

# ESHER DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales · Charity number 1063001

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1997-06-23

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Website** [www.esherdistrictscouts.org.uk](http://www.esherdistrictscouts.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE INSTRUCTION OF BOYS OF ALL CLASSES IN THE PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLINE, LOYALTY AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

**Activities:** Promotes the development of young people in Esher in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international community by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive activities and training based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by trained adult leadership

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

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- **Area of benefit:** ESHER
- Surrey

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£20,494	£18,920	-	-
2024-03-31	£43,377	£41,590	-	-
2023-03-31	£27,978	£33,964	-	-
2022-03-31	£8,910	£8,694	-	-
2021-03-31	£5,529	£1,520	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Shalom Rachel Ariecho Gros</b>	Chair	2025-09-08
CHARLES PETER HANNA		
CHRISTOPHER CHARLES DALEY		2017-11-06
Carole Elaine Needham		2017-10-03
Dr Thomas Andrew Wilkinson		2024-01-01
Gary Ernest		2013-07-26
Kelan Andrew Humphries		2025-09-08
Mark Adrian Burrows		2024-01-01

**ESHER DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

England & Wales - Charity number 1063001

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# Accounts

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For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024





## 1 Agenda

### Esher District Scout Council

**Annual General Meeting – 2nd September 2024 – 7.30pm for 8pm start  
to be held at 1st Claygate Scout Centre, Oaken Lane, Claygate**

1. Introduction and welcome by David Vorbrich, Chair of the District Trustee Board
2. Apologies for absence
3. Explanation of changes to POR impacting the District
4. Governance topics
  - (a) Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th Sept 2023
  - (b) Adopt the Esher District Constitution as agreed September 2023 with minor amends to reflect Transformation
  - (c) Note the District's financial year
  - (d) Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council
  - (e) Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
  - (f) Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)
5. Review of the previous year
  - (a) The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouting in Esher District
  - (b) Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts
6. Making appointments
  - (a) [If required] Appoint the District Chair, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
  - (b) [If required] Appoint the District Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board.
  - (c) [If required] Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
  - (d) [If required] (Re-)appoint District President and/or Vice Presidents
  - (e) Appoint the Scrutineer / Independent Examiner / Auditor
  - (f) Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council
7. Presentations
8. Closing remarks



## 2 Minutes 2023

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Esher District Scout Council for the year ended 31st March 2023 held at 1st Claygate Scout Centre, Oaken Lane, Claygate, Esher on 14th September 2023 @ 7.45pm for 8.15pm start**

**Present** Julia Kielstra – Deputy County Commissioner, Tricia Griffin (County) and Leaders, Officers and Supporters of Esher District and Polyapes Campsite including Hugh Gostling, Mark Aulds, Andrew Burns, David Vorbrich, John Baldwin, Sue Hoad, Rosy Treasure, David Saunders, Rachel MacArthur, Anja Davidson, Chris West, Suzan Baker, Nick Fisk, Gary Ernest, Pam Escott, Tiana Humphries, Phil King, Anita Snell, Helen Amys, Tom Wilkinson, Caroline Li, Chris Daley, Hannah Clarke, Simon Clarke, Allan Carruthers, Sally Shortman, Mark Burrows, Julia Finch, Andy Davison, Chris Manning, Martin Einchcomb, Tyrone Weller, Zoe Newton, Norman Goldsmith, Jeni Bull, Neil Beardmore, George Bishop, Katie Ernest, G Renkis and Lisa Cross.

The following Explorers were also present and would be undertaking a presentation about attending the World Scout Jamboree 2023 in South Korea after the AGM – Luke Napier, Ed Cruthers, Maryla Renker, Luca Day and Samuel Worthington.

### 1) Welcome, Introduction & Prayer

Hugh introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the Esher District AGM and said it was lovely to have a good amount of people attending tonight. He then confirmed that the Scout Centre didn't contain any RAAC Concrete, but that the Scout Association would be in contact to check if anyone's building/headquarters did have any. He then thanked everybody for attending the Meeting and opened with a prayer.

### 2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were noted and included Joe Roberson, Carole Needham, Chris Beaney and Richard (Titch) Earthrowl.

### 3) Minutes of previous Esher District AGM held on 7th July 2022 and any Matters Arising

The previous Minutes are included within the 2023 Annual Report – but no issues or comments were made, and no matters arising were brought up – so the Minutes were marked as approved.

### 4) Changes to POR that impact the District including:

**a) Adoption/Agreement of the new Constitution** – printed copies were made available and it was noted that the Constitution had been recommended by the Board of Trustees. A couple of minor typos and misprints were raised and discussed, and it was agreed that the Constitution could be approved with those corrections made subsequently, and the final version of the constitution would be available on the District website.

**b) Confirming the date for the District's Financial Year** – this was agreed as being the 31st of March for each year.

**c) Agreeing the number of Members that may be elected to the District Trustee Board** – The current Trustees were all willing to be nominated again, and with a show of hands all Trustees were confirmed for the following year. There are 3 Ex-Officio Trustees, up to a maximum of 6 Elected Trustees. Nominated and Co-Opted Trustees will not exceed the number of Elected Trustees.

### 5) To approve the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

**(Please also see the Accounts and Financial Review within the Annual Report)**

We hold 3 District funds:

- 1) Group Scout Leaders' Fund (GSLs' Fund)
- 2) Building Repair (Bob Aldridge) Fund
- 3) General Fund



Gary confirmed that this year's levy for the Group Scout Leaders' Fund was set at £1.50 per member – and in particular this Fund is used to support Explorers to attend the World Jamboree.

He also confirmed that the levy of £0.50 per member would be for the General Fund – and this covered items such as day to day expenditure by the District such as costs of District AGM etc. We spend a very small amount on admin as a District. Other District events and activities (for Sections – inc Beavers, Cubs etc/Duke of Edinburgh Awards) go through the General Fund and there can sometimes be issues with timings and cross over of year end funds.

The Building Fund can be used for Loans to Groups in respect of building repairs/renewals or Capital projects and can be paid back over several years but on a pre-agreed basis.

At this point, Gary said that he was happy to take any questions in respect of the Accounts. No questions were put to Gary.

Approval for the Annual Report & Accounts was proposed by Chris Daley and seconded by Anja Davidson. It was passed for approval by the Meeting with no one against it. If anyone does have any questions or comments, please contact Lisa Cross, District Secretary.

Thanks were asked to be noted to both Gary Ernest and Barry Hitchens in respect of their hard work in relation to the Accounts.

#### **6) Appointment of Officers for 2023-24**

The proceedings were then passed back to Hugh to

a) Approve DC's nomination for District Chair – Hugh had put forward David Vorbrich as District Chair and as such had taken over from Harry last year. A thank you from the DC Team and on behalf of the District were passed to David for time and efforts during the last year. David said that he had grown into the role and was pleased to stay on. The approval of David Vorbrich as District Chair was passed by the Meeting by a show of hands followed by a round of applause.

David Vorbrich then continued for the other appointments as follows:

b) Elect the District Secretary - Lisa Cross was nominated as District Secretary and was currently undertaking the role. Lisa Cross was elected as District Secretary again by a show of hands and a round of applause.

c) Elect the District Treasurer - Gary Ernest was again willing to continue as District Treasurer. Gary was therefore duly elected as District Treasurer again by a show of hands and a round of applause..

d) Appoint Honorary District Examiner – although Barry Hitchens wasn't present tonight he had agreed to continue as Honorary District Examiner and received the Meetings' approval as such. Thanks were noted for Barry on behalf of his work for the District and was duly appointed.

e) Elect a Group Scouter as representative on the Surrey County Scout Council – Mark has held this role for the last couple of years and was happy to continue as Group Scouter. Mark Aulds was therefore duly elected.

f) District Commissioner nomination for members of the Esher District Trustee Board – Carole Needham had been put forward again and was happy to continue. Following a show of hands she was duly appointed.

It was pointed out at this stage that we could have other “appointed” Members here and volunteers were requested but no one put themselves forward.

g) Elect members of the Esher District Trustee Board - Peter Hanna, Stephen Valter and Chris Daley are all current Members and had agreed to stand again. Following a show of hands, all three were duly elected.

h) Elect representatives to the Polyapes Trustee Board – it was proposed that Chris Daley and Lisa Cross be elected on behalf of Esher District to continue as members of the Polyapes Management Committee. This was agreed and they were duly elected.

i) Elect members of the District Scout Council – No one put forward. It was explained that it didn't need to be a parent or a young person or involved in Scouting or having an active role. It is usually someone who just is asked to help and then becomes involved.

It was put to the Meeting that if anyone has any ideas of anyone suitable – we can add these later. Any nominations should be passed to Lisa Cross, District Secretary.

Thanks were passed to everyone who acts as an Officer on behalf of Esher District.

### **7) District Review of 2022-23**

**Please also see District Commissioner Team Report within the Annual Report.**

Hugh made a point of saying it was nice to see both Julia and Tricia from County tonight. He then encouraged everyone to have a look at the Annual Report as it was a “good read” and is good at pulling together all the strands and seeing what has been going on at District level over the last 12 months. It does include details on Escapade '23 and he added his thanks again to Andrew Burns and Zoe Newton for organising the Event. He also highlighted all the Young Leader expeditions and Awards.

He advised that the current District Commissioner (DC) Team are standing down, but that as yet there is no announcement as to who will replace them. He confirmed that as a District we are the 2nd biggest within Surrey County, and that young people need Good Scouting! We want them to go through Squirrels all the way through to Explorers and as adults and future Leaders.

We need a broad network of people in Scouting and within Esher District we have it and we want to give them the best Scouting experience.

Hugh then said thank you to everyone involved within Esher District and that he was going to stop now as he wants the young people to get their chance to talk - the Explorers would get their chance at the end of the AGM!

### **8) Presentations**

Hugh then made some presentations as follows:

He started by saying that quite a few Wood Badges had been presented this year, and that he didn't want to hold back and only present them at AGMs, but that people should get them asap.

**Rachel MacArthur** – was awarded her Wood Badge tonight. A big well done to Rachel.

**Norman Goldsmith “Goldy”** – Hugh presented Norman with his 60 years' service award. He has been involved with training, Patrol Leader training and also Leader training. A huge thank you and well done to Norman.

Hugh then handed over to Julia Kielstra, Deputy County Commissioner

Julia said that her experience of the DC Team – Hugh, Andrew and Mark was that if you asked a good question, you got a good answer. If you asked a “silly” question you received a “kind” answer and were treated with kindness and respect. They had done a good job with their leadership of the District and looking after everyone within it. She congratulated them on having a great Programme, strong Groups and recruitment. The District Escapade Camp was fantastic, and everyone had worked and pulled together. The Programme was passing on Scout values and skills – and she thanked every Leader within the District for this.

She said the DC Team had imagination for how the future looks and where it goes. She then led a cheer and round of applause to the current DC Team.

### **9) Thanks to those moving on from their roles**

**Daniel Camp** – (District Youth Commissioner) – Daniel had undertaken this District role but had now moved to the Yorkshire Dales. He has said that he is happy to be a point of contact in the future, and although not present a round of applause was given on behalf of Daniel.

### **10) Closing Remarks and Sign Off**

David then added his thank you on behalf of the District to the DC Team as well as a personal thank you from him - he had joined as District Chair during COVID and didn't know what he had signed up for – but that the Team had helped him through it all.

Suzan Baker then added her thanks to the DC Team on behalf of the GSLs across the District and said that they had all been on quite an adventure over the last 6 years! Along with help from Anja Davidson – the DC Team were then presented with a huge collection of goodies including hand sanitizer, campfire gin, campfire chairs for their onward journey, and they were advised that they were going to be missed. Thanks were also passed to the wives of the DC Team and some of the goodies were also relevant to them – see photos!

The DC Team were then all given a round of applause.

Thank you to everyone for attending the AGM and then the meeting was formally closed.





### 3 District Chair's Report

**David Vorbrich**  
District Chair

What a fantastic year for Scouting it has been across Esher District! The Covid-19 pandemic is well and truly behind us, and each Group is back into the regular swing of things after navigating restrictions over the last couple of years. We have strong membership across the District and the majority of Groups are once again managing waiting lists, showing the breadth and attractiveness of the programmes being offered.

Last year saw the introduction of The Transformation Programme introduced by The Scout Association across all sections of Scouting. Some of the main changes include the composition of Trustee Boards, the process by which we consider and appoint new volunteers, and some new titles for certain roles to emphasise the "volunteering" nature of all of our adult leaders and support roles. One of the less obvious changes is regarding the duration of some specific roles. This will become more obvious in future years, as some of our volunteers approach their limits in roles. But never fear! The clocks all reset for all roles to start in 2024.

The final, significant change coming with Transformation will be a new IT platform to replace Compass. Any migration from one IT platform to another is risk, and it is important that The Scout Association has confidence that the new system will be ready from Day 1 to support all of the activity required for Scouting. Early testing on the new system flagged some concerns, so the rollout of the new IT platform has been delayed. I'm sure that Mark will touch on this during his update, but essentially everyone needs to continue with the Transformation changes that are ready, and we will get behind the new IT platform and support its implementation when TSA says they are ready!

Last year we said thank you to our departing District Commissioner Team and welcomed our new DC Team. A transition in leadership is always a big milestone. Our previous DC Team of Hugh, Mark, and Andrew was very strong and brought a fantastic mix of experience from each. Navigating the Covid-19 restrictions was not easy, and we all celebrated how well the District (and all Groups and Sections) rose to the challenge.

Our new DC Team had some big shoes to fill!

We started with Mark, Tom, and George taking the reins to steer the District, and the



fresh injection of new talent, new ideas, and energy demonstrated the strength of our adult volunteers from across the District. This trio continued through to the end of the Scouting year, but in March we learned that George would need to step away from the DC Team. We are immensely grateful that he will continue contributing with 1st Oxshott Cubs. We are also fortunate that the duo of Mark and Tom have been able to share the DC responsibilities and carry on into the new year without missing a beat.

I know it has been a challenge and a stretch for them both!

Thank you, George, for helping with the District through last year, and for continuing your passion and support for Scouting. It is never in anyone's best interest to push beyond your limits! We all contribute what we are able, and together we are delivering an amazing experience teaching Skills for Life to the youth of Esher District!

