

## Winter/Spring Newsletter 2023

### Group Scout Leader's Report

So, here we are then, first newsletter of 2023. Hopefully we have managed to keep it to less than 6 pages, but there is a lot to tell you about. Over the last couple of years, as we move on from covid, our numbers have increased. This is really great, as we can get back to a normal programme of activities. District and County are getting back to a full programme of activities, and we hope to join in with as many as we can, within our own busy plans for the year. I need to be careful not to say too much about what each section will be doing, but I am sure there are a few things I can mention. We have a district camp coming up in May. This will be a major event with lots of activities and amusements planned. As a celebration of our District Commissioner Mel Buck, and all he has done for us over the last 10 years, we are hoping we can get as many members camping as possible. We have some exciting new plans for the group over the next few years, the first of which is hopefully the creation of a new garden, on the corner of Victoria Road and Nelson Wharf. This is something that all the sections can get involved with and covers several aspects of badge work.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find mention of the need for a fundraising committee. I thought it might be useful to explain some of the things we need to raise money for. The fire escape from the upper floor at the Den needs to be replaced. If we buy a bespoke unit to replace, it could cost £4000 to £5000. And we would still have to install it ourselves. Obviously, as a safety item, this is high on our priority list. At the other end of the Den, our storage containers are falling apart. They are now so rusty, full of holes and some of the doors don't move! A replacement container in decent condition can be around £1500 and we could use 5 or 6 of them. Down on the waterfront at our boathouse, we need to be replacing, quite urgently, some of our floating pontoons. Although, only one needs replacing immediately, at a readymade cost of around £5000, the other 3 won't be far behind. We are looking at potentially £20,000 in total, but we have some ideas for cheaper options that we can build ourselves and that would require a working party at some point.

Looking to the future and the development of the group and facilities, we have early ideas for a climbing wall which could be £10,000 at a guess. And of course, we are always looking for suitable boats and to get the leaders through the relevant training to become permit holders.

Well, this has turned into more than the few lines I promised the editor, so I will stop here and leave some space for the other articles. Thanks for reading this far.

**Martin Sherry**  
Group Scout Leader



# Chairman's Report

Hi all,

I would like to introduce myself, I'm Robert, the new chairman of 1st Oulton Broad Scout Group. I've been on the committee previously as a parent representative. After selling my business I decided I had the time to take on this opportunity within the Group.

Both my children have been involved in the Group from a young age. Ben has gone all the way from Beavers to now being a leader in Cubs. Beth started in Cubs and she now helps out when she is home from university. Both of them have more or less left home now so I have a lot more time on my hands. I look forward to helping out and meeting lot's of you in due course.

**Robert Drage**  
**Group Chairman**



## Group Finances

I wanted to share some information with you to explain why we are currently setting up a Fundraising Committee for the group. I'm sure you will agree that the last few years have been anything but typical, but as we emerge from the "Covid days" we need to ensure that the group has some strong foundations to build on.

The group only has two income streams, the subscriptions we collect from you and fundraising. Last year we collected in around £7000 of subscriptions, but we had to pass on £2500 of that to District, County and Scout Headquarters to fund their activities. Our recent fundraising included renting out the hall to a Dog training class (now finished) and our Gift Aid.

Looking forward, the price we pay for our electricity and gas will rise. Based on the current prices we expect the bill to increase from £1400/year to £4000/year. Added to this we have some important projects that will need to be addressed including the replacement of the Fire Escape stairway, the replacement of some Pontoons at the Boatyard and the replacement of the Kitchen.

We are forecasting that, even without progressing these important projects, our expenditure will exceed our income by around £7000 each year which means we will have no reserves within around 3-4 years.

Our options moving forward are quite simple, we either increase the subscriptions that we charge you or we do some serious fundraising. As you can see, the subscriptions will basically have to double in order to balance the books but we don't want to do that. That is unfair on you and it will inevitably result in fewer young people having a great time in Scouting. What we would much prefer to do is to set up a team of fundraisers to routinely generate some extra funds and have some fun at the same time.

So, can you help us? Do you have any skills that will help us on our journey to financial stability? This won't be an onerous task and anything you are able to do will be appreciated.

Please speak to any of our leaders or call me on 501145 to have an informal chat if you think you can help us.

**Alan Gosling**  
**Group Treasurer**







# SCOUTS

Scouts are now back for another term, after a busy year last year. We finished for the Christmas break, with a fun night at Quasar, we will definitely go back there again!! It was a big hit for the Scouts.

We were also able to have our first full season of boating after a couple of years without. It was brilliant to see all the Scouts enjoying and learning new skills out on the water. For some this was their first time out with us. At the end of the summer we were able to award a lot of nautical and boating based badges which was great to see. We look forward to heading back out on the water again in the spring and learning new skills and improving the ones we learnt last year to award some more badges.

