continue to generate some income from the hire of the scout hut including donations relating to table tennis, rangers, guides, brownies and karate. In addition to this, we also raised £1,240 from helping at the Point-to-Point at Northaw, £748 from the snack bar at the car boot sale, £322 from the treasure hunt and £632 from Quiz nights. The Scouts also undertook a fundraising event to raise money for the Teardrop charity, specifically to support the provision of improved sanitation in a school in Kenya, as part of their Global Challenge Badge. Another excellent year for fundraising activities; thank-you so much to everyone for contributing and working so hard to raise such a large sum of money for the group.

Our Gift Aid return, and therefore the relevant receipt, was unfortunately not completed in time for the year-end which explains the large drop in other income for this financial year. However, this will be finished as soon as possible and will be included in the next set of accounts.

In terms of expenditure this year, we have seen a slight increase in the cost of insurance, utilities have remained much the same, and unit funding includes costs of running our section meetings each week and providing activities at the Scout hut that are both rewarding and stimulating for our young people.

Overall, a very pleasing year in many ways; the continuing high level of activities and trips has been well received and enjoyed by all concerned. In addition, we have funds carried forward of £34,073 which is an excellent end to the year and gives us the financial scope needed to continue with any further upgrading or maintenance of the existing buildings at our premises as necessary. Many thanks to all those who have worked so hard to generate income and support the work and aims of the group.

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Elizabeth Ward

Treasurer, 1st Cuffley Scout Group

1ST CUFFLEY SCOUT GROUP EXECUTIVE
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 302555
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
RECEIPTS		
Subscriptions	7,859	8,366
Investment income		
Barclays Bank	14	14
Donations		
1st Cuffley Guides	400	300
Brownies	400	300
HSBC	500	500
Table Tennis	138	182
Cuffley Lodge	0	0
Karate Club	360	360
Scout shop	68	0
Cuffley School	0	0
Other	233	410
Fundraising		
Jumble sales	1,737	1,529
Other	2,907	2,993
Activities and Trips	4,253	4,582
Scarves & handbooks	55	87
Other income	23	2,230
	<u>18,945</u>	<u>21,851</u>
PAYMENTS		
Scout Association subscription(net)	3,040	2,992
Premises		
Utilities	1,480	1,498
Insurance	2,633	2,472
Maintenance	1,644	13,039
Fundraising		
Jumble sales	446	629
Administration expenses		
Unit funding	2,261	2,149
Activities and trips	4,801	4,801
Sundry payments (badges, books etc)	371	1,149
Donations	30	50
Building Project	0	0
Other	41	0
	<u>16,746</u>	<u>28,780</u>
EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR	2,199	-6,929
Funds brought forward from previous year	<u>31,874</u>	<u>38,802</u>
Funds carried forward	<u>34,073</u>	<u>31,874</u>
Funds per Balance Sheet	34,073	31,874

1ST CUFFLEY SCOUT GROUP EXECUTIVE
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 302555
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 MARCH 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
ASSETS		
Balances at Barclays Bank :		
BPA	26,648.52	26,634.98
Current	6,886.07	5,278.49
Building Project	1,241.55	741.55
	£ 34,776.14	£ 32,655.02
 (Surplus)/deficit on Explorers' account	 (703.48)	 (781.47)
	£ 34,072.66	£ 31,873.55

The above accounts were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

D Holt
Group Chairman

Elizabeth Ward
Honorary Treasurer

Dated

Signed versions are available.

1st Cuffley Explorer Scout Unit 2015-16.

It has been a good year for the Explorers, highlights include:-

Lochearnhead An excellent trip with Potters Bar District to Scotland that included expedition camping, kayaking, cycling, sailing, quad biking and a visit to the Highland Games. Great fun from start to finish for the Explorers and Leaders.

Lees Wood Camp – A less adventurous but valuable trip with a decent hike and other activities such as archery, with the Explorers starting to shoot at targets, then applies and working their way down to hitting cherry tomatoes. The camp was assessed and Jayne and I gained our Nights Away permits.

Bounce in Milton Keynes – This is a great venue with lots of trampolines for the Explorers to bounce around on and release that teenage energy. Well worth the minibus journey.

