

**Scouts** 



**Churchdown Scout Group**  
**AGM Report 2023**

# Churchdown Group Scout Council

## Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 5th July 2023 - Brown Lodge, Church Road, Churchdown

### AGENDA

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4th July 2022
4. **Governance topics**
  - a. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules
  - b. Note the Group's financial year
  - c. Agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board
  - d. Agree the quorum for each of the Group Scout Council (including this AGM), meetings of the Group Trustee Board, meetings of any sub-committees
5. **Review of the previous year**
  - a. The Group Scout Leader's review of Scouting in Churchdown Scout Group
  - b. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Group Trustee Board including the annual Statement of the Accounts
6. **Making appointments**
  - a. To reappoint Group President
  - b. To note any other supporters who may be admitted to membership of the Group Scout Council, including former Scouts and parents, by the Group Scout Leader, the Group Trustee Board or the Group Scout Council.
  - c. To approve the Group Scout Leader's nomination of the Group Chair
  - d. Election of the Group Secretary
  - e. Election of the Group Treasurer
  - f. Elections of members to the Group Trustee Board
  - g. To approve the Group Scout Leader's nominations to the Group Trustee Board
  - h. To appoint the Independent Examiner
7. Brown Lodge Management Committee AGM report and Annual Statement of Accounts
8. Awards and Recognitions
9. Close

## Churchdown Scout Group AGM Minutes – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Present: Amy Turner, Brian Finch, Hazel Finch, Dave Adkins, Rich Auld, Clare James, Melanie Griffiths, Maurice Chalker, Debbie Auld, Carolyn Adkins, Dave Hawkins, Helen Gait, Bethany Adkins, Sara Stone, Tom Batchelor, Louise Fazeli, Jessica Hannington, Gemma McCreath, Caz Finch, Paul Gait, Ann Bennett, Jacky Hall, David Walesby, Vicky Townsend

Apologies: Nicholas Adkins, Clair Auld, Julie Smith, Roger Smith, Jane Frazer-Hook, Tomos Day, Catrin Day, Megan Goddard, Keren Needle

Welcome to the meeting by Debbie.

Please note this year the Churchdown Gang Show AGM will take place during the kick off meeting to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

### Brown Lodge Management AGM

Annual Report and Financial Report retained in AGM booklet.

Caz (Chair) reported on the Brown Lodge 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations and the new drainage system. Future plans are to update toilets, install a disabled access toilet and a baby changing unit, automatic doors and a ramp to the front of the building and new flooring.

Caz thanked the committee and all those who help with the upkeep of Brown Lodge. No questions.

Adoption of Report – Proposed: Dave Atkins, Second: Paul Gait

### Adoption of last year's Churchdown Scout Group AGM minutes 2021

Proposed: Helen Gait, Second: Caz Finch

### Treasurers Report

Financial Report retained in AGM booklet.

Carolyn (Treasurer) reported that the accounts have moved from HSBC to Lloyds to avoid future bank charges. The Group account includes all section and minibus accounts. Separate accounts will be introduced going forward.

Subs are now paid direct to the Group rather than sections.

No questions.

Adoption of Treasurer's Report

Proposed: Jacky Hall, Seconded: Louise Fazeli

### Election of Officers

Chair – Melanie Griffiths

Treasurer – Carolyn Adkins

Proposed: Paul Gait, Seconded: Rich Auld

Committee Members - Clare James (Secretary), Helen Gait, Jacky Hall, Maurice Chalker, Clair Auld, Tom Batchelor, Simon Ball

Proposed: Dave Adkins, Seconded: Paul Gait

### Section Reports

Retained in AGM booklet

### GSL Report

Retained in AGM booklet

Debbie reemphasised on how lucky we are to have such a great team of dedicated leaders. She shared a poem, which she felt was appropriate.

IF by M Hill

### Subscriptions for 2022/2023

The Executive Committee propose keeping subs at £120 per year, payable at £40 per term

Proposed: Melanie Griffiths, Seconded: Jessica Hannington

### Awards

GSL Awards presented as follows:

GSL Bell is awarded to Carolyn Adkins for taking on a new role which proved to be an enormous task, because of all the changes required and doing such a great job.

