



Polyapes

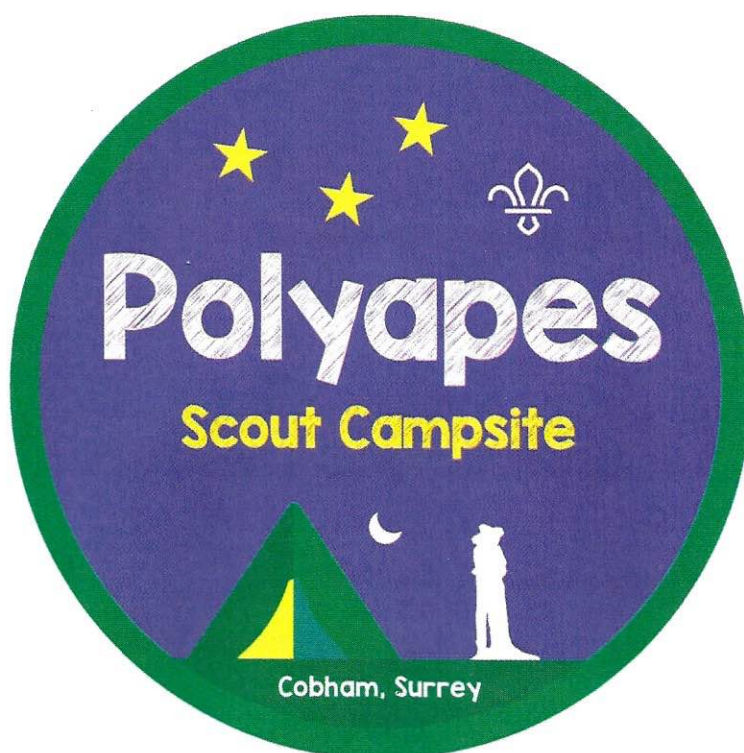


Scout Campsite

AGM

3:30pm

10/11/24



POLYAPES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 10th November 2024

3.30pm held at Polyapes Campsite

AGENDA

1. **Introduction and welcome**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Governance topics**
 - a. Approve the Minutes of the Polyapes Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 13th November 2023
 - b. Note the financial year for Polyapes Management Committee/Trustees
 - c. Confirm the number of Members that may be appointed to the Management Committee/Trustees
 - d. Discuss the quorum for future Meetings of the Management Committee/Trustees (excluding this AGM)
 - e. Matters Arising

1. **Review of the previous year/Reports**

Treasurer – Annual Report & Accounts

Wardens – Simon and Hannah Clarke

Chair – Chris Daley

2. **Appointment/Election of Officers:**

Chair – Chris Daley

Treasurer – Barry Hitchens

Independent Examiner of Accounts – Peter Runacres

Appointing any other Members of the Management Committee/Trustees

3. AOB

4. Closing Remarks

****Date of next Polyapes AGM – Remembrance Sunday 2025?****

Polyapes Management Committee/Trustees

Minutes of AGM – Sunday 13th November 2023 @ 3.30pm - held up at Polyapes Scout Campsite

Present

Chris Daley – Polyapes Chair and Esher, Simon & Hannah Clarke – Site Wardens/Polyapes SASU, Andrew Burns – DC Team Esher, Neil Findlay – Polyapes and Royal Kingston, Polyapes SASU members: Steve Myatt, Andrew Creasey, Laurence Chenery (Laul?), Camille Lobjoit, Iain Lobjoit, Anne Clarke, Amy Clarke, Steve Armitage. Kevin Browne – Military Vehicles, Steven East – Military Vehicles, Julie Findlay – 1st Hook and County Chair, Tom Wilkinson – Dittons and Esher District, Roger Umney – Esher District, Lisa Cross – Polyapes Secretary and Esher District.

Chris Daley, Chair of the Polyapes Management Committee/Trustees welcomed everyone to the AGM meeting and thanked Rev Dr Mike Branscombe (St Andrew's Church in Cobham) for taking the Remembrance Service which had been held just ahead of this AGM.

1) Apologies for Absence

Stewart Nash – DC Royal Kingston, Dave Weedon – Polyapes Royal Kingston, Barry . Hitchens – Polyapes Treasurer and Esher District, Carole Needham – Esher Appointments.

2) Agreement of Previous Minutes 2022

Proposed by Chris Daley

Approval by Simon Clarke and seconded by Andrew Creasey.