Quasar – The traditional pre-Christmas event that was held together with the Tartan Phoenix Explorer Unit, from Potters Bar.

Gilwell 24 – This is 24 hours of continuous activity and entertainment held annually at Gilwell Park, the home of Scouting. The Explorers who went were almost “with it” when we collected them.

Worldwide Jamboree – This journey to Japan was a trip of a lifetime for one of our Cuffley Explorers.

These activities have been mixed with the traditional evenings and other events, such as Cinema and Bowling trips.

We have also started to work towards D of E (as well as Scouting Awards), either supporting the Explorers who are doing this through school or offering it through Scouts. The Explorers are able to take advantage of being able to do their expeditions alongside the other Explorers in Potters Bar District.

Paul Kaye - Explorer Scout Leader

1st Cuffley Scout Troop 2015 – 2016

Another adventurous year for the Scouts, leading to winning 2 x trophies.

In June, 5 members took part in a 'Takeaway' weekend in WGC, trying out various new outdoor activities. 12 Scouts also took part in an overnight expedition, successfully gaining the Expedition Challenge for their Chief Scouts Badge.

In July we raised £242 to twin a toilet in Kenya. If you are out there then I'm sure you can use it. We also joined the Explorers in a water fight at the Hut, the Scouts coming out on top!! 3 x Scouts moved on to Explorers to enjoy new adventures.

In August we went 10 pin bowling in Stevenage.

October saw us take part in the District Annual Cyclocross competition. Congratulations to Holly for winning 1st place, also to George for gaining 3rd place.

In November we ran a patrol cooking competition, where the patrols had to create and cook either a Starter and Main meal, or a Main meal and a Pudding. Points were awarded based on cleanliness, taste and working together. Best Starter was Butternut Squash Soup, best Main Meal was Stir Fry Chicken and Pasta, and best Pudding was Chocolate Gateau. There was also a Fireworks hike where the Scouts had to carry a Guy around the route and complete challenges on the way. The Remembrance Day Parade was also very well attended by the majority of the Troop.

In March we took part in the Mid Herts Night Hike, an annual competition run by Mid Herts Scouts (the theme was "The Avengers"). We entered as visitors, with the route being about 12 miles and taking part in 4 x activity bases on the way round, gaining points at each one. There were 2 Trophies to be won, the Visitors and the Overall. This year we had 3 teams tasking part, 1 accompanied by an adult and the other 2 unaccompanied. 29 teams took part and our **C.U.F.F.L.E.Y** team came 22nd, **Guardians of Cuffley** came 11th and the **Scout Smash Team** came 1st, winning both trophies, with the overall trophy won by just 2 points from the WGC Scouts. A great effort by all 15 Scouts who took part.

There was also an Easter Egg hunt over the Easter Holidays, with clues and bases around Cuffley followed by a hunt around our grounds for the hidden Easter Eggs – but did they find them all? And we welcomed a new Scout from outside the area.

In the last year we have gained further skills in rock climbing, abseiling, hiking, map reading, First Aid and rope work. They had a scary Hallowe'en Experience, and a Christmas Party with Brussel Sprout bobbing!! We have been carol singing, observed different noises and identified hidden objects, and have been team building. The PL's and APL's have also had regular meetings and training.

Not only all of this, but we also awarded 8 x Chief Scouts Awards and are now working on the new Scouting programme with different badges and tasks to be completed.

Many thanks to Diane, Pam, Alex, Pip, Pete, Becky, Matt and all the other crew members who help us out when they can, and also to Kate who has joined us as a Helper this year. And thank you to all the parents, relatives and Scouts for supporting us this year. What will we do next!!

Steve Rowsell - Scout Leader

1st Cuffley Cubs Report 2015 – 2016

As I report on another year for the Cuffley Cubs I realise how much they have achieved during the year and how many activities they have taken part in.

It would take too long to list everything we have done, so I will just give you a flavour of life in the 1st Cuffley Cub pack.

The summer term is always filled with spending as much time as possible out of doors. This included learning camping skills such as putting up tents, lighting fires, backwards cooking and shelter building. We also played wide games, walked in the local area and enjoyed an evening of water games.

8 of the cubs took part in the Tolmers 75th birthday fun day. They had a great time taking advantage of all the activities Tolmers had to offer. Samuel Gudgeon and Ryan Thompson both achieved their Paddle Sports activity badge during the day.