Phoenix Award is awarded to Dave Adkins for his continued service in the role of QM Stores

Lifeline Award is awarded to Melanie Griffiths for taking on the role of Group Chair

Any Other Business – None

Meeting closed, refreshments served.

## **Group Scout Leader AGM Report 2023**

This year has seen a full program of Scouting, in all Sections. Our Leaders have yet again provided excellent programs for all the ages. It has been great to see all the young people having fun, whilst working towards badges and awards. Activities have ranged from scouting skills to adventurous activities, with Sections providing nights away experiences from sleepovers to camps, both indoors and under canvas.

As in every year Sections at times will have had challenges, very often it is due to needing more adult help, especially for certain activities. Support from our Scout Active Support Section and our Occasional Helpers has once again been invaluable. So, I would like to take the opportunity to thank them.

I wish to express my thanks to the Executive Committee, soon to be 'The Board Trustees', who have worked hard this year to ensure the business of the Group has kept on track. A special thanks to Carolyn Adkins, our Group Treasure, who has done excellent work with the Group finances. This is an immense task, and no one should underestimate the time and dedication this requires. At last year's AGM Melanie Griffiths took on the role of Group Chair and has worked hard and supported me throughout the year. Melanie has had a lot to get her head around but done so with good humour and understanding of traditions. When required she has also helped out at Section meetings. Thank you, Melanie.

This year has also seen the death of our Patron, Queen Elizabeth, and the Coronation of King Charles the III. We held a Group Coronation Party, which was well attended and enjoyed by all the Sections. Thank you to all those who came and helped.

Numbers in all Sections remain strong. We have constant enquiries through our website and by other means from those wishing to join Scouting in Churchdown and we have long waiting lists for the younger sections.

We do not yet have a Squirrel Dray. If anyone would like to start up this Section, please come and have a chat.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to all the Leaders and the Executive Committee for their hard work and support to me as Group Scout Leader. I consider Churchdown Scouts to be incredibly lucky to have such dedicated people keeping the Group functioning and providing Scouting to such a high standard.

Debbie Auld – Group Scout Leader



## BEAVER ANNUAL REPORT



Since the last AGM the programme continues to be planned for Beavers to achieve as many badges as possible while enjoying the scouting experience. Many have achieved, or are currently working towards gaining, the highest award, the Bronze Chief Scout Challenge, together with several activity badges that some Beavers have achieved individually.



Builder, Cook, Collector, Creative, Collector, Communicator, Hobby, International, Space



Hikes Away, Nights Away, Digital Maker



Bronze = My Adventure, My Outdoors, My Skills, My World, Teamwork and Personal

We played skittles and had party food at the Churchdown Club, did a shadow puppet show based on fairy tale stories, celebrated Burns Night where we tried haggis and neeps and tatties, learnt about Fair Trade, watched Tim Peake, who is a scouting ambassador, and the International Space Station and looked at the night sky. We did activities to learn about people and places around the world and looked at local traditions – we had a Cheese Roller evening which was great fun with each Beaver having a mini Babybel to roll down cardboard replicas of Coopers Hill!

The Christmas charity was again Link to Hope – they not only give shoe boxes to children but to all members in the family and the boxes began their overseas journey in October. We attended the Remembrance Service, performed at the Group's Carol Service and the usual torch walk took us up Chosen Hill which was followed by a chip supper. Then for St George's Day we renewed our promise at Gloucester Cathedral. We learnt many things about Oceans and Water, including Water Aid, and we made water filters. In order to achieve the My Outdoors Challenge Badge a sleepover is required and so we celebrated the King's Coronation by having one in tents inside Brown Lodge with lots of royal activities.



We have the fantastic support of three young people to help as young leaders or working toward service for their Duke of Edinburgh award - they have shown excellent scouting skills and commitment. We have also been able to call upon the help from others on the SAS team. Thanks everyone for your support.

Tic-tac / Louise Fazeli  
Beaver Leader  
June 2023

## **Cub Scout Section – Grey Pack**

### **Annual report 2022-2023**

Churchdown Grey Pack is still going strong with 29 Cubs. This year we have been fortunate to have many young leaders join us and has been great to get them involved and help organise some of the evenings.