All attending – in favour

3) Matters Arising

None.

4) Reports

Treasurer's Report – Please see the 2023 AGM Brochure for the full Financial Report and Accounts.

Unfortunately, Barry Hitchens (Treasurer) hadn't been able to attend today due to being out of action following an eye operation – best wishes were sent for a speedy recovery.

Chris pointed out that income for the Site was up on last year and advised everyone to look at the Brochure for the full facts and figures. Andrew then highlighted the Camping Fees (page 3 of the Accounts) which showed an income for 2023 of £63,782 against £34,233 for 2022 – and paid credit to the efforts of the Wardens/SASU and for the hard work in sales in the tuck shop along with badges and for the rental of the containers too. He also mentioned that we would be losing the income we previously had from Hutchinson 3G due to the changes in legislation.

Lots of money had been re-invested back into improvements to the Site and mentioned the toilets and fencing projects in particular. He said a huge thank you to the SASU members who had completed the work – they spend all week doing their trades, and then came up to Polyapes at the weekend to complete more of the same. It was greatly appreciated.

No questions were asked in respect of the Accounts.

Chris thanked Barry for all his hard work as Treasurer, and thanks were also passed to Peter Runacres for auditing the Accounts too.

The Accounts were proposed for approval by Hannah Clarke and seconded by Neil Findlay

and accepted unanimously.

Wardens' Report – Please see the 2023 AGM Brochure for the Wardens' Report which highlight the hard work completed by the Wardens' and Polyapes SASU.

Simon pointed out highlights from the Wardens' Report:

- Had been the first full year post COVID.
- Had provided over 150 hours of instructor led activities.
- 6,971 young people had visited the Site.
- 7,105 nights of camping provided to young people.
- Toilet Block refurbishment – with a huge thank you to Laurence who had spent every weekend for a year on the toilet improvements and work.
- Hannah had designed the Wildlife and Sensory Garden – and the vegetables that had been grown had been put to good use during the Christmas meal.
- Replaced bulbs for LEDs.
- New path to reception.
- Crew members achieving Activity Permits – such as Air Rifle Shooting.
- Have got wildlife – foxes onsite.
- Insulated loft in the Wardens Hut.
- Welcomed the new site puppy (Peg).
- Still fixing the toilets non-stop – need to try and stop people from climbing on them!
- Trees – Ash die back – removing some of the trees currently. 160 trees onsite will need felling – and whilst not an issue for people camping, they will need to be dealt with.

Simon said a huge thank you to all the members of the Polyapes SASU – they give up a lot of their own time and lots of weekends putting in a lot of effort. He also stressed that Polyapes needs more support from the Owner Districts, as most of the current SASU are from outside the Owner Districts. There are 6 regular Team Members, so they really need some extra help.

Hannah also added her thanks and said that the Polyapes SASU were awesome! She added that she couldn't really thank them enough. She backed up the need for further volunteers and highlighted that there was a variety of jobs including things like gardening and different levels could be found for anyone.

No questions were put to the Wardens.

Chris then said an enormous thank you to Simon, Hannah and all the Polyapes SASU – for all the improvements, the additional activities they run and in the general management of the Site. He said that the thanks are from the whole of the Polyapes Committee as well as all the users of the Site.

He acknowledged the point about the Owner Districts and help being required and Chris will take this back to Esher, with Neil taking it to Royal Kingston.

Andrew did suggest about getting some Scout Network activities/projects as another way of getting help. The need to advertise these sorts of things to Explorers/Network within the Owner Districts was highlighted. Plan to have a Polyapes Open Day on 7th April 2024.

Chairs' Report – Please see Report from Chris within AGM Brochure – he did say that he wouldn't go through everything as the Wardens had highlighted all the good work they had been undertaking.

5) Election of Officers

Andrew then made the following proposals for

Chairman – Chris Daley

Secretary – Lisa Cross

Treasurer – Barry Hitchens

Independent Examiner – Peter Runacres

There was a unanimous approval for all the Officers by those present.

Thanks were passed to both Barry Hitchens and Peter Runacres from the meeting in respect of their hard work with the finances for Polyapes on behalf of both Districts.

6) Thanks, and Closing Remarks

Andrew then advised that he was stepping down as Deputy District Commissioner for Esher, and a new District Commissioner Team will be coming in and therefore a new member will be attending on behalf of Esher District.