The high point of the year as always was the summer camp. This year we camped at Gilwell with the 1st Little Heath Cubs and Scouts. 17 of our Cubs joined in with all the fun and activities put on by our leaders and Gilwell.

As you can see in the photo there were lots of us all together.



During the autumn term we took part in a couple of

county events. These included the cyclocross at Well End. Ben Fisher was selected to represent the district in this event. The team were runners up in the competition and you can see them with their medals and shield they won in the photo.

We also entered a team into the county night hike. This involves a 7 mile walk around Hemel Hempstead taking part in activity bases at regular intervals. The cubs completed the walk and challenges in good time and achieved their pioneering badge in the process.



The Cubs learnt about Diwali thanks to Mrs Mistry, and all of them achieved their emergency aid badge with the help of Steve Rowsell the Scout Leader. We spent an evening on home safety, learning about risks and hazards in the home and how to avoid them. Together with the Beavers, the Cubs made decorations for a Christmas tree in St Thomas's church in Northaw, and some of the Cubs also took part in Carol singing at the Dutch Nursery.

After Christmas there are a variety of competitions that the Cubs can enter run by the district. The first was the indoor games and model making for the Shepherd Cup. We entered a team in both events and 1st Cuffley won the model making with a model of a spaceman. You can see the model and the cup in the photo along with the Cubs from both teams. Some Cubs entered the swimming Gala and gained their swimmers badge.



During the term we made pancakes, spent an evening learning about Vikings and discovered how we can recycle during a visit by someone from the council.

The next event was the 6 aside football competition. Thanks to parental support we were able to enter a team in this district competition. Although we did not win, all the Cubs played very well and a good time was had by all.



6 Cubs attended a Bushcraft day held at Harmer Green. Although it was very cold we all enjoyed learning several new skills such as rope making, cooking and pioneering.

During the year Samuel Gudgeon, Harry Brunton and Beth Toyne achieved their Chief Scout Silver award. This is the highest award that can be achieved and shows great commitment and perseverance as they have to gain all 6 challenge badges to complete the award.

We continue to thrive as a pack, gaining members as they come up from Beavers, but also some who join us new to the group. We also have to say goodbye to some of our Cubs as they move on up to the next section, Scouts, in the progression through their Scouting life.

As always I would like to thank all those leaders, young leaders and parents who help us make Cubs exciting and Fun. This especially includes Raksha, Hathi and Josie our young leader.

Last but not least I would like to thank the Cubs for their enthusiasm and energy which makes it all worthwhile. To see a small timid Beaver join us at age 8 and then to send them up to Scouts 2 ½ years later, confident and ready for their next challenge is great to see. In some cases they also come back to help us as young leaders and it is then that you can see how Scouting has enabled them to develop into the young people we should all be proud of.

Jean Holt - Cub Scout Leader.

1st Cuffley Beaver Colony Report 2015/16

It has been another fun-filled, action packed year with the Beavers. There have been hikes, fun-days, camping, parades, and so much more. I've been posting short reports on the Facebook page so please have a look to save me typing more here!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1stCuffleyScoutGroup/>

Numbers have remained steady for the past year, between fifteen and twenty. Older beavers have moved up to Cubs and new Beavers are still signing-up. It is the same problems of clashes with football, other activities, increased school work, and the logistics of getting children to the Hut on time. We have visited Cuffley School to promote Beavers and are looking to parents to recommend us to other parents.

We have now embraced the new Beaver Badge System and our new two-year plan of one challenge a term is coming along nicely. This ensures that each Beaver has the opportunity to attain the Bronze Award in the two years they are with us. The new badges do require a lot more thought and requirements but we are working out which ones overlap nicely so we can run multiple badges at the same time.

Six beavers attained their bronze awards during the year.

Six attended the St George's day Parade through Potters Bar in April.

We took seven to the Gilwell Funday in June.

Thanks to Alison/Chil's Night Away Permit we were able to hold our very first Beaver summer sleepover in the Scout Hut grounds. Eight of the Beavers joined us for that.

Three keen beavers came along to the District sports at Morven. This was followed by the District Sleepover where two more joined us, taking the total to five.