In November the Cubs completed their fire safety badge with a visit to the Local Fire Station where the cubs were able to have a tour of the station, learn about some of the hazards at home and get to sit in the fire engines. This time we witness two occasions where the fire fighters had to leave, and the Cubs got to experience what happens when the firefighters get a call.

After Christmas we celebrated Burns night with a highland game at the start and had a mini traditional burns night supper of haggis, neeps, and tatties. We were fortunate to have a trip across the road to the Churchdown Club to play skittles. The Cubs had a great time and for many, learnt a new skill that evening. Other activities included Games from around the world, Clay model making and as always lots of games.

After Easter the Cubs learnt about the festival Eid and were fortunate enough to have a guest speaker who came and explained more about Eid and why and how they celebrate it. The Cubs then were able to try some of the food that may be eaten during the festival.

As we come to the end of the term, we are gearing up for our annual Pinewood Derby on our final night before the Summer Holidays. The Cubs were given a basic car and were given a few weeks to modify and decorate them. Last week we had our test run, where the Cubs brought their cars and went through quality control to ensure they didn't exceed the weight and height rules before having a chance to test run them allowing them time to go home and make any last-minute changes before the competition. We want to thank Matt Townsend for making the cars for the Cubs.

We were recently invited to participate in outdoor games with the Brownies where the Cubs got to mix and play a variety of games. It was a great evening, and we hope to do more with the Brownies in the future. The Cubs have attended Evolution camp in Cirencester Park, organised by the county and had a fantastic time. They got to try lots of different activities, learnt new skills and met many other Cubs and Brownies. Thanks to all the Leaders who made that possible.

It has been great to be able to properly gather with the group and other sections post COVID for Remembrance Parade, Group Carol concert, St Georges Day and recently the Cubs enjoyed gathering at Brown Lodge with the other sections for a Coronation Party in May, where the Cubs were able to participate in many activities spread around BL and ended the afternoon with homemade pizzas.

We'd like to thank all those who have supported us over the year and look forward to the end of term celebrations and welcoming new Cubs in September.

Churchdown Grey Pack Leaders.

## **Scout Section Annual Report 2022/2023**

This report covers the twelve months to Easter 2023.

Scout Section numbers are down slightly on last year. The only people on the waiting list are either those who are too young to be Scouts, young people who's parents feel they are too young to be Scouts, or, young people who have joined the list during the current term.

Troop night activities during the year included Scavenger Hunts, Off Road Cycling, Food Pioneering, International Cooking, Map and Compass work, Summer Camp Slide Show, Christmas Party, Indoor Pioneering, Wide Games, Pancake Night, and Taskmaster. Rotations included Kayaking, Air Rifle Shooting, Archery, Geocaching and Tomahawk Throwing. Scouts celebrated the Football World Cup with an inter-patrol competition and watched the England / Wales match, completed The Gloucester Docks Orienteering Course, Carved Pumpkins, Raced Cardboard Boats, and made a Hot Vegan Curry & Rice meal.

Our camping experiences were, Spring Camp at Hallow. Summer Camp at Swanage, the week before we went, we were told that there was a ban on open fires so the planned menu had to be checked to ensure that it would still work if cooked on a double burner gas ring, thankfully most if it did. Winter Camp was at The Tom Roberts Adventure Centre (TRAC) near Newent.

Kestrel Patrol won the Cooking Competition in December, well done Ellie.

In March Scouts were invited to take part in a Night Hike which was run by 7<sup>th</sup> Swindon Scout Troop the route was from Crickley Hill to Brown Lodge, the theme for the evening was "I'm a Celebrity" in which a Patrol from Churchdown won. The winners were then faced with another challenge, one of getting their team name, I'm a Scout and my Leg Hurts, engraved on the trophy, well done Liv.

Remembrance Parade and The Group Christmas Carol Service were back to normal, Scouts also attended St George's Day Parade in Gloucester.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Leaders for their help and support, without which none of this would have been possible.

Richard Auld. Scout Section Leader.



## Phoenix Explorer Scouts Annual Report

Phoenix Explorer Scouts of Churchdown, in the District of Gloucester had a good and eventful year in 2022-2023. We started the year knowing the pandemic was behind us all and it allowed for a new start at the normal time of September. Numbers remained strong with average attendance at about 18 per session. Despite after a few key losses due to older members of the group moving on in summer 2022 however, a good number joined from new and feeding up from the Scout unit.