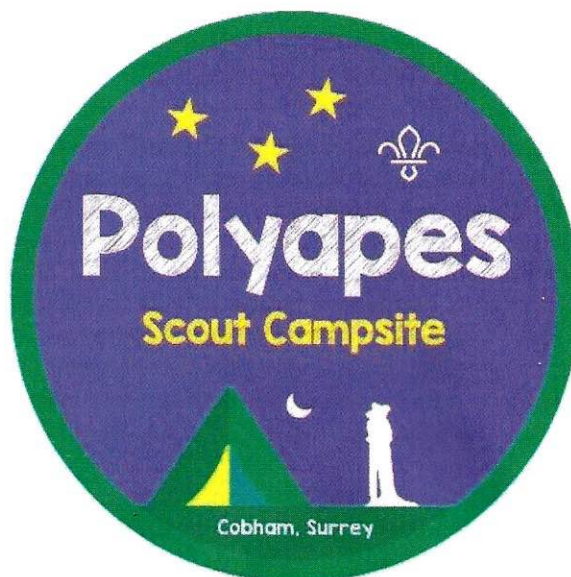
Neil added his thanks to Dave Weedon for being a member on behalf of Royal Kingston and to Stewart too – he does the District Commissioner role and has limited resources, and Neil tries to cover where he can. He added his thanks on behalf of Royal Kingston to Simon and Hannah and to the whole of the Polyapes SASU Crew too.

Chris than added his personal thanks to Andrew for his advice and knowledge on the legal side of things and said that he would be missed but that he had been enormously important to Polyapes.

7) Any Other Business

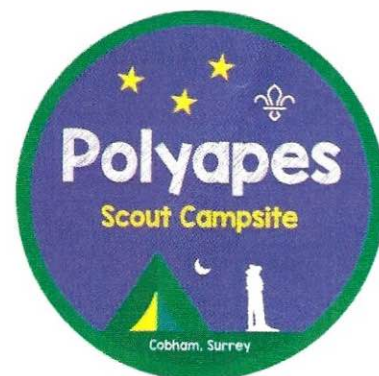
None

Meeting closed at 3.53pm.



Treasurer's Report 2023/24

Treasurer's Report to the members of The Scouts Association Polyapes Scout Camp Site for the year to 31st March 2024



RECEIPTS:

Grants and Donations: £2,190 (2023 - £2,695)

Our SASU team has generously provided services to various users of the site and these users have shown their appreciation by giving us donations ranging from as little as £10 to £2,150!

Camping Fees: £70,204 (2023 - £63,782)

The site is offering a wider range of services than ever before. Site camping fees and activity fees are approximately the same as last year (2024: £54,954 - 2023: £55,033) but the shop revenues have increased by £1,000 (2024: £3,488 - 2023: £2,329) and rent of 6 of the 10 containers that we are leasing contributed £5,000 more than last year (2024: £11,7662 - 2023: £6,420). The profit margins for activities and the shop are approximately 50% each with the containers generating closer to 66%.

At year end we have taken almost £10,000 in deposits for future bookings, which reflects a potential gross camping fee income for 2024-5 in excess of £80,000.

Hutchison 3G: £2,750 (2023 - £11,172)

The Hutchinson 3G contract covering this income was signed in April 2002 and ran to 31st March 2022. Negotiations to renew the contract have been protracted and acrimonious. In the interim, the agent has paid us fees in line with the terminated contract. The new contract provides us with fees of £2,750 per annum for the next 10 years with cost-of-living adjustments every 3 years. Legal costs related to the renewal were £3,215 being in excess of the first year's fees (£1,200 this year and £2,015 in 2023).

EXPENDITURE

Recurring Operating Costs: £49,147 (2023 - £32,081)

The almost 50% overall increase in running costs of the site is across all cost centers. General maintenance is twice last year's costs (2024: £12,472 - 2023: £6,010) and will continue at around £10,000 to £15,000 a year for some time to come. Electricity is over 100% more than prior years' (2024: £7,617 - 2023: £3,458) reflecting both huge industry wide rate increases and heavy usage to heat the ridge toilet block during winter. We are exploring how to reduce this specific usage increase. Insurance cost increase (2024: £7,543 - 2023: £ 5,549) reflects a reevaluation of replacement costs for the buildings. Our expanded SASU team requires sustenance while working on site plus appropriate clothing and training for the jobs undertaken. This has cost £8,039 this year (2023: £3,965).