Although it is not part of the previous year in scope for this Annual Report, I would also like to share some personal news. I have recently moved out of Claygate, where we have lived for the past twenty years, and am no longer within Esher District. I have chosen to continue serving as District Chair for a short while while the Trustee Board runs a search for a new volunteer to step forward as Chair. Part of Transformation is that all vacancies should be filled via an "open" process, and thus if anyone would like to put their name forward or make a nomination they feel would be a valuable addition to the Trustee's of Esher District, please contact Lisa or myself.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our adult volunteers! You help to run weekly sections, camps, hikes, competitions, and so many activities across our eleven Groups. There is also significant support through fundraising, administration, and District activities. And also, thank you to our volunteer Group and District Trustees who oversee the finances and risks of our charitable activities. Without your time and effort, there would be no Scouting. Thank you so much, for another year!

## 4 District Commissioner Team's Report

**Mark Burrows & Tom Wilkinson**  
District Lead Volunteers

The past year has been one of many achievements across the District. We have built on the strong consistent foundation while also one heralding some change and transition - responding to the ever-changing world we operate in. Examples of those achievements are captured in the Annual Report and show a vibrant District continuing to deliver against the 4 Ps of the Vision – Places, People, Perception and Programme.

Esher is the second largest district in the County, whose dedicated leaders so impressively deliver the Scout Association vision of preparing young people with skills for life, supported by amazing volunteers that deliver an inspiring programme.

Therefore, heartfelt thanks has to go to all the volunteers across the District who work so hard to deliver this; you individually and collectively, have made a significant difference to the young people in Esher.

On this note, it was very encouraging to see so many prestigious Scouting awards presented to Esher leaders through the year; many congratulations to all the worthy recipients.

At the district level, particular thanks goes to the Group Scout Leaders (GSLs) whose tireless leadership continues to be so important, and along them the Assistant District Commissioners (ADCs) who continue to deliver such valuable section specific programme and events. Other critical roles, whose work is so important but often unseen, are the Appointments team, the Training advisors, the Nights Away advisers and of course the Trustees who have been so ably led by David Vorbrich. Finally on a personal basis, special thanks has to go to Lisa Cross and David Saunders whose dedication, work rate and insight has been invaluable for the smooth running of the district, and ensuring the DC team can be effective.

In December 2023, the previous DC team handed over to a new team; we are greatly appreciative to Hugh, Andrew and Mark Aulds for their hard work and efforts during their tenure.



The new team, originally three but due to other commitments now a team of two – Tom Wilkinson and Mark Burrows, outlined their plans for the first half of 2024 to include:

1. A smooth transition from the old DC Team to the new DC Team; including a plan to meet all the key people within the District either individually or collectively.
2. Delivering on the goals of the Transformation Project – including what it consists of and embracing the changes but dealing with it as a way of evolution.
3. Completing the 2024 Census and supporting the new Trustee set up.
4. Re-issuing the Esher Vision and re-invigorating the goals with support from the GSLs for 2024:
  - (a) increasing the number of “Top awards” including the KSA.
  - (b) increasing the number of young people volunteering as leaders
  - (c) strengthening the sense of team across the district
  - (d) increasing the number of activity permits, and the access to activities offered to all sections
  - (e) successful implementation of the transformation project changes

The change of the DC team (now called District Lead Volunteers) is indicative of the broader transition led by The Scouts Association of some key aspects of Scouting that started in 2024. The Transformation will get further momentum in 2025 and beyond. From an Esher District perspective, any future changes will build on a strong foundation, ensuring that fundamental day to day scouting will be enhanced by an improved programme, enabling volunteers, delivering better IT and providing a more team-based approach.

While we will maintain all that is flourishing in the District, nevertheless the programme of transition in the year ahead is important to strengthen how we deliver Scouting in the District. For all our collective success there are areas where improvements are both possible and necessary.

### **Safeguarding**

In this regard **Safeguarding** of both the young people and volunteers is a number one priority; the death of an Explorer Scout on the Great Orme and the change of Safeguarding reporting approach has brought this in to sharp focus.

Firstly, the events at Great Orme were a tragedy that everyone in Scouting regrets. Scouting prides itself on providing interesting, challenging and adventurous activities. Nevertheless, in this instance more could have been done to have averted the risk. Based on TSA’s published response, all Esher District leaders must themselves be proactive in ensuring safety is embedded as part of our culture. In practise this includes completing and following **risk assessments**, written or dynamic for all activities and taking immediate appropriate action if the situation arises. Leaders should escalate any concerns to their GSL, DC, or County if necessary.

Secondly, the new Safeguarding reporting has seen the DC/DLV’s actively involved in a number of investigations with the TSA Safeguarding team (some minor, others more serious) all investigated fully and time consuming. The main message is that all leaders must be trained in Safety and Safeguarding, and in order to protect the young people and themselves follow the training, POR and use their common sense.

On the same theme, it is ever more important that all leaders are up to date with their **training** to ensure the programme is inspiring while also safe and varied.

### **Programme**

Core to the transformation programme, and an area where Esher can improve, we need to develop a more **“Youth-led” programme** to both maintain the vibrancy of Esher Scouting, plus keep it relevant and ensure a natural succession journey across the District. In this regard we are actively recruiting young person representation as Trustees and at the 14-24 District Team.

### **Organisation**



Finally, we need to move to a new **“team-based” Organisation** approach following the new Transformation guidelines from the TSA and County; both of whom are rolling this out from September 2024. We have developed a district Organisation draft with a plan to move to this approach across all groups in the district between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> December. This is in part to be ready for the new IT system which we anticipate being introduced by the end of the year. These changes will include utilising the new titles such as District Lead Volunteer instead of District Commissioner.

**In summary** the District has much to celebrate, and so many leaders to be thankful for. In the spirit of continued improvement whilst responding to the real-world environment we inhabit, we will embrace the evolutionary changes ahead to make sure we can continue to make a positive transformative impact to our young people, and leaders.

Your continued collective support in this regard is both critical and much appreciated.

Yours in Scouting,

Mark Burrows, Tom Wilkinson

## 5 Section Reports

### 5.1 Squirrels

Anja Davidson  
GSL Oxshott

When I sat to write this report last year we had just one Squirrel drey in Esher district with about 10 Squirrels.

A lot has happened since with another 3 Drey's opening. 1<sup>st</sup> Molesey opened their Drey in the summer term 2023, Followed by 1<sup>st</sup> Cobham in February 2024 and then shortly after by 2<sup>nd</sup> Molesey in May 2024. As a district we currently have 60 active Squirrels. It is projected this will go up to 80 Squirrels across the 4 Drey's come September.



Squirrels take part in very similar activities as the rest of the sections. They are extremely engaging and inquisitive as a group and ALL volunteers involved with Squirrels always walk away pleasantly surprised by their enthusiasm.



Over the last year there seems to have been a similar theme across all Drey's with all taking part in the local community in one way or another. The “Local Superhero” badge is popular with visits to and from the local police and police horses, the local vets and the local fire station. Community engagement has also been top on the list with several groups taking part in litter picking, allotments visits and “growing their own chips” courtesy of Cobham Squires Garden centre. The “Brilliant Builder” badge is also popular with squirrels building dens and getting creative with Lego.



Our Squirrels have also taking parts in other events that the rest of our sections do, Such as Remembrance Day Parade, St Georges Day. The two Molesey groups took part in Molesey Carnival. Again the squirrels were also invited to “Beaver fun day” and enjoyed the story of “The Wizard of Oz”. Camping and overnights are also being introduced to Squirrels, with Oxshott Squirrels who have been camping with their parents both at Oxshott’s Family Camp, but also their end of Summer term sleepover. 1<sup>st</sup> Cobham is planning their first Squirrel Sleepover for September 2024.



As Squirrels are expanding in numbers we are looking into having our first joining District Social “Squirrel Scurry” in the autumn term.

We must also say thank you to all the wonderful leaders who run the sections, aptly assisted by the wonderful Young Leaders who help weekly. This is particularly important, showing Squirrels the progression through the Groups. Parent engagement is also very high in this age group and much appreciated by the leaders due to the child:adult ratio. Hopefully this introduction will give us new adult members and volunteers.

## 5.2 Beavers

**Tiana Humphries**  
**Assistant District Commissioner (Beavers)**

Esher District Beaver leaders aim to deliver a balanced programme to all our Colonies, taking up the challenge provided by the County Matrix for Beavers in “developing personal independence and care for others” by covering Core Scouting when providing weekly meetings and other events.

To reflect our aim, Beavers have been participating in a wide range of activities including those outdoor, such as nature walks, shelter building, night walks, learning camp crafts, backwoods cooking, orienteering, enjoying campfires, caving, cycling and learning navigation skills. We have been considering the world around us when making bird kebabs, a bug hotel, going on litter picks, planting, taking part in the RSPB bird count and building bird feeders. Beavers have also had an opportunity to make visits into the local community, including a fire station, Imber Court Police horses, RNLI Teddington, St. Paul's church as well as the local Buddhist temple. A special mention regarding 1 st Claygate Beavers' visit to the nursing home where their VP Graham Gibbs is now a resident (he had served the District in a number of roles from 1977 to 2018). There was a huge affinity between the Beavers and the elderly during the visit and their interaction was a joy. Beavers have also learned first aid, about Chinese New Year, Burns Night, making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, circus skills, science experiments and stop frame animation. We participate in lots of creativity, for example, making smoothies, mug cakes, shadow puppets, junk modelling as well as creating salt dough ornaments. Some of our Beavers have been very fortunate when they've been kayaking, sailing, stand-up paddle boarding, tenpin bowling, playing mini golf and sledging. Lots of Colonies around the District provided activities to celebrate the King's Coronation, helping to create memories for our Beavers. All Colonies offer camping or indoor sleepovers, providing Beavers their first nights away before moving onto the older Sections.



By offering our young people this selection of new experiences naturally allows them to gain activity badges, Challenge badges and subsequently the Chief Scout Bronze Award, which is a wonderful way of recognising their achievements. Well done to all of our Beavers, who at the beginning of their Scouting journey have already gained so many skills.



Over 200 Beavers attended Escapade in June 2023, either joining us on Saturday morning until Sunday morning if they were staying over or as day visitors on Saturday. Despite the heat, Beavers had a lot of fun with so many different activities provided by all Scout Groups, on-site Walton Firs activities as well as hired in inflatables. The activities were wide ranging and for the Beavers included aerial runway, stomp rockets, campfire popcorn, cooking sausage dampers, circus skills, maze, bouldering wall, obstacle course, space hopper football, fire lighting, adventure course, crafts and more. We also held a tug-of-war competition for all of the Beavers, which was very exciting and well supported and we congratulate 1<sup>st</sup> Hinchley

Wood for winning the competition. Escapade was a great experience for Beavers whether they were day visitors, campers under canvas or sleeping indoors.



The District Team of Beaver leaders worked well together in providing our annual Beaver Party in February 2024. About 180 Beavers attended the event, this year themed The Wizard of Oz, spending their afternoon making scarecrow puppets, character masks, decorating lion biscuits, playing games, as well as watching a superb interactive show performed by the Cat's Grin Theatre Company, always a highlight of the afternoon. The Beaver Party runs very smoothly, the Beavers have a great deal of fun proving this to be a very successful event.

Beavers also have the opportunity to take part in various Remembrance and St. George's Day parades and/or services, the District Cross Country Run as well as the County organised online Reach for the Stars and Beavers Go Wild held at Bentley Copse. Our congratulations to The Dittons Toronto Colony for winning the Beaver Team trophy at the District Cross Country Run in October 2023.

1<sup>st</sup> Molesey has opened their second Beaver Colony this year, which means Esher District now has 16 Colonies with approximately 360 Beavers.

I offer a warm welcome to all of our new leaders and an enormous 'thank you' to all those involved in the Beaver Section, you have given your time to provide the fun-filled activities mentioned above, without your help Esher District Beavers wouldn't be experiencing the sensational range of activities that they do. My sincere thanks to David Cooper as District Beaver Leader for your advice and guidance to me and for your dedication to Esher District Beavers over so many years.

### 5.3 Cubs

**Sue Hoad**  
**Assistant District Commissioner (Cubs)**

I would like to start by saying thank you to all the Cub Leaders and their teams who have given their time to ensure Cubs across Esher District have continued to enjoy scouting.

I would also like to welcome the new Cub Leaders and other team members and hope to meet you all at future events.

It was a busy June for the Cubs (and especially the Cub Leaders and helpers) with first SCRAM swiftly followed the next weekend by Escapade. Over 3000 Cubs and Brownies converged on Hook Road Arena for a day of fun activities organised by Surrey Scouts. There were large inflatables and rides bought in by the Surrey Scouts organisers and, in addition, each District put on a range of activities from Escape Rooms, cooking marshmallows to various paracord keyrings and woggles, pioneering, games and much, much more. Thank you to all the Leaders and their teams who not only gave up their Saturday to run the activities the packs in Esher District put on but also some of Friday afternoon and evening setting up. I am sure all the Cubs (and Brownies) really enjoyed the day.



The following weekend it was Escapade – the Esher District camp for everyone from Squirrels to Explorers to adults to come together to enjoy a weekend of camping and activities. Once again, I must thank all the Cub Leaders and their teams who not only ran activities but ensured the Cubs were fed and watered – this being extremely important as it was an exceptionally hot weekend!

October was the next busy month with the District Cross Country on the 1<sup>st</sup> (postponed from the Spring) and District Sausage Sizzle the following weekend. The Cross Country was organised by 1<sup>st</sup> Oxshott and took place over Oxshott Heath – congratulations to The Dittons Cubs who won the team event and to Amber and Ben from Hinchley Wood and Dittons who were the overall Cubs winners.



The District Sausage Sizzle was held the following weekend at The Dittons (thank you for hosting once again) and although it was a smaller turn out of Cubs than in the past, all the Cubs helped light fires, cook sausages over the fire (and stirred onions in a pan) and toast marshmallows. They also had train rides provided by Thames Ditton Miniature Railway (thank you Matt for liaising with them). The Cubs appeared to really enjoy themselves – thank you to the Leaders and adults who gave up their time.