Notable support was given to Tom Ball throughout the year as our one selected Explorer going to the World Jamboree in South Korea in the summer of 2023.

Leaders and availability has been a very critical problem for the unit. With Clair Auld moving away after many years, it was down to Tom and Jane to run sessions with support of Debbie from time to time. It was not until the spring term that Liz Amos joined as a new Assistant Leader. Jane then decided to give notice of stepping down from the end of the summer term and the hunt for another leader began and is currently ongoing.

Gang Show brilliantly started the year off in September, as directed and produced once again by Jane, with a greatly appreciated return after absence due to the pandemic. Explorer Scouts embraced the performances and were roundly congratulated for their efforts. They enjoyed a pizza party in the venue after together with the volunteering adults and were a credit to themselves throughout.

It was organised again for a group of 11 Explorer Scouts to go to the county Explorer camp, Beast, at Apple Orchard Campsite, Rossett, Westbury on Severn, from Friday 7th - Sunday 9th October 2023. It was notable for one incident of a broken finger sustained whilst on the camp by one Explorer Scout who was taken to hospital and eventually given corrective surgery. Otherwise the camp was a good success. Van driving was supported by Melanie and Marcus Griffiths with thanks.

The term then moved on to Firework volunteering help from one Explorer Scout, Remembrance Sunday with four Explorers including a flag bearer - Rowan Townsend.

The traditional carol service returned to Saint John's church in Churchdown, and with some musicians and a group to lead our special Twelve Days of Christmas song, which was excellent. This was followed by the Christmas Ball with van driving again provided by Melanie and Marcus Griffiths.

In December we started practice group hikes for the Cotswold Marathon which we knew would again be held in mid February. The hikes were held infrequently but often through January and February up to the main event. The first three checkpoints were covered after the start point so all could gain a good understanding and experience of night navigation and the level of fitness required. These were successful and prepared the Explorers well for the actual main event, which 11 Explorer Scouts from our unit took part in over Bronze, Silver and Gold distances,

with the most walking Silver which was a positive progression from 2022 where most walked Bronze.

Other youth-shaped events took place with different external run sessions around first aid from Chris Auker-Howlett of Gloucestershire Community Action and Neil Smith with fire safety training being very well received.

Low attendance was again present sadly for the district Saint George's Day Parade to Gloucester Cathedral of one Explorer, Finley, however the date change by the organisers into school holidays definitely impacted this.

Four Explorers took part in the Scout section's night hike of Saturday 25th March and sleepover indoors at Brown Lodge.

Two groups of kayaking rounded off the main activities of the summer term at Lower Lode on the River Severn; it was split to suit busy summer exam weeks for many of the Explorer Scouts.

We are looking forward to 2023-24 with hope for more leaders to join to sustain this great group of young people.

Tom Blacker.

## **Brown Lodge Management**

### **Chair's Report 2023**

Another year has flown by! Thank you to the Brown Lodge committee for all the support and hard work you do to keep Brown Lodge running smoothly. We are continuing with our plans to upgrade our toilet facilities to include a disabled access cubicle, baby change facilities, an automatic front door and a ramp for easier access for all. We will also be looking to re tile the floor and tarmac the car park in the future. This is taking longer than anticipated due to issues with the grants and funding process, but we are all committed to upgrading and refurbishing our building for the future.

We continue to hire out Brown Lodge to external users which is helping with the costs and general maintenance of the building. Thank you to Paul for coordinating these hirings.

I want to say a big thank you to the great group of people who help to look after Brown Lodge. To Carolyn for giving Brown Lodge a deep clean every couple of weeks, of course we need all users to clean up after their group to keep the hall as you would wish to find it. To Graham and Mary for looking after the garden which has been a tough task recently. To Dave, Rich and Paul who deal with a lot of general maintenance including recently sorting out some drain work issues to hopefully alleviate the flooding issues in the garden. Finally, to all of the committee members who keep everything running behind the scenes, I couldn't do this role without you.

We will keep you all informed of the refurbishments and any future works that will be happening.

Caz Finch

Chair Brown Lodge Management