The Cess Pit remains a cause for concern. At some stage in the future, we will need to address a different solution to the disposal of liquid waste.

Administration Costs: £2,000 (2023 - £4,129)

Excluding one-off items (most renegotiations legal fees - £1,200) the cost of running the OSM invoicing system is the only administration cost this year (2024: £800 - 2023: £810).

Other Expenditure – Major Improvements: £29,337 (2023 - £39,615)

I leave it to the warden to elaborate on the wide range of major projects undertaken by the team over the last 12 months. The most expensive project was the control of trees, but many other projects required significant manpower not necessarily reflected in the costs incurred.

Activities: £4,162 (2023 - £5,621)

The cost of maintaining the Crawler cars and the range have been minimal this year. The cave bus is costing £2,600 a year running from October to October. It remains to be seen if it turns out to be a good investment. We share 50/50 the fees for the Holiday Bus.

OVERALL

The site began the year with reserves of £33,235. We spent £13,732 (2023: - £5,171) more than we received in the year, leaving us with reserves of £19,503 at the end of the period. This represents a little under 25% of total expenditure in 2024. The trustees reserve policy is to have 6 months of running costs in reserve and to begin building a designated reserve to replace buildings, being 10% of site fees per year. We do not meet this objective on 31st March 2024.

THE SCOUTS ASSOCIATION POLYAPES SCOUT CAMPSITE


Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31st March 2024	1st April 2023
	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £
(Charity Reg. No. 1044613)		
Cash funds		
Nat West Bank	13,654	13,654
Lloyds Bank	14,075	17,597
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	100
Shop cash float	300	250
Total cash funds	28,029	31,501
Other monetary assets		
Overpaid invoice-refunded in May	624	-
Prepaid insurance and initial hygiene services	-	6,545
Sub total	624	6,545
Investment assets		
Other investments - detail	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Non monetary assets for charity's own use		
Shop stock	800	400
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	-	-
Other	-	-
Sub total	800	400
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	9,450	4,300
Utilities not yet paid	500	1,000
Other liabilities	-	-
Sub total	9,950	5,300
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	19,503	33,231

(Charity Reg. No. 1044613)

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on Xth X 200X (the date of the Executive Committee meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature	Print Name
	CHRIS DALEY Ch
	BARRY HOLDEN Treasur

17-9-2024

THE SCOUTS ASSOCIATION POLYAPES SCOUT CAMPSITE

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	1st April 2023	To	31st March 2024
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Receipts and payments

(Charity Reg. No. 1044613)

	2024	2023
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income	-	-
Membership subscriptions	-	-
Donations	-	-
Gift Aid	-	-
Sub total	-	-
Grants		
Maintenance grant	-	-
Other grants	2,190	2,695
Sub total	2,190	2,695
CAMPING FEES		
Scouts & Guides	33,485	38,914
Non-Scouting	13,439	16,119
Activities - Range, Crawler, Cave Bus, Holiday Bus	8,030	
Shop	3,488	2,329
Container Rent	11,762	6,420
Sub total	70,204	63,782
Investment income		
Bank interest	4	-
Hutchinson 3G	2,750	11,172
Sub total	2,754	11,172
Total Gross Income	75,148	77,649
Insurance Claim	-	-
Total receipts	75,148	77,649

THE SCOUTS ASSOCIATION POLYAPES SCOUT CAMPSITE

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	1st April 2023	To	31st March 2024
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Receipts and payments

(Charity Reg. No. 1044613)

	2024	2023
	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Payments		
Recurring Operating Costs		
Site general maintenance	12,472	6,010
Utilities, cleaning & licenses	21,092	16,557
Insurance	7,543	5,549
SASU	8,039	3,965
Sub total	49,146	32,081
Water Damage - insurance claim	-	1,273
Legal fees - Mast	1,200	2,015
AGM,OSM and trustee expenses	800	841
Sub total	2,000	4,129
Major Improvements		
Mowgli - shower	1,517	623
Fencing	2,785	334
Boiler replaced	2,727	-
Bus	-	385
Containers refit	-	1,323
Main toilet block	-	25,801
Equipment	6,220	4,314
Alarm system	-	759
Oxshot shed	222	-
Big Help Out Day	567	-
Signage	1,323	-
Tree control(moths)	11,490	4,636
Warren	214	1,068
Garden	2,272	372
Sub total	29,337	39,615
Activities - Range, Crawler, Cave Bus, Holiday Bus	4,162	5,621
Shop & Badges	444	32
Containers for rental	3,791	1,342
Sub total	8,397	6,995
Total Gross Expenditure	88,880	82,820
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 13,732	- 5,171
Cash funds last year end	33,235	38,406
Cash funds this year end	19,503	33,235