The District round of the County Quiz was held at the end of January at 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate Scout Centre. Eight teams from across the District took part and, following a close competition, it was won by Lynx Pack (1<sup>st</sup> Claygate) who then went on to represent Esher District at the County Cub quiz. Thank you to Catherine Hackett for running this on behalf of District.



Although not strictly in the same report year – with thanks to the Leaders at The Dittons, Esher District Cubs ran a District Cub Day Hike at the end of April from Denbies.

Congratulations to all the Cubs who have achieved their Chief Scout Silver Award.

I would like to finish as I began by thanking all the Cub Leaders and their teams for their support and Lisa Cross who continues to support Cub events.



## 5.4 Scouts

**Pam Escott**  
Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts)

What an incredible group of Troop Leaders we have in Esher District to maintain such great numbers of Scouts and to run so many brilliant programmes.

The Scout Leaders in Esher District continue to work hard to maintain a high standard of training taking part in First Aid courses, Safety training, Safeguarding training and other training sessions to improve the skills of the Troops Leaders such as qualifications in Target



shooting, Hill Walking, Archery, Off Road Cycling and Boating etc. Each year the Leaders provided many new, varied and unusual activities for the young people in Esher District.

The Scout Troops have such a wide age range in the section turning an older Cub into a young Explorer in 4 years, giving them the skills, knowledge, experience and confidence to tackle these challenges and expeditions without their leaders, but with other Scouts in their Troop, the District, at County events and even at Jamborees.



Scout Troop activities range from the traditional camping skills and cooking on open fires to rafting, kayaking, caving, diving, surfing, survival skills, climbing, abseiling, target shooting, archery, parascending, sailing, rowing. As well as group shows, gorge scrambling, coastering, sea fishing, hikes, scout group bands, expeditions on foot and by kayak. Also preparing and taking part in the many district and county competitions throughout the year. Some Scouts are also working on their Duke Of Edinburgh Bronze Award through their Scout Group.



This year Camps were held at Polyapes, at a Scout Group site at Fordinbridge and at Ferny Crofts in the New Forest, Cobnor near Chichester, Roadford Lake in Devon, Buddens campsite in Dorset, Copley Scout Centre in Cambridgeshire, Kandesteg in Switzerland and many other places. Esher District Scouts have travelled far and wide to have great fun, take part in some amazing activities and learn some new skills. Well done leaders for making this happen for your Scouts!

Well done to all the Scouts for their enthusiasm and their great attitude during these events and activities. The Scouts can always be relied on to take part in these events with such a wealth of skill, knowledge and with such a great sense of humour.



The following table shows the complete list of District events during this period, together with the winners and organisers to all of whom I extend my thanks for their enthusiasm, support and commitment.

	Event	Winners	Organisers
<b>2023</b>			
June	Archery	1 <sup>st</sup> Claygate	Mark Woodward & Michael Gostling 1 <sup>st</sup> Claygate
June	Target Shooting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey	Barry & Paula King, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey
September	Fishing	<b>Did Not Take Place</b>	Chris Manning & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey team
September	Scouting Skills & 1 <sup>st</sup> Aid	<b>To Be Held September 2024</b>	Chris Manning & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey team Hosted by 3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey
September	Cross Country	The Dittons	1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott and team with help from District leaders
October	Cooking	2 <sup>nd</sup> Molesey	1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey team Hosted by 1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey
October	Night Hike	1 <sup>st</sup> Claygate	Peter Hanna & 1 <sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood team
<b>2024</b>			
February	Cross Country	The Dittons	1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott & team with help from District leaders
March	Day Hike	1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey	Hugh Gostling, Mark Aulds & the 1 <sup>st</sup> Claygate & team with help from District leaders

2023



The **Esher District Target Shooting Competition** was held at our Esher District camp. We had entries from 9 teams. My thanks to Barry King and to Paula King from 3<sup>rd</sup> Molesey for running this event. Congratulations to 3<sup>rd</sup> Molesey for taking 1<sup>st</sup> place, The Dittons for taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place and to 2<sup>nd</sup> Molesey for coming 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The **Esher District Archery Competition** was held at our Esher District camp. We had entries from 8 teams. My thanks to Mark Woodward and to Michael Gostling from 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate for running this event. Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate for taking 1<sup>st</sup> place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Molesey for taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place and to 1<sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood for coming 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The **Esher District Scout Fishing Competition** – unfortunately cancelled due to lack of entries.

The **Esher District Cooking Competition** is a competition for 4 Scouts where they have to make a meal from ingredients given to them. 7 teams entered. Congratulations to 2<sup>nd</sup> Molesey who won the competition and were closely followed by AJAX who were 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Molesey took 3<sup>rd</sup> place. My thanks to Max Harvey and the leaders at 1<sup>st</sup> Molesey for putting on this event for the District.

The **Esher District Night Hike** is perhaps the highlight in the District calendar and an event which is always very well supported. This time we had an entry of 17 teams competing (7 competitive teams and 10 training teams). The hike consisted of a challenging navigational exercise over 9 miles around the Walton Heath area. The emphasis was on traditional map and compass skills. A team from 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate took 1<sup>st</sup> place, a team from The Dittons took 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a team from 1<sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place. My thanks to Peter Hanna, Adrian Ducker and the 1<sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood team for organising and running this event and also to all the many leaders and supporters who manned the checkpoints, drove mini buses and booked in the teams etc.

**Esher District Top Troop Trophy 2023** was won by The Dittons followed by 1<sup>st</sup> Molesey in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 2<sup>nd</sup> Molesey in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The Top Troop Trophy competition takes into account all the results from the competitions held during the year.

2024



The **Esher District Scouting Skills and First Aid Competition** – now to be held in September 2024.

The **Esher District Day Hike** took place over 9 miles in the Chobham area and had 16 entries of which 6 were competitive teams 10 were training teams. A lot of Troops have very young scouts so put in training teams this time. A team from The Dittons took 1<sup>st</sup> place and another team from The Dittons took 2<sup>nd</sup> place with another team from The Dittons took 3<sup>rd</sup> place. My thanks to Hugh Gostling, Mark Aulds and the 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate team who organised this event. My thanks also the District Leaders for manning the checkpoints etc.

The **Esher District Cross Country** – a 3 mile course in the Oxshott Heath area. A very popular event with all sections taking part. Congratulations to The Dittons for taking 1<sup>st</sup> place, 1<sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood for taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place and to 1<sup>st</sup> Molesey for taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place. My thanks to Anja and the 1<sup>st</sup> Oxshott team for organising this huge event for the District which couldn't happen without other leaders and parents helping to man the course etc.

### Chief Scout Gold Awards

The following Scouts gained their Chief Scouts Gold Awards during 2023/2024

Gregor	Logan	1 <sup>st</sup> Claygate
Maddox	Valter	1 <sup>st</sup> Claygate
William	Copland-Cale	1 <sup>st</sup> Claygate
Henry	Gilchrist	1 <sup>st</sup> Claygate
Leo	Batey	1 <sup>st</sup> Claygate
Robert	Keenes	The Dittons
James	Blunden	1 <sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood
Niall	Govind	1 <sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood
Luke	Napier	1 <sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood
Zachary	Stephenson	1 <sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood
George	Beal	2 <sup>nd</sup> Molesey
Alex	Horsburgh	2 <sup>nd</sup> Molesey
Robyn	Musgrave	2 <sup>nd</sup> Molesey
Erin	Sawell	2 <sup>nd</sup> Molesey
Josh	Strong	2 <sup>nd</sup> Molesey



Max	Gauntlett	1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott
Robbie	McMillan	1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott
Seth	Murphy	1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott
Sophie	Shipp	1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott
Cadan	Sobye	1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott
Emily	Bryant	1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott
Miles	Murphy	1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott
Jamie	O'Donnell	1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott
Sam	Saunders	1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott
Matthew	Wall	1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott

Congratulations to all the Other Scouts have also gained their Chief Scout Gold Award but have not been able to attend the County presentation ceremony.

This year saw the selection process, by County, for Esher District's places at the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in July/August 2023. The Scouts & Explorers who have been awarded places are:



David Govender	1 <sup>st</sup> Claygate
Samuel Worthington	1 <sup>st</sup> Claygate
Edward Cruthers	The Dittons
Luke Napier	1 <sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood
Maryla Renker	1 <sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood
Luca Day	2 <sup>nd</sup> Molesey
Wolfe Finucane-Cooke	3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey

We are lucky having many experienced and well-trained Leaders in the District who are willing not only to provide an exciting range of activities for their own Troops but also to share and help with activities in other Troops, such as boating activities, archery, shooting, assisting with training teams, joint camps and especially when Troops are experiencing leadership problems. I would like to thank all the Scout Troop Leaders, Assistant Leaders, supporters and the teams who take the time to support and organise the District events.

I would like to take a moment to recognise the dedication and commitment shown throughout the year by so many people across the District. Special thanks must go to the District Scout Leaders, to Carole Needham our District Appointment Secretary, the DC team and also to the other ADCs for their continued support.

Looking forward to another busy and exciting Scouting year.

## 5.5 District Explorer Scouts

**Tom Wilkinson**  
District Lead Volunteer

Thank you to all our Explorer Leaders who have delivered adventurous and engaging programmes across the District while also growing the number of Explorers in the District from 197 to 211, a 7% increase. This has once again been achieved without a District Explorer Scout Commissioner due to the dedication of all our Explorer volunteers across our groups. We have continued the ongoing system of letting the ESLs run the show and an effective use of WhatsApp and OSM group has ensured good communications with support from the DLV team.



We continue to thank Jonathan Perkins for his work in organising the Young Leader training programme and congratulations to all those who were awarded their YL belts; see his report for more details. The District 'Dragon' DofE programme has continued to be successful with most of our Units combining skills and resources, thanks to Mark Southey and Mark Burrows for their continued admin and expedition organisation. We have also started to work more closely with County's 'Western Watch' DofE team to provide Gold hiking expeditions to Explorers across all our Units.



In September, Claygate hosted the popular cooking competition with 1st place going to Claygate and 2nd and 3rd place both going to teams from Weston Green and Oxshott. The shooting competition was moved to 2024 and a new venue as discussed further below.



In mid-February a slightly smaller WAW was run in wet and windy weather taking all the hiking groups up onto Kinder Scout. We stayed at Gradbach, a quaint Scout-owned cottage setup for hiking in the Peaks. Massive thanks to the organising team of Anne Boland, Russell King, Jess Lane, John Daoud and Nick Barber for delivering the event on a short timescale.

There was a successful Incident Hike at the end of February with lots of activity bases and several teams from a good number of Units. Once again thanks to James Horsburgh for organising and well done to the winning Claygate team.



The Shooting Competition was moved to Polyapes in the Summer term - giving more room for one of our most heavily subscribed District events! With more space the team from 3rd Molesey were able to offer archery as well as shooting. Congratulations to 1st Molesey for winning overall and Lacey from 3rd Molesey for the best individual score.

Finally, our annual Explorer social was run by the Dittons team, also at Polyapes. It proved to be a lovely way to end the term. Special thanks to Julia Hawkins for jumping in to run the event when I unfortunately tested positive for COVID.



On a group level Explorers have gone camping either as Explorer units or joint with Scouts groups in places as far afield as Scotland and Morocco. Oxshott & Weston Green Explorers went to St Austell in Cornwall; Dittons went to the south coast and the Trossachs in Scotland; Claygate went to both Scotland & Morocco; 1<sup>st</sup> Molesey undertook kayaking expeditions on the River Thames and Medway.



Congratulations to those who went on DofE and other expeditions and events this year; which included the following Explorers getting their Explorer Belts:

Explorer Belt	
Chris Long	2nd Molesey
Tree Finucane	3rd Molesey



A productive Explorer Leader meeting at the end of the year means there will be even more District events on the calendar for 2024-25. We look forward to an adventurous and action-packed new year!

## 5.6 District Explorer Scout Young Leaders

**Jonathan Perkins**  
Esher District & Surrey Scouts Young Leader Adviser

The Young Leader programme in Esher District continues to deliver both support to the younger sections and opportunities for our Explorer Scouts. Young Leaders are Explorer Scouts who volunteer with a Squirrel Drey, Beaver Colony, Cub Pack or Scout Troop. They plan, organise and run games, activities and parts of the programme. Young Leaders bring new ideas and youth-shaped thinking. They provide positive role models to the young people they're leading. They are integral members of the Section's leadership team. They play a full part in planning, leading and delivering their Section's week-by-week programme. Young Leaders stand out from their peers and friends because of their highly practical leadership capabilities and experience. A number of the activities they complete as part of the Young Leader programme also count towards the other Top Scouting Awards such as the Chief Scout Platinum and Diamond Awards and the Kings Scout Award.

During the year there were 79 Young Leaders in the District. Our Young Leaders are managed through an Esher District Explorer Scout Young Leaders Unit. This includes 10 members who are not members of an active Explorer Unit as well, 5 of whom enjoy this role so much that they have converted from being DofE volunteers to become Explorer Scouts so that they could continue to volunteer as Young Leaders.

In my County role, I run the two Surrey Young Leader conferences held in October and March each year. I am very grateful to Phil Guildford, Rachel MacArthur, Caroline Li and Mark Aulds



from the District for their support as Leaders at these conferences. Over 130 Young Leaders attended the last conference from 15 Districts in Surrey with the support of 35 Leaders. From the Esher District, 29 Young Leaders attended in October 2023 and 35 in March 2024, the highest numbers of participants in the county from a single District. The Surrey Scout Young Leader conferences enable Young Leaders to develop their leadership skills by taking part in practical workshops. These include running games, teaching skills, and the planning and delivering of a scout programme. There is also the opportunity to validate a First Response level First Aid qualification.

During the year 2023/24, 20 Young Leaders in the District completed their Young Leader Award (16 in 2022/23). These were from the following Groups: 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate, Oxshott, 1<sup>st</sup> Weston Green and 1<sup>st</sup> Molesey.