This year we will be having our first summer camp for 3 years at the Mike Thurston Water Activity Centre at North Walsham. We will be away for 5 nights in August with lots of activities planned, including; rafting, archery and a trip out to see the seals at Blakeney. We already have a few names wanting to go and there are still places up for grabs if your child would like to come along. This year will also see the return of a whole District Group camp in May as we say goodbye to long serving DC Mel Buck. Again this will be a packed weekend with lots of activities including some we have never seen before.

We have already participated in 2 district competitions, including the quiz which we came 3rd in and we have just recently competed in the bowling competition. It's great to see the competitions back up and running and attracting Scouts to take part. We hope to enter a team into all competitions this year.

**Adam Pike**  
**Scout Leader**



# A message from your Assistant Group Scout Leader

A quick note on OSM...

As most of you should be aware, we use Online Scout Manager to manage the information, both sensitive and crucial, we keep about the children we have in the Beavers, Cubs & Scouts. This tool has really brought the way we run our Group into the 21st century and has made the lives of all our Leaders much easier.

What you may not know however, is there is a parent portal alongside this that you can sign into and track progress, keep up to date on events and update the information we keep to make sure we always have the correct information for your child.

We would really like all parents to be signed up to this and log in at least once a week and check on the progress of their child, also check for any updates from the Leaders. (Yes we can see how often you login 😊)

If you have logged in before and know how to, thank you and keep up the good work. If you don't know how to sign in speak to your section Leaders or email [shere-khan@1stoultonbroad.co.uk](mailto:shere-khan@1stoultonbroad.co.uk)



**Many Thanks**  
**Ben Drage**  
**Assistant Group Scout Leader/ Assistant Cub Scout Leader**

## Volunteering

As a parent or carer of a young person in our Group, you will know we have an amazing team of volunteers, all doing their 2 hours, as you would expect from the best group in the District. However, sometimes we could do with a few more, perhaps for specific programme events, or if you have a very special set of skills (I've heard that before, somewhere). You wouldn't necessarily need to work with the young people, we have maintenance requirements from time to time and if we can get some of these jobs done 'in house' it is one less thing we have to raise money for to pay someone to do. If you are able to help in any way please speak with a Leader, or complete the questionnaire that is available from your Leaders.

**Thank you.**  
**Martin**



[scouts.org.uk/join](https://scouts.org.uk/join)  
**#SkillsForLife**



# Remembering Skip (Ray)

For those who are new to our Group, Ray (fondly known as Skip) was our Group Scout Leader for many years, who suddenly passed away in November 2021. We just wanted to take this opportunity to remember him and share a few stories with you. I have the honour of doing this, because for me he was more than just Skip, he was my Dad.

Skip started his Scouting life at the tender age of 8, as a Cub Scout in Middlesex. He continued through the sections where he made some good friends. He met his best friend Stan, who had a sister called Margot, she later became his wife, my Mum. They got Married and moved to Lowestoft. A few years later, along came my sister Jo and then me. Dad still held Scouting close to his heart, once a Scout, always a Scout. He saw an advert in the paper from a local Scout Group looking for volunteers, especially Scout Leaders. He contacted them and, as they say, the rest is history.

He became Scout Leader for 3rd Oulton Broad, shortly followed by Group Scout Leader, then Assistant District Commissioner for Venture Scouts. He finally became Group Scout Leader for 1st Oulton Broad, a position he held with pride.

Growing up as a little girl, all I wanted to do was go with Dad to Scouts. Sadly, back then girls weren't allowed to join, so I had to make do with Brownies and Guides. However, Venture Scouts allowed girls!!! As soon as I turned 15 I joined, my sister Jo was already there. I'm not sure whether Dad was pleased or concerned, but he watched both myself and Jo gain our Venture Awards and Jo gained her Queen's Scout Award. We all went to Windsor Castle to see her parade with all the other Queens Scouts that year. Dad got to join her in the practice arena, where they got to meet members of the Royal family. A proud moment.

I was inspired by Dad and wanted to continue my Scouting as a Leader, so I became an Assistant Cub Scout Leader, followed by Cub Scout Leader (Akela) then more recently Assistant District Commissioner for Cub Scouts. Telling Dad I had been asked to be ADC was one of my proudest moments.

Dad never treated me any different to any other Leader, in fact we may have not always seen eye to eye on some decisions that were made! But that's character building.....right????

I got a phone call from him one day to tell me I had a new Cub Leader starting, "oh lovely" I said "anyone I know?" "Yes I think you do" he said "it's Megan!" For those who don't know, Megan (Mowgli) is my youngest daughter. I was a little shocked, I didn't know she had been to see him, but very proud and pleased she would be joining our team. Generation number 3 of our family was now involved in Scouting. We often refer to it as a 'Scouting Family', for some of us it really is.

Dad was very proud to be a Scout and I know he would be pleased to see the Group in Martin's safe hands.

## Skip 1944-2021

**Thank you for reading this and sharing these memories with me,  
Hazel**