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Polyapes Scout Camp

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter Runacres



Address - 8 Waldegrave Road, Bromley, BR1 2JP
26th October 2024

Wardens Report 2023/24

a few stats to start you off (a bit like last year) ...

181 hours of Instructor led Activities

350+ hours of self-led activities

7454 YP attending the campsite, be it day visitors, mid-week bookings or camping

11142 nights of camping provided to those staying at Polyapes (56% increase due).

Our service crew have worked hard this year on the following projects.

- Installed our sensory and wildlife garden project
- Extra RC tracks in the woods
- Planted saplings and trees
- Installed more signage
- Moved the wood piles
- Got more on site self-led activities.
- Installed new fencing to the front and rear of site
- Replaced more ageing electrics and consumer units
- Several crew members completed activity training, allowing us to offer more activities.
- went into a partnership with wildlife aid to rehabilitate and release wildlife on our land.
- Fixed many many toilets.
- Tree and grounds work

This year has been very busy but when you try to put it down on paper, it doesn't sound like much!

The crew have been fantastic and are always around to help out, whether it's a blocked toilet, burst pipe or broken toilet seat, Laul (my right hand man!) will always appear and help, and for that I'm ever thankful.

The rest of the crew appeared when we had a fallen tree in January that crossed the public foot path to the back, it took several of us with chainsaws to tame the beast, allowing the public safe access again, with all of us doing this after work on a Wednesday evening, in less than brilliant conditions!

The Kings coronation weekend allowed us to run "the Big Help Out" which had lots of people from the local community and wider spread scouting come and help us plant the sensory and wildlife garden, which still needs lots of work but is getting there.

We have had a huge issue with Oak processionary moth and have had to have all of our oak trees sprayed, which has cost several thousand pounds and will likely have to be done every year or other year, we have also had around 50 trees effected by Ash Dieback and have had the dangerous ones felled and others we are keeping a close eye on, however they do not pose a risk to our campers currently and will be dealt with over the next year.

Some of our crew attended the national outdoor expo to get some ideas for site and a great weekend was had by all!

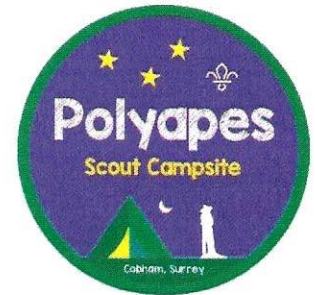
The Wardens are currently looking at the viability of moving in to the crew hut and creating more accommodation space for crew members, this would allow us to give more time to the site and give the site some additional income which we believe could be very useful!

None of the above would have been possible without the support of our amazing crew, they give up many hours and weekends between them to keep the place running and improve facilities so that the site is safe and future proofed for our young people.

Please come and speak to us if you have any spare time that you could give, we can find jobs for anyone to do!

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who uses the site and all the positive (and even negative) feedback we receive, Polyapes is your site, we are just keeping it going and trying to improve what we have for the generations to come, without your support and utilisation of our site, this would not be possible.

Simon & Hannah Clarke



Chairman's Report 2023/24

It is again a privilege to write few words for the annual report especially as the last year at Polyapes has again been such a positive one. The use of the site remains high, and the range of activities offered continues to expand.

The King's Coronation Big Help Out day in May 2023 was a great success at the site. Volunteers came from both owning Districts and from a good selection of other local Districts and Counties. There were also a few local non-Scouting volunteers. Most of that day's effort was put towards completing the wild garden, which is flourishing and is still growing an interesting selection of plants, herbs and vegetables.

Other green initiatives on site have included installing compost bins for food waste and grass cuttings, and all the lights on the site have now been changed to LED fittings. Furthermore, Surrey County Council gave the site 600 hedgerow saplings and 100 other trees which have now been planted on the site.