Also, 19 of our Young Leaders have so far opted to continue their leadership development by participating in the unique Surrey Scouts Senior Explorer Scout Young Leader Award scheme (SESYL). The SESYL enables Young Leader Belt holders to further develop their leadership skills and is completed by attending three additional Young Leader conferences. The final stage of the SESYL is completing a BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community, which is provided and validated by an external provider the Cadet Vocational College. The BTEC recognises the core skills which are achieved through the Young Leader programme and through the completion of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. A number of our senior Young Leaders are very close to completing their SESYL and BTECs. I am very pleased that Lauren from The Dittons did complete her BTEC during this period.

Several Young Leaders also enjoyed a weekend Bushcraft Camp at Polyapes in July 2023. This was the first time the county Young Leader team laid on a camp specifically for Young Leaders and was led by the same team that runs the adult courses in the county. It was a great success and the Young Leaders were able to bring back the skills they learnt into their section meetings.

Finally, a number of our Young Leaders star in several videos promoting the Young Leader scheme on the Surrey Scouts website. See if you can spot anyone you know!

The first county Young Leader Bushcraft camp at Polyapes, July 2023





Seth from Oxshott demonstrating his Bushcraft skills

Young Leaders from Esher and across the county at the Conference in March 2024





Lauren receives her BTEC from Joe Rogerson the Surrey Lead Volunteer

## 6 District News

### 6.1 Appointments Report

**John Baldwin**  
Appointments Committee Chair

	Leader	Assistant Leader	Section Assistant	Skills Instructor
Squirrels	1	3	0	-
Beavers	0	4	12	-
Cubs	1	6	6	-
Scouts	0	1	1	-
Explorers	0	0	2	-
Group	1	0	0	3

They were spread across the District as follows:

Group	Number	Group	Number
Ajax	3	Claygate	11
Cobham	0	The Dittons	0
3 <sup>rd</sup> Esher	2	Hinchley Wood	3
1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey	10	2 <sup>nd</sup> Molesey	2
3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey	6	Oxshott	2
Weston Green	2	District	0
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>41</b>

41 people in total, an increase from last year probably due to the fact that more Squirrel sections are opening up.

A busy time, figures slightly up but lots of Beaver Section Assistants and new leaders for Squirrel Dreys!

This year has been interesting, feeding back to GSLs afterwards with recommendations of folk starting as Section Assistants then progressing to Leaders plus making sure Mandatory modules are being completed in a timely fashion depending on when we see them. Most people come to us with these done so we can chat about other things.

The main thing here is my thanks to all who serve on the Appointments Committee including Katelyn our latest member but special thanks to Carole (Appointments Secretary) for all her work in getting folk to us and chasing the new folk for references etc. before we see them. A BIG THANK YOU Carole!

**Carole Needham**

John and Carole would like to thank the panel members, past and present, who have supported all the adult volunteers who have joined Scouts. The way we welcome volunteers is changing and soon, the panel will be replaced by a Welcome Conversation with a more personal engagement.

John and Carole will still be around to iron out any wrinkles though.

## 6.2 Adult Training

**David Saunders**  
**District Training Administrator**

Adult Training in Esher District has continued to be maintained at very high compliance levels, albeit - across all of the key mandatory items of 'Mod1', 'GDPR', 'Safety' and 'Safeguarding' - we closed the year to end March, with all four elements at 99% compliance, regrettably one point down on the same period last year.

Such evidence shows the outcome of continued attention over recent years on what is a never-ending quest, with each year a new cohort of Members to support. Behind the headlines this support involves the hard work of a number of Leaders and Members - from Group Scout Leaders, Training Advisors and Line Managers, via the work of the 'Appointments Advisory Committee', through to the c.130 individual members (c.30% of the total), who were validated for completing or re-completing one or more of these courses during the past year.

Grateful thanks must therefore once again go to all of them in full measure for all that they have achieved and put up with - as well as for the valued support provided by County team members, when sought or needed.

Members' completion and validation of all elements of the mandatory Adult Training programme has continued to be a top priority for the Scouting Association, ahead of planned developments - so has continued to be effectively tracked and reported on both locally and nationally, as summarised here.

As a consequence, follow up on elements such as 'First Response' and 'Trustee Intro' training have been a high priority. That has led to further advances, moving us up to our highest ever year-end position of 98% and 99% compliant respectively - both one point up on our previous highest level at the same time last year.

Updates on training progress continues to be provided on a regular basis (normally quarterly) to Group and District level stakeholders (Group Scout Leaders, Training Advisors and the District Leadership Team) highlighting all key elements for the current and successive quarters - so that awareness of successes achieved, as well as the challenges remaining, is easy to understand and act upon locally.

Challenges to note as we move forward include:

- a) Continuation of the focus on effectively managing 'Safety', 'Safeguarding' and 'First Response' training renewals against the 3-yearly requirement.
- b) continuation of the focus on timely first-time training of all new Members – in alignment with 'approvals' processes pertaining to i) Sectional & Leadership Members and ii) to Trustee Members.
- c) continuing need to support and encourage Members to complete 'Wood Badge' training, where required, in a timely manner.
- d) preparing for changes to Adult Training requirements, as determined by the Transition Plan.

This has been my first report to provide as 'District Training Administrator' – reason being that the Role of 'Local Training Manager' has, despite all efforts made, in effect remained vacant for the past year or so.

### 6.3 Polyapes

**Chris Daley**  
Polyapes Chair

The last year at Polyapes has again been 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.

### 6.4 Adult Awards

#### Good Service Awards

The following Good Service Awards have been awarded across the District:

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service	
Patrick Berton	Lindsey Blake (awarded by Walton & Weybridge)
Anne Boland	Elizabeth Bruce
Alistair Carruthers	Mark Faulkner
Roger Hoad	Camille Lobjoit (awarded by Richmond)
Ruth Mortby	Heather Owen
Robert Owen	Heidi Smith
Rhid Tinkler	Allen Widdowson
Award For Merit	
Helen Amys	Suzan Baker
Anja Davidson	Katie Ernest
Tiana Humphries	Russell King
Liam Quinn	
Silver Acorn	
Richard (N) Hunt (awarded by Surrey)	Mark Marriott (awarded by Surrey)
Silver Wolf	
John Baldwin	Adrian Ducker

**Chief Scout's Length of Service Awards**

The following Chief Scout's Length of Service Awards have been awarded across the District:

<b>5 Years</b>	
Christopher Andrews	Richard Applin
Rex Batey	Sophie Beaney
Neil Beardmore	Katrina Butterfield
Daniel Camp	Margaret Creigh
Pauline Davies	Mikayla Davison
Geoffrey Day	Isabel Elliott
Nigel Harris	Scott Harverson
Philip Hawkins	Claire Hemming
James Horsburgh	Richard (V) Hunt
Felix Jackson	Laura La Frenais
David McKenzie	Scott Mayer
Simon Morris	Louise O'Gorman
Jacqui Signor	Lloyd Smith
Jon Southey	Kristian Squire
Gary Stephenson	Aron Stewart
Alexander Thurgood	Rhid Tinkler
Barry Walker	David Walker
Simon Walmsley	Nathan Ward
Kirstie Wood	
<b>10 Years</b>	
Paul Collyer	Anja Davidson
Lisette Julio-Quinn	Caroline Li
Carl Rowell	Emma Shipp
Mark Woodward	
<b>15 Years</b>	
Thomas Ballard	Nick Barber
Michael Davies	Katie Ernest
Sarah-Jane Kelland	Terence Price
Chris West	
<b>20 Years</b>	
Elizabeth Bruce	Mark Faulkner
Andrew (Fletch) Fletcher	Richard (N) Hunt (awarded by Epsom & Ewell)
Robert Lonnon	Heather Owen
John Thompson	
<b>25 Years</b>	
Ross Manning	Lisa Weller
<b>30 Years</b>	
Andrew Burns	Sally Shortman
<b>40 Years</b>	
Tyrone Weller	

Congratulations and well done to all recipients



## 6.5 Membership as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

Census January 2024 - Summary - Esher															
Name	Dreys	Colonies	Packs	Troops	Explorer Units	Networks	Squirrels	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts	Explorers	YP 4-18	Network Members	Total Adults *	Total
Esher	-	-	-	-	10	1	-	-	-	-	211	211	58	121	332
1st Claygate	-	4	3	1	-	-	-	91	103	57	-	251	-	84	335
1st Cobham	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	14	12	10	-	36	-	10	46
3rd Esher	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	17	19	33	-	69	-	19	88
1st Hinchley Wood	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	23	30	33	-	86	-	29	115
1st Molesey (Jaguar)	1	1	2	2	-	-	20	24	60	62	-	166	-	74	240
2nd Molesey (St Pauls)	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	32	25	26	-	83	-	14	97
3rd Molesey (Matravers)	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	18	23	25	-	66	-	35	101
1st Oxshott	1	1	1	1	-	-	16	18	30	29	-	93	-	14	107
4th Thames Ditton (Ajax) Sea Scouts	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	18	36	41	-	95	-	50	145
The Dittons	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	42	61	51	-	154	-	25	179
1st Weston Green (All Saints)	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	23	21	25	-	69	-	22	91
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>1379</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1876</b>

Census 2024 - Trends - Esher															
Name	Squirrels			Beavers			Cubs			Scouts			Explorers		
	2023	2024	Growth	2023	2024	Growth	2023	2024	Change	2023	2024	Change	2023	2024	Change
Esher	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	197	211	+14
1st Claygate	0	0	-	84	91	+7	109	103	-6	80	57	-23	0	0	-
1st Cobham	0	0	-	15	14	-1	19	12	-7	5	10	+5	0	0	-
3rd Esher	0	0	-	19	17	-2	27	19	-8	20	33	+13	0	0	-
1st Hinchley Wood	0	0	-	24	23	-1	31	30	-1	33	33	-	0	0	-
1st Molesey (Jaguar)	0	20	+20	24	24	-	55	60	+5	69	62	-7	0	0	-
2nd Molesey (St Pauls)	0	0	-	26	32	+6	26	25	-1	32	26	-6	0	0	-
3rd Molesey (Matravers)	0	0	-	23	18	-5	21	23	+2	30	25	-5	0	0	-
1st Oxshott	10	16	+6	18	18	-	31	30	-1	32	29	-3	0	0	-
4th Thames Ditton (Ajax) Sea Scouts	0	0	-	23	18	-5	30	36	+6	45	41	-4	0	0	-
The Dittons	0	0	-	54	42	-12	51	61	+10	52	51	-1	0	0	-
1st Weston Green (All Saints)	0	0	-	24	23	-1	23	21	-2	24	25	+1	0	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>+26</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>+14</b>



## 7 Trustees' Annual Report

Esher District Trustees' Annual Report  
for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

This report follows the format of that recommended by The Scout Association document LT700001.

### 7.1 Section A: Reference and Administration Details

**Charity Name:** Esher District

**Registered Charity Number.:** 1063001

**HQ Registration Number.:** 15409

**Charity's principal address:** Gary Ernest, 55 Oaken Lane, Claygate, KT10 0RQ

Names of the charity trustees who managed the charity during the year:

Trustee	Name	Office
<b>David Vorbrich</b>	District Chair	[Ex-officio]
<b>Gary Ernest</b>	District Treasurer	[Ex-officio]
<b>Lisa Cross</b>	Secretary	[Ex-officio]
<b>Tom Wilkinson</b>	District Co-Commissioner	[Ex-officio]
<b>Mark Burrows</b>	District Co-Commissioner	[Ex-officio]
<b>Peter Hanna</b>	Trustee	Elected
<b>Chris Daley</b>	Trustee	Elected
<b>Stephen Valter</b>	Trustee	Elected
<b>Carole Needham</b>	Trustee	Elected
<b>[18-25 Vacancy]</b>	Trustee	Elected

Names and addresses of advisers – there were none

Other appointments are

Independent Examiner: **Barry Hitchens**

Vice-Presidents: **A J Palmer, C W Salter, R W Umney**

### 7.2 Section B: Structure, Governance and Management

#### 7.2.1 Description of the charity's trusts

The District's governing documents are those of 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.

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scout Districts, and appoints its Trustees in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

The District is managed by the District Trustee Board the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the District which is an educational charity. As charity trustees, they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping of proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

During this period the Board has consisted of six independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer, and four independent Trustees together with two District Co-Commissioners, and meets every two months. The members for the year under review are listed above and met together during the period on the following dates: 24th April 2023, 3rd July 2023, 25 September 2023, 20 November 2023, 4th January 2024, 19th February 2024.

Members of the Trustee Board have completed Trustee Introduction Training within the first 5 months of joining the Board and are all DBS-checked.



This District Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, buildings and equipment are in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules.

### 7.2.2 Risk and Internal Control

The District Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the Group is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

1. *Injury to leaders, members, helpers and supporters:* Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities whether virtual or face to face. These follow guidance from the Scout Association and Government as appropriate. In addition, the Trustee Board has a standing item on their meeting agenda to consider any mitigating action required to address any reported incidents. The District, through the annual membership fees, contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy.
2. *Reduced income from fundraising:* The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fundraising. The District does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Trustees could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the District either temporarily or permanently.
3. *Reduction or loss of leaders:* The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular Group, or the District as a whole then there might have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a group, or, in the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the District.
4. *Reduction or loss of members:* The District provides activities for all young people aged from 6 years of age and upwards. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or Group as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a group, or in the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the District.
5. *Any event causing widespread or severe health issues among young people, leaders and others, which impact the District:* Groups will be run virtually using tools like Zoom. Risk assessments for the resulting scenarios will be considered and implemented following Government guidance and guidance from the Scout Association as appropriate. Expenditure will be monitored to ensure lower revenue does not adversely impact the District's financial situation.

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss. These include two signatories for all bank payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that major insurable risks are covered.

### 7.2.3 Section C: Objectives and Activities

#### District Objectives

The aim of the District is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of the local, national and international community. The method of achieving this aim is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training based on the Scout Association Programme and guided by trained adult leadership.

#### Overall District Strategy

- **Growth** – to recruit and retain adults, expand/add sections taking numbers off waiting lists and to develop a plan to potentially start a new group. Enhance programme
- **Inclusivity** – to attract and include a wider range of young people, genders, ethnicities, special needs and faiths.
- **Youth Shaped** – to ensure Scouts are actively influencing programming and planning at Group and District level



- **Community Impact** – to encourage Group/District involvement in one publicised community engagement per term.