It was a lovely sunny day in October for the District Hike through Potters Bar. This ended in a train journey to Brookmans Park and a trail through a wooded path to the North Mymms Scout Hut. Two of the Beavers gained their Hikes Away badge for this.

At the Remembrance Sunday Parade we had ten Beavers in attendance.

On the lead-up to Christmas there was the annual District Treasure Hunt and Campfire. Eight Beavers came along to that and enjoyed running around in the dark, cooking marshmallows, and eating sweets round a roaring campfire, and singing songs.

Four of the Beavers supported the group at the Group Carol Singing event at the Dutch Nursery.

The first event of 2016 was the District Funzone in Hatfield. Five Beavers came along and pretty-much had the whole soft play area to themselves.

At the end of the Spring Term there was a District Handicraft Day where two of the Beavers attended. Activities ranged from making flowers out of balloons to creating a 30th Beaver Birthday Party Cake out of junk.

I would like to thank the parents who have helped us in the meetings throughout the year as part of the parent rota and also to those parents who helped at the extra events we organised.

Finally, immense gratitude to those without whom, none of this it would have been possible. Alison (Chil), Maureen (Hathi), Joel (Akru) and our young leaders. We have James (Kaa) and Nick from the Explorers and Holly from Scouts. Thank you for all the help and support throughout the year.

David Gill, BSL

Cuffley Service Crew

Report from 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016

Throughout the reporting year our Service Crew have afforded assistance to our Group and wider scouting initiatives.

Support has been provided in many ways. In addition to offering leadership and tactical backing to various section meetings both at Cuffley and elsewhere, Crew members have worked to help deliver fund-raising events, maintenance days and evenings and other special events. These have included a hiking expedition for German Rover Scouts visiting the UK, hiking experiences for various sections of our Group, a car based treasure hunt for our Group members and their families and a wide-reaching Easter Egg Hunt for our Scouts around Cuffley. At Christmas the Crew ran, for themselves, an overnight reunion which included the building of a blanket fort!

Another significant aspect was that seven members planned, undertook and completed a four day, 50km expedition in some challenging weather conditions, across the Derbyshire Peak District. Following this they made some formal presentations which represented the completion of their Queen's Scout awards. Becky, Elizabeth, Emma, Pip and Ross subsequently attended a formal dinner and presentation of their awards at Gilwell Park, the international home of Scouting and the National St George's Day parade held in the grounds of Windsor Castle as guests of the Queen, where they were inspected by HRH Prince Michael of Kent and Bear Grylls.

Peter Cracknell

The Queen's Scout Dinner April 2016.

Becky, Ross, Pip, Emma and Elizabeth, members of the 1st Cuffley Service Crew, who are Scout Network members and are also the unit adult helpers that provide active support to our Scout Group, were each awarded their Queen's Scout Award at a ceremony held during a formal dinner at Gilwell Park the international head quarters of Scouting. The award's demands, which require each participant to have both active Scouting involvement and a wide raft of skills and experiences in their personal lives, are greater than those required to gain the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and our Group is very proud to observe that together with Potters Bar District, it has been able to provide the all important Scouting environment to support this.

The dinner, hosted by the Hertfordshire Scout County on Friday evening, saw them individually receive their awards from Liz Walker County Commissioner for Hertfordshire Scouts and Jonathan Trower, High Sheriff of Hertfordshire and collectively receive praise and commendation for their respective achievements.

In a short address following the dinner Liz observed that earning the Queen's Scout Award, which is the top award in Scouting, bears an incredibly positive testimony to the character of each recipient. Liz, who is also General Counsel for BT Global Services, noted that citing achievement of the award on a CV invariably placed the holder above other candidates when applying for further education or job opportunities.

Jonathan, through his formal after-dinner speech, reflected on his year as High Sheriff, recounted how he and his wife had adopted a focus on the development of the youth of Hertfordshire and praised the Scouting movement for affording a sound infrastructure from which young people could develop and succeed.

Congratulations to you all and special thanks to Sheena Burrus who as Hertfordshire Scout County Queen's Scout Award Coordinator advised our members on their four day adventurous expedition, assessed them for the completion of the many aspects of the award criteria prior to national verification and arranged Friday's dinner.