On a less positive green note, ash dieback has been a problem on the site and many affected trees have had to be removed. Some of this work had to be undertaken by professional tree surgeons, which was costly for the site, but was essential for safety reasons.

Various improvements have been undertaken by the service crew. Of particular note the toilets to the Mowgli building have been refurbished and new signage has been installed on the site, including an illuminated entrance sign. Additionally, the wood pile has been moved so it is now closer to the fire circle and some works were undertaken to the drainage pipework to the septic tank.

Simon, Hannah and the rest of the service crew at the site have again done an amazing job running and maintaining the site. In addition, they have also helped the military vehicle group at their displays in return for donations to Polyapes. So, a double thanks to the Warden and all his helpers for their considerable efforts in the last year.

I would also like to thank all members of the Trustee Committee for their hard work on behalf of the site over the past year, and especially to Barry Hitchens our treasurer and Lisa Cross our secretary.

It is with great regret that Lisa will be stepping down at the AGM. Lisa has done a splendid job as the secretary and because she has also been involved with the site over many years both as a leader and secretary, she has a unique knowledge of the place. I am sure everyone would like to extend warmest wishes and thanks to her, and we hope to still come up to the site in the future.

Chris Daley

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024.

Polyapes is a registered charity (1044613) that provides and maintains the camp site and buildings. The site was acquired in two separate transactions, in 1928 and 1937, by trustees acting on behalf of the then Kingston on Thames Boy Scouts Association (the "Founding District"). The purpose of the acquisition was that the site be a camping ground.

There being no evidence of an original trust deed or appointment of trustees in 1928 or 1937, in order to regularise the ownership of Polyapes, Trustees were first formally appointed in 1948 when the Founding District was reconstituted into four separate Districts, namely Kingston, Malden & Coombe, Surbiton and Esher ("the Original Owner Districts").

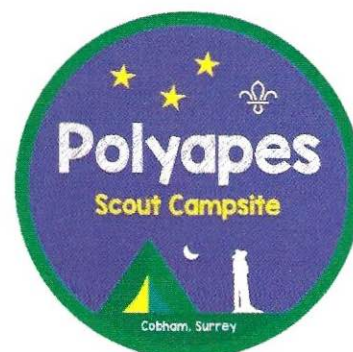
In the period since 1948, further reorganisations have occurred and the Original Owner Districts are now reduced to two, namely Royal Kingston (incorporating, after intervening reorganisations, the District of Kingston, Malden & Coombe and Surbiton) and Esher ('the Current Owner Districts').

The current Trustee of the site is the Scout Association Trust Corporation ('the Current Trustee'), having been appointed on 5th February 2018 and is duly registered at H M Land Registry under the number SY780840.

The Original Owner District together with the Owner Districts, following subsequent reorganisations, managed Polyapes through a Management Committee/Trustees appointed in accordance with the Constitution and rules in place. The powers, duties and rules have been governed by the constitution since 1975 or thereabouts and amended from time to time subsequently. The last such amendment was in 2019.

Polyapes is registered with the Charity Commission with the number 1044613. The objective of the charity is to provide a natural space for Scouts and other young people to camp in unspoiled surroundings.

The governance of the charity is provided by a Management Committee/Trustees made up of appointed representatives from Esher District and Royal Kingston District. Traditionally, the Management Committee/Trustees are confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of Polyapes annually. The management committee meets 4 to 6 times a year to oversee the running of the site.



Trustees during the 2023-24 reporting year were:

Chris Daley	Committee Chair (Esher Trustee)
Lisa Cross	Secretary
Barry Hitchens	Treasurer
Simon Clarke	Warden and Bookings Secretary
Stewart Nash	Royal Kingston District Commissioner
Neil Findlay	Royal Kingston District Chairman
David Weedon	Royal Kingston District Trustee – Responsibility for Polyapes.
Tom Wilkinson	Esher District Commissioner

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc, 10 Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4JY and

Lloyds Bank plc, 15 Blackheath Village, Blackheath, London, SE3 9LH.

Independent Examiner

Peter Runacres (F.C.A.), 8 Waldegrave Road, Bromley, BM1 2SP

Risk Assessment

The Management Committee/Trustees maintain an on-going assessment of the major risks confronting the charity that might restrict its ability to meet its objectives.