## 8 Financial Review 2023-24

Gary Ernest  
District Treasurer

### 8.1 Financial Strategy

There has been no material change in the financial organisation of EDSC in the year to 31 March 2024. Esher District Scout Council (EDSC) maintains the following three funds:

- The **Group Scout Leaders' (GSLs')** Fund is raised through a levy on all eligible scout members across the 11 scout groups ("the Groups") that comprise the District. The GSLs' levy recovered from Groups in March 2024 (to cover the 2024/25 financial year (FY)) was £2.00 per member, compared with £1.50 in the prior year (PY). The Fund is used at the GSLs' discretion to support scouting projects across the District. In particular, the Fund is used to provide 50% of the cost for local Explorers to attend the World Jamboree every 4 years, and to fund one-off grants to Groups or individuals in support of scouting activity.
- The **Building Repair (Bob Aldridge)** Fund represents a legacy from the estate of JS Easter received in 1997. The Fund is used to provide short-term loans to Groups for urgent building repairs and renewals.
- The **General Fund** comprises all other monies held by the EDSC and is used to fund day-to-day expenditure by the District. No levy was charged in March 2024 (to cover the 2024/25 financial year) compared with £0.50 per member in March 2023 (to cover the PY).

EDSC's financial strategy is to hold sufficient reserves within the General Fund to be able to continue the charitable activities of the District should income fall short. The Trustee Board considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months' running costs, about £2,000, plus funds to meet significant property repairs, £10,000 – so £12,000 in total. On March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 the General Fund stood at £14,874 (March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 £14,379).

### 8.2 Financial Review 2023-2024

The accounts, as shown in Appendix A, are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, as provided for in the Charities Act 2011.

#### 8.2.1 Fund movements

Balances of the District's funds at the beginning and end of the current financial year are as follows:

£	1 Apr 2023	31 Mar 2024
GSLs' Fund	4,577	5,615
Building Fund	21,455	21,709
General Fund	14,379	14,874
TOTAL	40,411	42,198

For the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 total funds increased by £1,797.

The **GSLs' Fund** increased by £1,038. This is a combination of receipt of the levy for the 24/25 FY of £2,758, less the final payment to Scouts HQ for the South Korea World Jamboree in 2023 (£1,720). The GSLs' Fund is now being re-funded ready to assist with costs of District members to attend the Poland World Jamboree in 2027.



The **Building Repair (Bob Aldridge) Fund** increased by £254 due to interest received on the Scout Association Deposit account. No loans to Groups are currently outstanding.

The **General Fund** increased by £494. This movement is a combination of payments received and paid out for District activities such as District Beaver party, District Cub camp, Scouts' Night and Day hikes and Explorers' Winter Activity Weekend, offset by general running costs such as insurance for District Officers, the AGM and other District admin costs.

This year the events included the District Camp held at Walton Firs in June 2023. Overall, this broke even, but because the deposit for Walton Firs was made in the previous financial year the figures for 23/24 show a surplus of almost £4,000, offsetting the deposit.

Note that costs for 22/23 include the premium for the public liability top-up insurance paid by the District on behalf of Groups – and recovered from Groups in the Insurance Fees received. In previous years this has been deducted from the fees received, but an up-to-date understanding of FRS 102, the accounting standard that applies to preparation of charity accounts, suggests that it should not be offset but treated as a specific cost. PY accounts have not been restated.


### 8.2.2 Assets and liabilities

As the accounts are maintained and prepared on a receipts and payments basis, there is no District balance sheet.

The Scout Association Short Term Deposit accounts was closed in 2023 and the balance transferred to CAF bank. An account has been opened with CCLA to be used as an instant access facility, but the transfer to that account did not take place until May 2024 after this financial year closed.

No liabilities or pre-payments are carried forward.

## 8.3 Appendix A

	Esher District Scout Council		1063001		CC16a	
	Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	1st April 2023	To	31st March 2024		
<b>Section A Receipts and payments</b>						
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year	
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	
<b>A1 Receipts</b>						
Capitation & Insurance Fees received (Note 1)	3,304	66,537	-	69,841	66,372	
Less: paid to County	-	(63,779)	-	(63,779)	(60,638)	
Less: paid to Unity (PIP insurance)	-	-	-	-	(3,502)	
Net Capitation Fees received	3,304	2,758	-	6,062	2,233	
Course Fees received	-	-	-	-	730	
Activities and district camps	35,231	-	-	35,231	14,791	
2023 Jamboree (from Groups)	-	1,745	-	1,745	9,900	
Interest receivable	85	254	-	339	298	
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	27	
	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>38,620</b>	<b>4,757</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,377</b>	<b>27,978</b>	
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>38,620</b>	<b>4,757</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,377</b>	<b>27,978</b>	
<b>A3 Payments</b>						
Activities and district camps	33,650	-	-	33,650	13,040	
2023 Jamboree paid to UK HQ	-	3,465	-	3,465	19,723	
Administration and miscellaneous payments	1,019	-	-	1,019	572	
PIP insurance for District/Groups	3,456	-	-	3,456	-	
Training costs	-	-	-	-	630	
	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>38,125</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41,590</b>	<b>33,964</b>	
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>						
Equipment purchases	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>38,125</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41,590</b>	<b>33,964</b>	
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,787</b>	<b>(5,986)</b>	
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>14,379</b>	<b>26,032</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>40,411</b>	<b>46,397</b>	
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>14,874</b>	<b>27,324</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,197</b>	<b>40,411</b>	



Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period				
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank current account	14,874	27,324	
	Scout Assoc Short Term Deposit	-	-	
		-	-	
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>14,874</b>	<b>27,324</b>	
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Loans	-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	GSL's Fund		5,615	5,615
	Building Fund		21,709	21,709
	General Fund	14,874	-	14,874
		<b>14,874</b>	<b>27,324</b>	<b>42,198</b>
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		David Vorbrich District Chairman		
		Gary Ernest, District Treasurer		



## 8.4 Appendix B: Auditors Note

### **Esher District Scout Council Charity Number 1063001**

#### **Report of the Independent examiner to the Trustees of Esher District Scout Council**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above Charity for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 that are set out on the pages attached.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust's 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 that gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- a) the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- b) the accounts did not comply with the accounting records or
- c) the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of the independent examination.

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.

Barry Hitchens - Australian Society of Accountants  
24 Effingham Road, Long Ditton, Surrey, KT6 5JY

*Barry Hitchens* 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024



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**ESHER DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

England & Wales - Charity number 1063001

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# Accounts

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# Annual Report

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023



## Esher District Scout Council

[www.esherDistrictscouts.org.uk](http://www.esherDistrictscouts.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 1063001



Esher District Scout Council  
Annual General Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023  
to be held at 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate Scout Centre  
7.45pm for 8.15pm start



**Annual General Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – 7.45 for 8.15pm start  
to be held at 1st Claygate Scout Centre, Oaken Lane, Claygate**

AGENDA

1. Welcome, introduction & prayer (HG)
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of previous AGM (7<sup>th</sup> July 2022) and any Matters Arising
4. Changes to POR that impact the District including:
  - (a) Adoption/Agreement of the new Constitution
  - (b) Confirming the date for the District's financial year
  - (c) Agreeing the number of Members that may be elected to the District Trustee Board
5. To approve the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023
6. Appointment of officers for 2023-24:
  - (a) To approve the DC's nomination for Chairman (HG)
  - (b) To elect the District Secretary – Lisa Cross nominated (DV)
  - (c) To elect the District Treasurer – Gary Ernest nominated (DV)
  - (d) To appoint the Honorary District Examiner – Barry Hitchens (DV)
  - (e) To elect a Group Scouter as representative on the Surrey County Scout Council – Mark Aulds nominated
  - (f) To receive the District Commissioner's nominations for members of the Esher District Trustee Board - Carole Needham
  - (g) To elect members of the Esher District Trustee Board. The following have been nominated:  
Stephen Valter, Chris Daley, Peter Hanna
  - (h) To elect representatives to the Polyapes Trustee Board – Lisa Cross & Chris Daley
  - (i) To elect members of the District Scout Council (if any)
7. District review of 2022-23 (HG)
8. Presentations (HG)
9. Thanks to those moving on from their roles (DV) Daniel Camp Youth Commissioner
10. Closing remarks and sign off (DV)

**After the official Meeting has been closed there will be a presentation by the Jamboree Contingents**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Esher District Scout Council for the year ended 31st March 2022 held at 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate Scout Centre, Oaken Lane, Claygate, Esher on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 @ 8.00pm**

**Present**

Tricia Griffin – Deputy County Commissioner and 36 Leaders, Officers and Supporters of Esher District and Polyapes Campsite including Hugh Gostling, Dave Vorbrich, Gill Gostling, Dave Creigh, David Saunders, Rosy Treasure, Sue Hoad, Pam Escott, Phil King, John Baldwin, Daniel Camp, Paul Bartlett, Pat Berton, Dylan King, Helen Amys, Brian Amys, Rachel MacArthur, Anita Snell, Andrew Dickson, Jonathan Perkins, Liam Quinn, Suzan Baker, Tiana Humphries, Anja Davidson, Anne Boland, Russell King, Debbie Coles, Chris Daley, Norman Goldsmith, Jeni Bull, Clinton Askew, Tom Wilkinson, Chris Beaney, Richard Earthrowl, Anna King and Lisa Cross.

**1) Welcome, Introduction & Prayer**

Hugh introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the Esher District AGM being held at 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate Scout Centre and thanked everybody for attending the Meeting.

He then started with a little test and asked if anyone could remember what the word that he had used last year to describe people within the District was – a “**see-doer**”! (Everyone had been “**see-doers**” – when they see things that need doing, they do them and it had been a real credit to the District.) This year – Hugh thought the new word should be “**remarkables**” – and he thought it really applies as we come out of the covid scenario, in that everybody has been really remarkable. Every single person within the District had done their part and continued to run and improve Scouting within Esher District in very difficult circumstances.

From Anne Frank’s diary

Everyone has inside themselves a piece of good news.  
Let me help you with that.  
The good news is that you really don't know....  
How great you can be,  
What you can accomplish, or what your potential is.  
How can you top good news like that?

A prayer

"Your task -  
To build a better world", God said.  
I answered, "How?  
The world is such a large, vast place,  
So complicated now.  
And I so small and useless am,  
There's nothing I can do."  
In all His wisdom said,  
"Just build a better you."  
Thank you Lord

Amen

## 2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were noted and included The Worshipful the Mayor of the Borough of Elmbridge and Mayoress – Councillor Simon Waugh and Heather Waugh, Mark Aulds, Andrew Burns, Gary Ernest, Carole Needham, Chris West, Phil Shortman, George Barber, Paul Warren, Nick Barber, Barry Hitchens, Stuart Ballard, James Horsburgh, Sinead Parker.

## 3) Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022

Gary Ernest, District Treasurer had already sent his apologies for not being able to attend, but had forwarded some notes to the District Chair which David presented to the Meeting:

- We ended the financial year with a marginally higher cash balance than at the beginning of the financial year.
- We hold three Funds:
  - The GSLs' Fund, which is primarily used to fund 50% of the participant's costs in the World Jamboree. That fund has been built up over the past 3 years and we can confirm that it is at an adequate level to fund the 7 participants at South Korea in 2023. The Fund can also be used at the GSLs' discretion for other purposes, such as grants to individuals, though no such grants have been disbursed in this financial year.
  - The Building Fund stands at just over £21,000. This Fund is the result of a legacy at the end of the last century and is available to any Group to provide a loan for works that they need to carry out. No loans are currently outstanding.
  - The General Fund covers all other income and expenditure in the District. This is primarily for District-wide events such as Day and Night Hike, Cub Camp (though there was no camp in this financial year) and Explorer events, in particular Winter Activity Weekend (which also did not happen in this financial year) and DofE. Events and activities are always planned to break-even financially, which all have done this year. However, because the accounts are prepared on a cash basis it is sometimes the case that revenue may be received in one financial year but expenditure incurred in the next – or vice versa. At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 we are holding deposits for Winter Activity Weekend 2023 which some participants in the cancelled 2022 event chose to hold over; and this is offset by District Cross-County where expenditure was incurred in March but income is not received until after the end of the financial year.
  - The general Fund also covers routine admin costs of the District – so some insurance costs, the AGM, and this year £800 for Young Leader's scarves
- Our cash balances remain healthy and as a result we were able to keep the fees payable by Groups to District for 22/23 (received in March 2022) at a level below that of the year before the pandemic.
- If anyone has any questions on the Accounts - these can be taken now or emailed to me (Gary Ernest), and I will endeavour to answer on my return from holiday.

Copies of the Accounts are included within the Esher Scouts Annual Report – copies of which were handed out during the AGM and a PDF copy will also be made available on the Esher District Scouts website ([www.esherDistrictscouts.org.uk](http://www.esherDistrictscouts.org.uk)). Also included within the Report are the previous AGM Minutes and other key points and statistics, as well as Section Reports – please have a good look over it. David thanked everyone for their contributions to the Report, and special thanks to Andrew

Burns for finishing it off to such a professional standard.

David then asked if the Annual Report & Accounts could be approved for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 had gone to County and the other half was due to be spent this year. Overall, we have reasonably healthy funds despite the challenges of COVID.

As David had gone through the notes from Gary, he then requested that the Annual Report & Accounts be approved for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Proposer was Chris Beaney (GSL 1<sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood) and seconded by Chris Daley (District Executive). It was passed for approval by the Meeting with no one against. If anyone does have any questions or comments, please contact Lisa Cross, District Secretary.

Thanks were asked to be noted to both Gary Ernest and Barry Hitchens in respect of their hard work in relation to the Accounts.

#### **4) Appointment of officers**

The proceedings were then passed back to Hugh, as only a third of the DC Team were present tonight, and a lot of the District Executive were also not present - and it was now going to be an "AGM Lite".

