

# 31<sup>st</sup> Walthamstow (Fatima Elizabeth) Scout Group

## Trustees Report

September 2019 – September 2020



### 1. Reference and Administration Details

**Name:** 31<sup>st</sup> Walthamstow (Fatima Elizabeth) Scouts  
**HQ Registration Number:** 12092814  
**District, County:** Waltham Forest, Greater London North East  
**Principal Address:** 2 Malford Court, The Drive, London E18 2HR

#### Trustees

Name	Role
Sajid Rafiq	Chair
Sadaf Rayworth	Secretary
Mebs Alom	Treasurer
Sara Kassam	Group Scout Leader
Mohsin Vawda	Group Scout Leader
Haseeb Khan	Executive Committee Member

### 2. Structure, Governance and Management

#### Governing Documents

The Group's governing documents are those of the The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

#### Constitution

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

#### Trustee Selection

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. The Group is managed by the Group Executive Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

### **3. Objectives and Activities**

#### **The Purpose of Scouting**

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

#### **The Values of Scouting**

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

- Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.
- Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we cooperate with others and make friends.

#### **The Scout Method**

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- Enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- Take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- Learn by doing - share in spiritual reflection
- Take responsibility and make choices
- Undertake new and challenging activities
- Make and live by their Promise.

#### **Our Group**

Our Scout Group was started under the umbrella of the Fatima Elizabeth Phrontistery (FEP), a madrasah which specialises in facilitating the cultural, experiential, conscientious, critical and creative growth of children - through to their later teens - by means of a holistic pedagogy infused with a synthesising of traditional and contemporary ideas in order for them to have a well-rounded Islamic worldview. The purpose and values of Scouting are well aligned with FEP, and a taster session showed there was great demand.

On 13th September 2019, ten adult volunteer leaders welcomed 27 Beavers (6 - 8 years old) and 20 Cubs (8 - 10.5 years old) to Walthamstow School for Girls for our first session. A Scout (10.5 - 14 years old) section was started a term later in January 2020 and all three sections meet at the same time on a Friday evening. It has been a huge undertaking and a steep learning curve for the volunteer leaders but a journey we've enjoyed embarking upon with our young people. Together we have made new friends, played games, learnt new skills and had plenty of fun! Currently we have 24 Beavers, 21 Cubs and 14 Scouts but there will be movement amongst the sections which we plan to resolve at an appropriate time. The Group meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship / community development headings.

Our Group had been operational for seven months and we were just gathering momentum when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and a national lockdown was instigated.

## Leaders

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who have combined their skills and enthusiasm to create some wonderfully stimulating activities for our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Alongside the leadership team, dedicated parent and community helpers have provided an invaluable contribution in keeping our Group running.

Beavers	Cubs	Scouts
Sara Kassam (Bluebird)	Sajid Rafiq (Shark)	Haseeb Khan (Snow Leopard)
Mebs Alom (Lemur)	Sadaf Rayworth (Koala)	Tayyabah Tahir (Peacock)
Shenaz Mayet (Polar Bear)	Mohsin Vawda (Hawk)	Ayesha Arshad (Monkey)

## 4. Achievements and Performance

As a brand new Group, our priority was for all adults and young people to earn their Membership Award. Through this, we got to know each other, learned about worldwide family of Scouting and understood Scouting traditions and ceremonies. Culminating in an Investiture party where everyone made their Promise in front of friends and family, we were delighted to have achieved this milestone. Seeing everyone in uniform and feeling like a 'proper' Scout Group was a fantastic feeling.

Activities we've undertaken have focused on challenging our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to try new things outside of their comfort zone, working together as a team, learning new skills and contributing to their local community.

- **Badges** – Beavers have earned their Space, Creativity, Health & Fitness and Disability Awareness badges, plus others earned in their own time such as Collector and Book Reader. Cubs have earned their Astronomer and International badges, and Scouts were awarded their Artist badge.
- **Gilwell Park Taster day** - We had a great time trying out archery, climbing, craft and cooking over fires at Gilwell Park, the national Scout activity centre which happens to be nearby!
- **Visitors** – A number of people from our local community have visited to share their knowledge and expertise. The founder of PL84U Al-Suffa, a charity which provides food and support services spoke to our young people about homelessness. The Olorum Capoeira group did a fantastic display of the Afro-Brazilian martial art, teaching us about the history of capoeira and putting everyone through their paces trying out different moves! And a BSL sign language interpreter taught us our Promise in sign language and how to sign our names which was quite an accomplishment in one session!
- **Trips** – Our first full Group trip was to the Waltham Forest Feel Good Centre for some trampolining fun.
- **Online sessions** – Adapting to Scouting in lockdown was definitely a challenge for such a new Group. We ran some online sessions for all sections at the same time which was enjoyable for siblings to attend together. We completed our Great Indoors badge and did activities including quizzes, origami, baking and compass skills.
- **Summer meet ups** – When lockdown lifted and we were allowed to meet face to face outdoors, we held two sessions at the Waterworks Nature Reserve and Epping Forest Doughnut. It was great to see each other in real life, play some games and enjoy nature together.

## 5. Financial Review

Please see separate document containing our completed accounts for the first year of operation.

### Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 31st Walthamstow Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the 31st Walthamstow Scout Group for the year ended 31st August 2020.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the 31st Walthamstow Scout Group you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the 31st Walthamstow Scout Group accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the 31st Walthamstow Scout Group as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Anastasia Mylona

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): PhD, CEng, MCIBSE

Address: 62 Swinburne Road, Oxford, OX4 4BG

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## **6. Future Plans**

As the future remains uncertain, we are waiting for a time when we can meet regularly face to face again. Currently an interim online programme for our young people is being planned and leaders are continuing with their own training. There is plenty of admin to keep us busy too, as a new Group we are still setting up processes and systems and learning all the time. We want to be in the best position for when we do re-open fully inshallah. We're looking forward to continuing our adventure, expanding our programme and possibly opening a second Beaver section. With over 60 young people on our waiting list, the demand for Scouting in our local community is high. There's just so much possibility and potential for Fatima Elizabeth Scouts - with the trust and support of parents, carers, and our local community, we aim to become further established and flourish, giving more young people skills for life.

Jazak'allah to all those who have supported us on our journey so far, from our District and the Muslim Scout Fellowship, to Fatima Elizabeth Phrontistery and the families of our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. And of course, huge credit is due to the young people themselves – their energy, inquisitiveness, resilience and joy has made our Group what it is and we are proud of them all.

## **7. Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sara Kassam', written on a light-colored background.

Sara Kassam (Co-Group Scout Leader)  
3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020