Specific risks include the ability to maintain buildings to an adequate standard to meet changing health and safety standards and to keep the site secure both when occupied and when not.

The Management Committee/Trustees regularly reviews current regulations and the status of the buildings to ensure compliance with regulations and to identify and commission repairs and improvements to buildings.

The site does not employ permanent staff. To operate an effective camp site requires considerable commitment by volunteers. There is a constant risk that the demands on volunteers will exceed the needs of the site. The Management Committee/Trustees continues to explore the facilities available through the wider Scouting community to attract competent volunteers to meet the needs of the site.

Reserves Policy

The Management Committee/Trustees have resolved to create reserves for the eventual replacement of buildings as and when funds are available.

Investment Policy

The charity generally does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. All funds are held in cash.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Polyapes Scout Camp

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- Tree and grounds work

This year has been very busy but when you try to put it down on paper, it doesn't sound like much!

The crew have been fantastic and are always around to help out, whether it's a blocked toilet, burst pipe or broken toilet seat, Laul (my right hand man!) will always appear and help, and for that I'm ever thankful.

The rest of the crew appeared when we had a fallen tree in January that crossed the public foot path to the back, it took several of us with chainsaws to tame the beast, allowing the public safe access again, with all of us doing this after work on a Wednesday evening, in less than brilliant conditions!

The Kings coronation weekend allowed us to run "the Big Help Out" which had lots of people from the local community and wider spread scouting come and help us plant the sensory and wildlife garden, which still needs lots of work but is getting there.

We have had a huge issue with Oak processionary moth and have had to have all of our oak trees sprayed, which has cost several thousand pounds and will likely have to be done every year or other year, we have also had around 50 trees effected by Ash Dieback and have had the dangerous ones felled and others we are keeping a close eye on, however they do not pose a risk to our campers currently and will be dealt with over the next year.

Some of our crew attended the national outdoor expo to get some ideas for site and a great weekend was had by all!

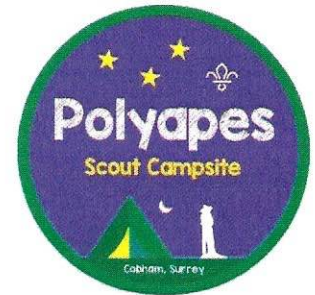
The Wardens are currently looking at the viability of moving in to the crew hut and creating more accommodation space for crew members, this would allow us to give more time to the site and give the site some additional income which we believe could be very useful!

None of the above would have been possible without the support of our amazing crew, they give up many hours and weekends between them to keep the place running and improve facilities so that the site is safe and future proofed for our young people.

Please come and speak to us if you have any spare time that you could give, we can find jobs for anyone to do!

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who uses the site and all the positive (and even negative) feedback we receive, Polyapes is your site, we are just keeping it going and trying to improve what we have for the generations to come, without your support and utilisation of our site, this would not be possible.

Simon & Hannah Clarke



Chairman's Report 2023/24

It is again a privilege to write few words for the annual report especially as the last year at Polyapes has again been such a positive one. The use of the site remains high, and the range of activities offered continues to expand.

The King's Coronation Big Help Out day in May 2023 was a great success at the site. Volunteers came from both owning Districts and from a good selection of other local Districts and Counties. There were also a few local non-Scouting volunteers. Most of that day's effort was put towards completing the wild garden, which is flourishing and is still growing an interesting selection of plants, herbs and vegetables.

Other green initiatives on site have included installing compost bins for food waste and grass cuttings, and all the lights on the site have now been changed to LED fittings. Furthermore, Surrey County Council gave the site 600 hedgerow saplings and 100 other trees which have now been planted on the site.

On a less positive green note, ash dieback has been a problem on the site and many affected trees have had to be removed. Some of this work had to be undertaken by professional tree surgeons, which was costly for the site, but was essential for safety reasons.

Various improvements have been undertaken by the service crew. Of particular note the toilets to the Mowgli building have been refurbished and new signage has been installed on the site, including an illuminated entrance sign. Additionally, the wood pile has been moved so it is now closer to the fire circle and some works were undertaken to the drainage pipework to the septic tank.

Simon, Hannah and the rest of the service crew at the site have again done an amazing job running and maintaining the site. In addition, they have also helped the military vehicle group at their displays in return for donations to Polyapes. So, a double thanks to the Warden and all his helpers for their considerable efforts in the last year.