- a) Approve DC's nomination for District Chair – Hugh put forward David Vorbrich as District Chair. David has been District Chair since Harry had left to move to Cornwall, and previously had been an Eagle Scout and Cub Leader too. Thanks were passed to David for time and efforts during his time as District Chair, and now that things were moving forward after Covid it is hoped that more will be possible within the District in the coming year. The approval of David Vorbrich as District Chair was passed by the Meeting by form of a round of applause.
- b) Elect the District Secretary - Lisa Cross was nominated as District Secretary and was presently undertaking the role. Lisa Cross was therefore elected as District Secretary.
- c) Elect the District Treasurer - Gary Ernest was again willing to continue as District Treasurer. Gary was therefore duly elected as District Treasurer.
- d) Appoint Honorary District Examiner - Barry Hitchens had agreed to continue as Honorary District Examiner and received the Meetings' approval as such. Barry was therefore duly appointed.
- e) Elect a Group Scouter as representative on the Surrey County Scout Council – Mark has held this role for the last couple of years, so Mark was put forward to stand again as Group Scouter. Mark Aulds was therefore duly elected.
- f) District Commissioner nomination for District Executive Committee – Carole Needham was put forward and provides a great link across the District in her role as District Appointments Secretary. She was thanked for all her hard work, and duly elected.
- g) Elect members of the District Executive Committee - Peter Hanna, Stephen Valter and Chris Daley are all current Members, and had been put forward again. All three were therefore duly elected. All were thanked for their continued work and support as members of the District Executive.
- h) Elect representatives to the Polyapes Management Committee – it was proposed that Chris Daley and Lisa Cross be elected on behalf of Esher District to continue as members of the Polyapes Management Committee. This was all agreed and they were duly elected. Andrew Burns fulfils the role of an active Scouter as a member of the Polyapes Executive Committee.
- i) Elect members of the District Scout Council – If anyone within Scouting would like to be formally recognised and hasn't got any other Group roles – anyone can be nominated to join the District Scout Council. Simon Clarke, one of the Wardens up at Polyapes Campsite will be invited by Andrew Burns to be an elected member of this Council. Any other nominations should be passed to Lisa Cross, District Secretary.

## 5) District Review of 2021-22

**Please also see District Commissioner Team Report within the Annual Report.**

Hugh referred everyone to the Annual Report for the full details of everything that Esher District had achieved in the last year, but asked everyone to take the following points and thoughts away with them:

### **Better People – Better World**

The Esher District Plan had been prepared ahead of all the changes that had come with Covid, but fundamentally – the Plan remains the same. The Scouting Community needs to show that Scouting is still good, and both young and old can benefit from all aspects of Scouting. Most in Scouting are “see-doers” – task focussed people, but we do have a challenge as it can also lead to people being blinkered, and people need to be encouraged to look and think outside of the box.

The 4 P’s within the Plan are still to be focussed on:

“Places” – where we deliver our Scouting from, most of our Headquarters are well looked after, but this needs to be reviewed and longer terms plans considered.

“People” – we need to support our current Leaders and Helpers, and always need more people to help provide Scouting in our Area. We need to galvanise people and make the business providing Scouting to our young people.

“Perception” – making sure everyone knows about Scouting and putting us out in the local community “getting us out there”, things like the annual fair on the local land gets Scouting in view. Needs to involve each Group within the District.

“Programme” – good programmes get a “buzz” going, and provide a good range of activities that everyone should be able to take part in. We will be undertaking an event in the Autumn run by the County focussing on programmes.

Hugh then made some presentations as follows:

**David Vorbrich** (District Chair) – Hugh presented David with his Length of Service Certificate – 10 years.

**Dave Creigh** (Local Training Manager) – Hugh congratulated Dave on achieving his Wood Badge for this role.

Hugh then said the following 2 people in the District Training Team had been immensely important during the Covid period when things had been very governance heavy and wanted to acknowledge their efforts during this period. He then presented **Dave Creigh** (Local Training Manager) and **David Saunders** (Training Administrator) with Commissioner’s Commendation Awards and badges. Many thanks to them both for all their efforts with training within the District. David did say that it had been very important for everyone’s support with the training and thanked everyone involved accordingly.

## 6) Thanks to those moving on from their roles

**Rob Cannell** (GSL at Weston Green) – Thanks were passed to Rob for all his efforts during his time at Weston Green and for stepping in more recently as GSL at Weston Green. Rob will be moving to Sussex and best wishes were passed for the move and where it leads.

**Dave Creigh** – (Local Training Manager and Claygate SASU Manager) – Although Dave’s efforts had been recognised by Hugh awarding him a Commissioner’s Commendation Award this evening, his efforts as SASU Manager at Claygate were also recognised. Best wishes again to Dave and family for the move to Yorkshire.

Hugh then said thank you on behalf of the District Commissioner Team to Lisa for her efforts as District Secretary and presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

## **7) Guest Speakers**

Hugh then invited Tricia Griffin, Deputy County Commissioner (Surrey) to speak.

Tricia started by saying that it was lovely to be at the Esher AGM this evening, as Esher District always has a special place in her heart. She had been a copy of the Annual Report ahead of the AGM by Lisa, and it was full of good and positive news, and that she just wanted to pick up on a couple of bits. She was pleased that Harry Jones (previous District Chair) was continuing with Scouting following his move to Cornwall, and she congratulated Harry once again on achieving his Silver Wolf. Tricia also welcomed David Vorbrich as the new District Chair. She said it had been a real credit to Esher District and its Leaders in the innovative and imaginative ways they had learnt to communicate with the young people on Zoom due to Covid. There had been more Risk Assessments that had needed to be carried out due to the change in circumstances, which had been more work for the Leaders, but in another way had been good for thinking about the safety side of things and the measures that needed to be considered. It had been a challenge, but by breaking it down and sharing the information, and with both the GSLs' and DC Team signing it off, it had all been worked through.

She also said that the District Seminar that had been put on for the Executive Members across the District had been a very good idea. "Places" were one of the 4 "P's" and it was a good way of sharing the knowledge. An Executive with sound governance is a real asset and keeping all the Group Headquarters safe and secure was part of their undertaking. We are very lucky as a District that most are ok. She added her thanks on behalf of the County to everyone involved in any of the Executives across the District. She also thanked both Dave Creigh and David Saunders for their work with the Training for the District. Scouting needs to be Safe and therefore training is a necessity and things need to be kept up to date and renewed. It was recognised that some people need an extra nudge with their training, and that the First Aid was being dealt with slightly differently due to the extra issues with the training and Covid.

She then mentioned the Young Leaders' Scheme and thanked Jonathan Perkins and his Team for all the work they had done in creating and supporting 5 other Districts within Surrey and for sharing their expertise. She acknowledged that Esher still needs to fill the "DESC" role (District Explorer Scout Commissioner) and that it is an important role and one that we need to try and fill if possible. She thanked all the Leaders/Helpers across all the Sections within the District, as they are all important cogs within Scouting, and that Scouting in Esher is strong.

Tricia then picked up on the County Programme that Esher are due to undertake in the Autumn, and said that she has seen it 3 times now and that it leads to top Awards across Scouting for the Young People including Chief Scout's Diamond Award, Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Queen's Scout Awards.

Tricia added her congratulations to Hugh for being presented with his Silver Wolf, and said it was long overdue. She said well done for anyone who had been awarded with a length of service award, and that it didn't matter if it was a 5 year or 50 years – all service was important. She thanked Lisa for her efforts and also thanked the DC Team, Hugh, Andrew and Mark for all their hard work to the District.

## **7) Closing Remarks and Sign Off**

David thanked Tricia for her comments and said as District Chair it had been good to see a room full of adults attending the District AGM. Due to it being a District Meeting getting the support of the whole of the District Team had meant a lot, and he thanked everyone for attending tonight and turning up.

Rachel Macarthur (GSL at 1<sup>st</sup> Cobham) then came forward and on behalf of all of the GSLs' within Esher District to say thank you to Hugh and the rest of the District Commissioner Team of Mark and Andrew for all their hard work and support during the past year – things hadn't always been easy.

The meeting was then formally closed.

## District Chair's welcome

It has been a good year for Scouting, as all Groups and Sections returned to face-to-face meetings, and activities returned to pre-pandemic normalcy. Last year we reflected on how grateful we were for the support and creative leadership that was demonstrated throughout Covid-19 restrictions to keep Scouting active, and this year we can see the fruits of that labour as Esher District continues to thrive as one of the strongest Districts in Surrey County and Nation-wide. Our membership continues to grow, our accounts are well funded and well managed, and Youth of all ages continue to learn new Skills for Life.

I am proud to serve as Chair for Esher District. One of the changes we have made recently, and will put for approval in our AGM, is the renaming of our Esher District Executive Team. As a push from Scouting HQ, all Districts are rebadging themselves as "Trustee Boards". Thus, we now refer to ourselves as the Esher District Trustee Board, and collectively we are the District Trustees instead of the Executive Team. All of us have previously been classified as "Trustees", and indeed like many others in Group, District, and County roles can attest, we undergo mandatory Trustee training to ensure we understand and accept our responsibilities. So, in some sense there is no change. But in emphasising the formal name change we are more strongly emphasising our part in guiding Esher District and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all Leaders, Volunteers, and Scouts involved. All Groups are being asked to adapt this same approach, and together we are all adopting new Constitutions to formally reflect the change.

We have had many milestones this year, and I will leave it to our wonderful District Commissioner Team of Hugh, Mark, and Andrew to highlight and celebrate our accomplishments. What I would like to do in my summary is to single out and celebrate our DC Team itself! These three fantastic volunteers have helped manage and run Esher District together very successfully for the last six years, least of all through the pandemic. Each has brought their own experience and skill to the role, and they have divided and shared responsibilities very effectively. They have announced that they will be stepping down, collectively, at this time following the Esher District AGM. There will be many who want to thank them for their efforts, commitment, and time served in the DC role. I am personally very grateful to have had such a strong DC Team in place when I began my tenure as District Chair. Let us all celebrate and thank Hugh, Mark, and Andrew for their contributions!

I would also like to thank the other Trustees and volunteers who serve in District roles. We have a very well attended and engaged Trustee Board, and I can't thank them enough for the time they sacrifice to help make sure Esher District is running smoothly. I am also appreciative of the wider District Team including Appointments and Training. These activities often go unnoticed and unrecognised, but without them we wouldn't have the frameworks in place for our Scout Groups to thrive! And all of us, me especially, owe our thanks to our District Secretary, Lisa, who is the real driving force behind us all! If anyone is ever interested in stepping up and helping at the District level, we would always love to hear from you.

We have had many exciting developments across Esher District in the past year. 3<sup>rd</sup> Esher Group is fully established and running as our 11<sup>th</sup> Group in the District, 1<sup>st</sup> Oxshott has received approval and financial support for a new Group HQ facility, and 1<sup>st</sup> Weston Green has successfully navigated the transition to a new GSL. Thank you to all of the Groups in Esher District – those who volunteer to run sections and those on Group Boards – for all that you do to keep the doors of Scouting open to all youth and continue to keep the Scouting Spirit alive!

## **District Commissioner Team Report**

### 2022/23 and beyond

The last year including most recent times has been very exciting for Esher District. The sections have been extremely busy with varied programmes taking place across the Groups. It is always great to hear what our young people have been doing and to be present at a variety of events and activities.

We spoke last year about the District having a leadership community and whilst this report is a summary of what has been achieved in the DC Team we do not claim credit for it. There is a tremendous amount to be proud of, and there is a great leadership community right across Esher District that are the adults and young leaders with all sections providing great programmes for young people and the DC Team give our thanks for everything they are doing.

There are also the Group Trustees who provide background support to the leaders so that they can focus on the young people. The role of the Trustees is so important as the Scout Association aligns itself with Charity Commission guidance.

Ultimately it is the way in which all of this works together that gives the Esher District its character and its reputation for delivery quality Scouting to its members.

So, the District Team is there to support all of this, via the District Trustee Board and the ADSC's, the AAC and a variety of other specialists, activity assessors, and nights away advisors to name a few.

There is a lot of information which comes down from Scouting Headquarters. You may feel that you get a lot of information direct from the Scout Association, but there is much more that is sent directly to the DC Team, which then gets shared with Group Scout Leaders. They deserve our thanks and respect for all they do in being a GSL with both the responsibility and also the satisfaction of running a thriving Scout Group.

Elsewhere in this report you will see updates from others which demonstrate the breadth of activities and achievements in the year.

The total membership (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) has now grown above the 2019 (pre-Covid) census which is fantastic. It shows how popular our programme is and how resilient the leadership teams across the District were in continuing to deliver Scouting. The 2023 Census showed that we offer scouting to over 1350 young people with about 500 adults in Network and various volunteer roles. Growth remains one of the key parts of the District Plan and vision for all Esher Groups. We now have our first Squirrel Drey in Oxshott and one about to start at 1<sup>st</sup> Molesey.

We know that young people join scouting primarily for adventure, fun and friendship - and they leave if they don't get it. If Scouting is growing, it means that Esher District is fulfilling its vision. Stable and growing numbers enables scouting to do more – to provide better scouting to more young people.

As our time as the DC Team draws to a close, it is humbling to look back and reflect at all that has occurred. We started off quickly enough with organising Escapade 2019, and we were just beginning to find our feet. Then, we had to shift and support everyone through the COVID-19 pandemic. Do you remember all of those risk assessments? And then we turned to getting all of the mandatory training up-to-date across Esher District. We are now finishing our time as the DC Team having just concluded Escapade 2023. There was so much more in between! We have met so many of you in our time as the DC Team, and it has been our pleasure working with you.

Congratulations to Andrew Burns and the Escapade Team for delivering such a great camp in June and it was great that the camp provided such a focal point for us all.

We sent 7 young people off to the World Scout Jamboree and we will hear from them about their experience. It may not have been quite what was expected but I am sure it was memorable and that they had a World Scout Jamboree experience. I am sure the UK contingent volunteers ensured that the young people had a life changing adventure.

The future will be different as Scouting transforms in the coming years, it will be good that this is led within the District by a new team.

How can we say thank you to the whole District? Well, firstly, we have been proud to be your DC Team. Why are we proud? Well, it is because everyone involved pulls together, so thank you to everyone across the District. Particular thanks go to: ADC's (Tiana, Sue and Pam), Group Scout leaders across all of our 11 Groups, Appointments and Training. Thanks also to David and Gary as our District Chair and Treasurer respectively, and all of their counterparts including Group Secretaries in each Group across the District. This is not exhaustive as there are so many of you all helping to make Esher District **GREAT**.