I would also like to thank all members of the Trustee Committee for their hard work on behalf of the site over the past year, and especially to Barry Hitchens our treasurer and Lisa Cross our secretary.

It is with great regret that Lisa will be stepping down at the AGM. Lisa has done a splendid job as the secretary and because she has also been involved with the site over many years both as a leader and secretary, she has a unique knowledge of the place. I am sure everyone would like to extend warmest wishes and thanks to her, and we hope to still come up to the site in the future.

Chris Daley

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024.

Polyapes is a registered charity (1044613) that provides and maintains the camp site and buildings. The site was acquired in two separate transactions, in 1928 and 1937, by trustees acting on behalf of the then Kingston on Thames Boy Scouts Association (the "Founding District"). The purpose of the acquisition was that the site be a camping ground.

There being no evidence of an original trust deed or appointment of trustees in 1928 or 1937, in order to regularise the ownership of Polyapes, Trustees were first formally appointed in 1948 when the Founding District was reconstituted into four separate Districts, namely Kingston, Malden & Coombe, Surbiton and Esher ("the Original Owner Districts").

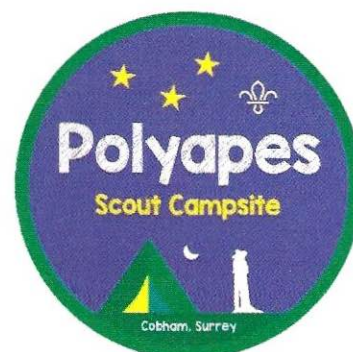
In the period since 1948, further reorganisations have occurred and the Original Owner Districts are now reduced to two, namely Royal Kingston (incorporating, after intervening reorganisations, the District of Kingston, Malden & Coombe and Surbiton) and Esher ('the Current Owner Districts').

The current Trustee of the site is the Scout Association Trust Corporation ('the Current Trustee'), having been appointed on 5th February 2018 and is duly registered at H M Land Registry under the number SY780840.

The Original Owner District together with the Owner Districts, following subsequent reorganisations, managed Polyapes through a Management Committee/Trustees appointed in accordance with the Constitution and rules in place. The powers, duties and rules have been governed by the constitution since 1975 or thereabouts and amended from time to time subsequently. The last such amendment was in 2019.

Polyapes is registered with the Charity Commission with the number 1044613. The objective of the charity is to provide a natural space for Scouts and other young people to camp in unspoiled surroundings.

The governance of the charity is provided by a Management Committee/Trustees made up of appointed representatives from Esher District and Royal Kingston District. Traditionally, the Management Committee/Trustees are confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of Polyapes annually. The management committee meets 4 to 6 times a year to oversee the running of the site.



Trustees during the 2023-24 reporting year were:

Chris Daley	Committee Chair (Esher Trustee)
Lisa Cross	Secretary
Barry Hitchens	Treasurer
Simon Clarke	Warden and Bookings Secretary
Stewart Nash	Royal Kingston District Commissioner
Neil Findlay	Royal Kingston District Chairman
David Weedon	Royal Kingston District Trustee – Responsibility for Polyapes.
Tom Wilkinson	Esher District Commissioner

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc, 10 Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4JY and

Lloyds Bank plc, 15 Blackheath Village, Blackheath, London, SE3 9LH.

Independent Examiner

Peter Runacres (F.C.A.), 8 Waldegrave Road, Bromley, BM1 2SP

Risk Assessment

The Management Committee/Trustees maintain an on-going assessment of the major risks confronting the charity that might restrict its ability to meet its objectives.

Specific risks include the ability to maintain buildings to an adequate standard to meet changing health and safety standards and to keep the site secure both when occupied and when not.

The Management Committee/Trustees regularly reviews current regulations and the status of the buildings to ensure compliance with regulations and to identify and commission repairs and improvements to buildings.

The site does not employ permanent staff. To operate an effective camp site requires considerable commitment by volunteers. There is a constant risk that the demands on volunteers will exceed the needs of the site. The Management Committee/Trustees continues to explore the facilities available through the wider Scouting community to attract competent volunteers to meet the needs of the site.

Reserves Policy

The Management Committee/Trustees have resolved to create reserves for the eventual replacement of buildings as and when funds are available.

Investment Policy

The charity generally does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. All funds are held in cash.