A nearly final word of thanks to two specific people. Firstly, to David Saunders, for continuously working with the Compass database to give the DC Team and GSLs the information they need to ensure that their adults are compliant and up to date.

And last of all, to Lisa Cross. Without her you would not have had a functioning DC Team. She does everything she can to make our lives easier, and those of you who have attended a GSLs meeting will have witnessed that she is an essential part of ensuring the DC Team does a good job of chairing meetings. She is a wonderful District Secretary and Administrator. Every District needs one, and they should all aspire to be like Lisa!

### Squirrels

Anja Davidson  
GSL Oxshott



Back in September 2022, 1st Oxshott took the leap and opened Esher District's first Squirrel Drey.

It was an easy decision to open our Squirrel Drey when two of my experienced leaders approached me as they were interested in opening the section. It had already been on my mind since the pilot scheme was announced, so the timing was perfect.

We were allocated a Squirrel Cohort support group for new Drey openings in September 2023. With regular communication and support, and the Scout Website providing great information and a first planned programme, we set about inviting little ones from our waiting list to join us.

The programme plan in Squirrels is slightly more structured than in older sections, perhaps. Each meeting is themed about a specific subject such as carnival, tutti fruity or superheroes. A meeting always starts with a welcome song followed by story time, a book that is read out loud, with the same theme as that particular meeting. Usually, two activities being either a craft or game then happens, again following the same theme. And finally, a goodbye song.

In the first term we had an average attendance of 8 Squirrels which by end of the spring term went up to 10. We are having lots of enquiries for more to start over the next year, meaning we will be at our full numbers (16) by September 2023. Parents are invited to stay with their kids, and about two-thirds do.

The Squirrels have taken part in all the same core Scouting skills as any other section but tailored to their age. They have been hiking, cooking, marsh mellow toasting and cooking sausages over a fire. They have shown their creativity, using their imagination, dressed up and made jars of kindness. They took part in their first remembrance parade, and they were invited to join Beavers for the Alice in Wonderland performance at the District Beaver Party. When nights' away for Squirrels was allowed from January 2023, we invited our Squirrels to join our Family Camp at Bentley Copse in April and a handful came along.

We also had our very first Squirrel get their Chief Scout Acorn Award, awarded before moving on to Beavers. Well done, Albie!

I have to say, the Squirrels are cute, engaging, enthusiastic, energetic and show their emotions on their sleeves. They are (in my view) much better behaved than Beavers!! Even with a slightly shorter attention span. They are a joy to have and fit right in in our group.

I must also take this opportunity to say thank you to my two leaders running Squirrels as well as our two Young Leaders who make this all possible. It was daunting to start something new, not knowing how it was all going to work out, but it has been worth it and I hope they are here to stay.

## Beaver Scouts

**Tiana Humphries**  
**Assistant District Commissioner Beavers**



Beavers in Esher District have been incredibly fortunate to have participated in so many wonderful activities over the past year. They've been sledging, bouldering, orienteering, kayaking, sailing, pond dipping, caving, cycling, shelter building, camping, hiking, they've also learned first aid, grown cress, gone on litter picks, cooked on campfires, practiced archery and played mini golf, made bird feeders not to mention tenpin bowling, and roller disco. Two Colonies were lucky

enough to have rides on a model railway and another has visited a local fire station. These are only a selection of the activities that our Beavers have been given the opportunity to experience.

Bazzaz is a fun day out for Beavers that takes place every three years. It is organised by Surrey County Scouts and held at Merrist Wood near Guildford. In May 2022, over 2,000 young people and five hundred adults experienced a fantastic day of activities that included circus skills, go-karts, 'pig-racing', miniature train ride, paper and water rockets, space hoppers, water pistols and so many inflatables that I can't even begin to list them. There were over 230 Beavers from Esher District in attendance, and we contributed a great selection of fun activities for all of the Beavers to enjoy.

At the beginning of February 2023, we were excited to bring back our District Beaver Party after a two-year absence due to Covid-19. About 210 Beavers attended the event held at Hinchley Wood Secondary School for an afternoon of craft, games, decorating biscuits and watching a superb interactive show of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland performed by the Cat's Grin Theatre Company. The Beaver Party ran very smoothly, the Beavers appeared to be having a great deal of fun with the 'Alice in Wonderland' themed activities and they were captivated watching the show (there was certainly a lot of laughing!) So, overall, a highly successful event.

Well done to all of our Beavers, who at the beginning of their Scouting journey, have already gained so many badges. And a special congratulations to those who have achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Awards.

I take this opportunity to thank all of the Beaver Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Section Assistants and helpers who have given their time to provide the fun-filled activities mentioned above. Without their help, Esher District Beavers wouldn't be experiencing the exciting range of activities that they do. I would also like to thank the same leaders for their support of our District events. My personal thanks to David Cooper, as District Beaver Leader, for your continued dedication to Esher District Beavers and for your encouragement and support shown to me.

## Cub Scouts

**Sue Hoad**  
**Assistant District Commissioner Cub Scouts**



I would like to start by saying thank you to all the Cub Leaders and their teams who have given their time to ensure Cubs across Esher District have continued to enjoy Scouting.

I would also like to welcome the new Cub Leaders and other team members and hope to meet you all at future events.

At long last, after being postponed from 2020 and 2021 due to Covid restrictions, we were able to hold a District Cub Camp at Polyapes in June 2022. This was the first opportunity many Cubs had had of camping and, in many cases, the first time they had stayed away from home. Thanks to the patient answering of many questions from Cubs and their parents by the Cub Leaders (and their constant reassurances) more than

200 Cubs enjoyed a weekend of camping. They were joined on the Saturday by more than 50 day-visitor Cubs to enjoy the activities. The theme for the Camp was International, and the Cubs had to collect stamps in their Camp Passport from all the marvellous activities provided by the Leaders of each Group with each site representing a different country. These activities were supplemented by a large inflatable, the onsite Polyapes activities (Caving Bus and Remote Control Vehicles), and Tomahawk throwing provided and supervised by Leaders from 1st Molesey. Saturday evening closed with a campfire. Sunday morning the Cubs watched a re-enactment of medieval combat while campsites were struck.

Thank you to all the adults who gave up their time over the weekend to make the District Cub Camp such a success, particularly as it was the first camp for many adults as well as the Cubs.

In the autumn we would normally have held the annual Sausage Sizzle at Dittons HQ. Unfortunately, this had to be postponed as the extreme heatwave of the summer meant it was not safe to have open fires. I look forward to holding one in 2023.

In November, the Cub Chess Competition took place. Unfortunately, this was not very well attended but those who were there enjoyed the day. Thank you to John Baldwin for organising this event.

The District round of the County Quiz was held at the beginning of February at 1st Claygate Scout Centre. Seven teams from across the District took part and, following a close competition, it was won by Panther Pack (1st Claygate) who then went on to represent Esher District at the County Cub Quiz. Thank you to Catherine Hackett for running this on behalf of District.

Congratulations to all the Cubs who have achieved their Chief Scout Silver Award, there are too many to mention.

I would like to finish as I began, by thanking all the Cub Leaders for their support, and Lisa Cross who continues to support Cub events.



## Troop Scouts

**Pam Escott**  
**Assistant District Commissioner Scouts**

### Esher District Scout Troop Section 2022/2023

How great to get back to 'normal' Scouting!!! What an incredible group of Troop Leaders we have in Esher District to maintain such great numbers of Scouts and to run such brilliant programmes.



The Scout Leaders in Esher District continue to work hard to maintain a high standard of training taking part in First Aid courses, Safety training, Safeguarding training and other training sessions to improve the skills of the Troop Leaders such as qualifications in Target shooting, Hill Walking, Archery and Boating. Each year the Leaders provided many new,

varied and creative activities for the young people in Esher District.

Scout Troops have a wide age range, turning an older Cub into a young Explorer in 4 years. Scouts gives them the skills, knowledge, experience and confidence to tackle challenges and expeditions without their Leaders, relying on other Scouts in their Troop, the District, at County events and even at Jamborees.

Scout Troop activities range from the traditional camping skills and cooking on open fires to rafting, kayaking, caving, diving, surfing, survival skills, climbing, abseiling, target shooting, archery, parascending, sailing, and rowing. Other activities include Group Shows, gorge scrambling, coastering, sea fishing, hikes, Scout Group Bands, and expeditions on foot and by kayak. Scouts also prepare and take part in the many District and County Competitions throughout the year. Some Scouts are also working on their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award through their Scout Group.

This year Camps were as follows:

3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey	Chelwood, Keynsham near Bath
2 <sup>nd</sup> Molesey	New Forest
Ajax	Bala, Wales
1 <sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood	Parkwood Campsite, near Brighton
1 <sup>st</sup> Claygate	Appletreewick North Yorkshire
1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Esher	Ferny Crofts,
1 <sup>st</sup> Weston Green	Broadstone Warren and Polyapes
1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey	Andorra Ski Trip, White Beeches, Ferny Crofts and Kent International Jamboree
1 <sup>st</sup> Cobham	Walton Firs
The Dittons	Derbyshire and Polyapes

Well done to all the Scouts for their enthusiasm and their great attitude during these events and activities. The Scouts can always be relied on to take part in these events with such a wealth of skill, knowledge and with such a great sense of humour.

The following table shows the complete list of District events during this period together with the winners and organisers to all of whom I extend my thanks for their enthusiasm, support and commitment.

	Event	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Organisers</u>
2022			
September	Fishing	3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey	Chris Manning & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey team
October	Cooking	3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey	1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey team. Hosted by 1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey
October	Night Hike	The Dittons	Peter Hanna and 1 <sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood team
2023			
February	Scouting Skills & 1 <sup>st</sup> Aid	Now to be held in September 2023	Chris Manning and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey team. Hosted by 3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey
February	Cross Country	Now to be held in October 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> Oxshott and team with help from District leaders
March	Day Hike	1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey	1 <sup>st</sup> Claygate & team with help from District leaders

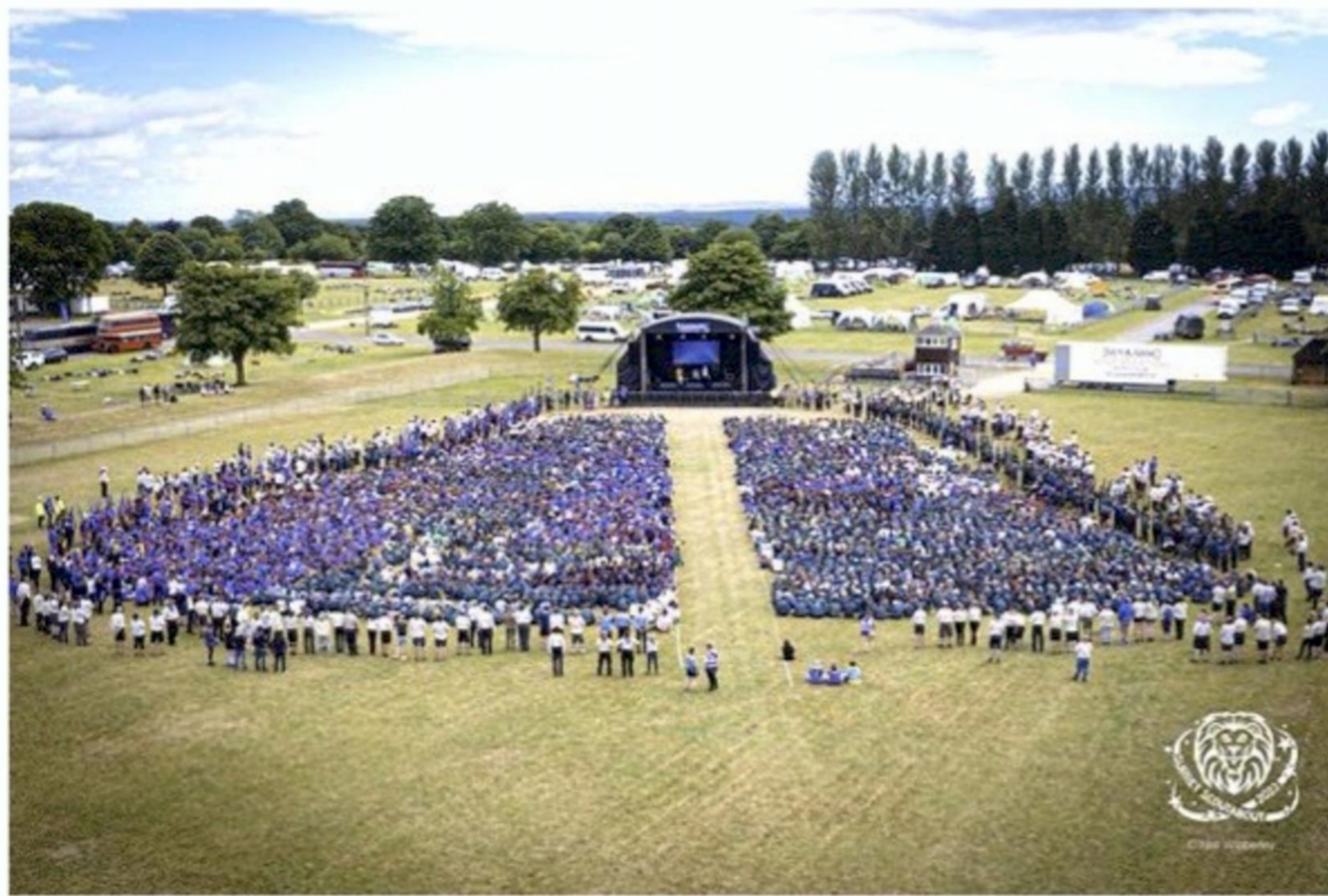
The Esher District Scout Fishing Competition had only 4 entries this time but an enjoyable competition with good weather as usual! Congratulations to the winners – 3<sup>rd</sup> Molesey. 1<sup>st</sup> Hinchley Wood took 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to 1<sup>st</sup> Oxshott. The biggest catch in the competition was caught by Max from 3<sup>rd</sup> Molesey - a 1lb 7oz Tench. My thanks go to Chris and his team at 3<sup>rd</sup> Molesey for organising this competition. Also, to the Fishing Club, for allowing us to use their lake for the competition. Well done to George from 2<sup>nd</sup> Molesey who caught the biggest fish of the day but unfortunately after the competition had closed!

The Esher District Cooking Competition is a competition for a team of 4 Scouts, where they have to make a meal from ingredients given to them. Six teams entered this year's competition. Congratulations to 3<sup>rd</sup> Molesey who won the competition and were closely followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Molesey who were ½ a point behind. 1<sup>st</sup> Molesey took 3<sup>rd</sup> place. My thanks to Max Harvey and the leaders at 1<sup>st</sup> Molesey for putting on this event for the District.

The Esher District Night Hike is perhaps the highlight in the District calendar, and one which is always very well supported. This time we had an entry of 23 teams competing (10 competitive teams and 13 training teams) with a competition guest team and a training guest team from 1st Brookwood. The hike consisted of a challenging navigational exercise over 8 miles around the Holmwood area. The emphasis was on traditional map and compass skills. A team from The Dittons took 1st place, a team from 2nd Molesey took 2nd place with a team from 1st Hinchley Wood taking 3rd place. My thanks to Peter Hanna, Adrian Ducker and the 1st Hinchley Wood team for organising and running this event and also to all the many leaders and supporters who manned the checkpoints, drove minibuses and booked in the teams etc.

Esher District Top Troop Trophy 2022 was won by 2nd Molesey followed by The Dittons in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 1st Hinchley Wood in 3rd place. The Top Troop Trophy competition takes into account all the results from the competitions held during the year.

### Scoutabout 2022



Scoutabout is the 3-yearly County camp for Scouts and Guides. It was held in July 2022, although it should have been run in 2021, but circumstances would not allow it to take place then. It was held at the County showground in Ardingly with over 4000 Scouts and Guides from Surrey taking part. We camped in our District sites and all Groups and Districts provided activities for all the young people to have a go. As well as Group and District, there are also many larger activities

provided by the organisers. There were various types of climbing and abseiling, things to drive, Scout made caving, many types of crafts, various water activities, Parascanding, Archery, Shooting and so much more. There was an opening ceremony with fireworks, and on Saturday evening there were bands playing on the stage. A closing ceremony was held on Sunday with our 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate band playing to the campers.



The Esher District Scouting Skills and First Aid Competition will now to be held in September 2023.

My thanks to Chris Manning for organising this event along with his team at 3rd Molesey, and other District Leaders who will be running the bases.

The Esher District Day Hike took place over 9 miles in the Wonersh and Blackheath area and had 20 entries of which 10 were competitive teams 10 were training teams. A team from 1st Molesey took 1st place and another 1st Molesey team took 2nd place with a team from The Dittons taking 3rd place. My thanks to Hugh Gostling, Mark Aulds and the 1st Claygate team who organised this event. My thanks also to the District Leaders for manning the checkpoints etc.



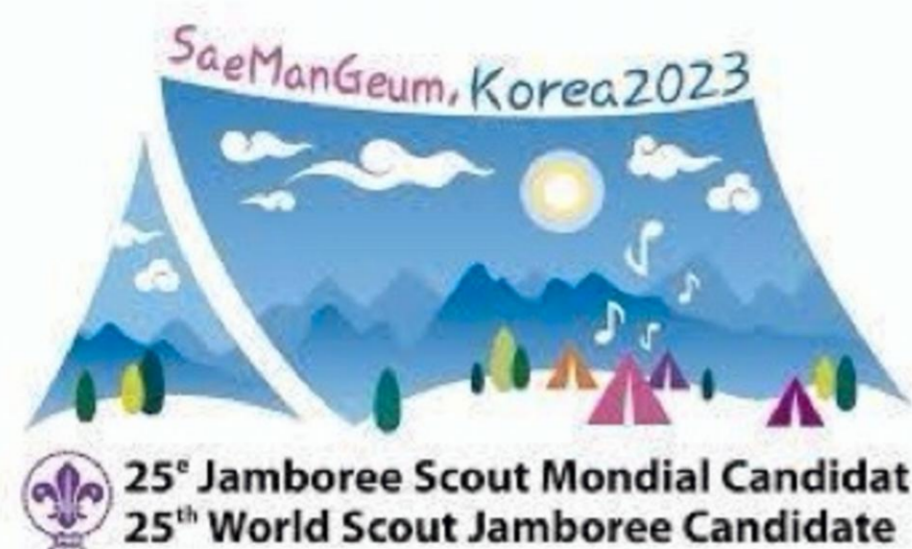
## Chief Scout Gold Awards

The following Scouts gained their Chief Scouts Gold Awards during 2022/2023

Jamie	Aulds	1st Claygate
Lydia	Aulds	1st Claygate
Martha	Barlow	1st Claygate
Joel	Crudgington	1st Claygate
Ruby	Dunman	1st Claygate
David	Govender	1st Claygate
Liam	Hides	1st Claygate
Charlie	Logan	1st Claygate
Eammon	Maguire	1st Claygate
Luke	Sewell	1st Claygate
Ciara	Stimson	1st Claygate
Tom	Sturgeon	1st Claygate
Jess	Warriss	1st Claygate
Aahna	Wijeratne	1st Claygate
Tobi	Bodinnar	1st Hinchley Wood
Sam	Moylan-Jones	1st Hinchley Wood
Jack	Rayner	1st Hinchley Wood
Longman	Christopher	2nd Molesey
Smart	Freddie	2nd Molesey

Congratulations to all the Other Scouts have also gained their Chief Scout Gold Award but have not been able to attend the County presentation ceremony.

This year saw the finalisation of the selection process, by the County, for Esher District's places at the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in July/August 2023. The Scouts & Explorers who have been awarded places are:



SAMUEL WORTHINGTON	1 <sup>ST</sup> CLAYGATE
LUCA DAY	2 <sup>ND</sup> MOLESEY
CASPER JACKSON	AJAX
LUKE NAPIER	1 <sup>ST</sup> HINCHLEY WOOD
MARYLA RENKER	1 <sup>ST</sup> HINCHLEY WOOD
WOLFE FINUCANE-COOKE	3 <sup>RD</sup> MOLESEY
EDWARD CRUTHERS	THE DITTONS

We are lucky having many experienced and well-trained Leaders in the District who are willing not only to provide an exciting range of activities for their own Troops but also to share and help with activities in other Troops, such as boating activities, archery, shooting, assisting with training teams, joint camps and especially when Troops are experiencing leadership problems. I would like to thank all the Scout Troop Leaders, Assistant Leaders, supporters and the teams who take the time to support and organise the District events.

I would also like to take a moment to recognise the dedication and commitment shown throughout the year by so many people across the District. Special thanks must go to the District Scout Leaders: Phil King (ASL 2nd Molesey), Tyrone Weller (ASL 3rd Molesey), Carole Needham our District Appointment Secretary, the DC Team and also to the other ADCs for their continued support.

I am looking forward to another busy and exciting Scouting year!

## District Explorer Scouts

**Andrew Burns & Tom Wilkinson**

The District Explorer Scouts have successfully run all year without a District Explorer Scout Commissioner. The DC Team has been letting the ESLs run the show and an effective use of WhatsApp and OSM group has ensured good communications.

We continue to thank Jonathan Perkins for his work in organising the Young Leader training programme, and congratulations to all those who were awarded their YL belts. The District 'Dragon' DofE programme has been very successful with most of our Units combining skills and resources. Mark Southey has led a team running an extraordinary programme with expeditions on foot and on water as well as organising the 2023 Winter Activity Weekend (WAW) and other District Explorer administration with the assistance of Tom Wilkinson.

Explorers from all units attended a District Explorer evening in September to kick off the new school year which introduced them to District events and courses. There was no Raftless Race or District Wardening Weekend, but we were able to reinstate several events including the Winter Activity Weekend after last years' cancellations. The Fishing Competition in September 2022 attracted very few entries, but the Cooking Competition was well attended with 7 units having lots of fun and 2<sup>nd</sup> Molesey winning. The shooting competition was moved to 2023 and the Games Night sadly fell by the wayside.

The new year started well with the excellent WAW offering lots of great experiences to the Explorers who attended. A large group of Explorers and leaders stayed at Dovedale in the Peak District and completed some challenging walks in wintery conditions. We were joined by Andrew Carvell, our Assistant County Commissioner for Explorers, who was impressed with the organisation of this event.

There was a successful Incident Hike at the end of February with lots of activity bases and several teams from a good number of Units. This is thanks to brilliant organisation from James Horsburgh and well done to the winning 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate team. We then enjoyed a well-attended shooting competition at 3<sup>rd</sup> Molesey in March and had tons of fun at the Explorer Wide Game.

June saw a good number of Explorers from nearly every Unit attend Escapade '23. As well as enjoying the on-site activities, about 30 Explorers went on the special off-site paintballing at Delta Force near Cobham. It was a very hot and sweaty afternoon, and the Explorers came back slightly bruised but very happy - thanks to Conrad for arranging this. The year finished with an Explorer Social at Polyapes in July with a barbecue as well as cricket, volleyball and a tug of war.

Congratulations to those who went on DofE and other expeditions and events this year; which included the Galicia Explorer Belt challenge and the World Scout Jamboree to Korea (which, while challenging on a number of levels, was still very much enjoyed by the Explorers).

Some of the recent Expeditions include

**April 2022** Brecon Beacons - Gold DofE/Kings Scout – Explorer Scouts

**May 2022** Sussex - Silver DofE/Diamond Scout – Explorer Scouts  
New Forest - Bronze DofE/Platinum Scout – Explorer Scouts

**August 2022** Brecon Beacons - Gold DofE/Kings Scout – Explorer Scouts

**October 2022** New Forest - Silver DofE/Diamond Scout – Explorer Scouts  
New Forest - Bronze DofE/Platinum Scout – Explorer Scouts



## District Explorer Scout Young Leaders



**Jonathan Perkins**  
**Esher District & Surrey Scouts Young Leader Adviser**

This year has been another successful one for our Young Leader programme in the District. Esher has continued to help pioneer the new “Surrey Style” Young Leader programme which has benefitted both our Young Leaders and our Groups.

Young Leaders are Explorer Scouts who volunteer with a Squirrel Drey, Beaver Colony, Cub Pack or Scout Troop. They plan, organise and run games, activities and parts of the programme.

Young Leaders bring new ideas and youth-shaped thinking. They provide positive role models to the young people they’re leading. They are integral members of the Section’s leadership team. They play a full part in planning, leading and delivering their Section’s week-by-week programme.

Young Leaders stand out from their peers and friends because of their highly practical leadership capabilities and experience. We have started to give more guidance to Young Leaders about how their work as Young Leaders can also assist them in gaining their other Top Scouting awards.

During the year, Esher Young Leaders joined with other Surrey YLs to receive their mandatory training, which needs to be completed either before or within 3 months of becoming a Young Leader. At any time in the District, we have over 50 Young Leaders volunteering within sections: learning from our experienced Adult Leaders is at the core of the YL programme.

Our Young Leaders are managed through an Esher District Explorer Scout Young Leaders Unit. This includes 9 members who are not members of an active Explorer Unit as well, 4 of whom have converted from being DofE volunteers to become Explorer Scouts so that they could continue to volunteer as Young Leaders.

In my County role, I run the two Surrey Young Leader Conferences held in October and March each year. I am very grateful to Phil Guildford, Rachel MacArthur and Mark Aulds from the District for their support as Leaders at these conferences. These conferences now have more than 100 Young Leaders attending from 14 Districts in Surrey with the support of 25 Leaders. From Esher, 35 Young Leaders attended in October 2022 and 27 in March 2023. The Surrey Scout Young Leader Conferences enable Young Leaders to develop their leadership skills by taking part in practical workshops. These include running games, teaching skills, and the planning and delivering of a scout programme. There is also the opportunity to validate a First Response level First Aid qualification.

Newly introduced during this year has been our Surrey Senior Explorer Scout Young Leader Scheme (SESYL). The SESYL, which enables Young Leader Belt holders to further develop their leadership skills, can also be completed by attending the Young Leader conferences. An integral part of this programme is the BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community, which is provided and validated by an external provider CVQO.

The BTEC recognises the core skills which are achieved through the Young Leader programme and through the completion of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The additional three units required to complete the diploma are embedded into Our SESYL:

- In Stage A: Volunteering in the community
- In Stage B: Developing effective teamwork skills
- In Stage C: Developing effective communication skills

### The Surrey Young Leader Journey

#### Young Leader Award



#### Senior YL Award



It was fantastic to see that Kewin of 3<sup>rd</sup> Molesey Explorer Scouts was one of the first three to complete the BTEC in March 2022:



*1The first three senior Young Leaders with their BTEC certificates in March 2023, with Heather Rhoden Surrey Scouts and Joe Rogerson Surrey Scouts County Commissioner (Kewin is in the centre)*

It has been fantastic that more of our Young Leaders are now completing the Young Leader Scheme and gaining their Young Leader Belt. In 2022/23, sixteen (2021/22: 2) Young Leaders gained their Young Leader Belts from the following Groups: 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate, Oxshott,

Our Young Leaders who gained their Young Leader Belts in 2022/23

Cobham, 3<sup>rd</sup> Molesey, Dittons and 1<sup>st</sup> Molesey.



DofE Awards April 22-March 23

First name	Last name	Group	AWARD LEVEL
Sam	Warner	1st Claygate	Bronze
Theo	Venzelaar-Pelly	1st Claygate	Bronze
Aahna	Wijeratne	1st Claygate	Bronze
Jessica	Warriss	1st Claygate	Bronze
Luke	Sewell	1st Claygate	Bronze
Jamie	Aulds	1st Claygate	Bronze
Samuel	Worthington	1st Claygate	Silver
Colm	Maguire	1st Claygate	Silver
Joe	Christmas	1st Claygate	Silver
Nicole	Elliott	1st Claygate	Silver
Jack	Farthing	1st Claygate	Silver
William	Peasey	1st Claygate	Silver
David	Grosse	1st Claygate	Gold
Humphries	Elin	1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey	Chief Scout Platinum
Humphries	Elin	1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey	Bronze
Loten	Maximillian	1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey	Bronze
Emmines	William	1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey	Silver
Spencer	Daniel	1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey	Silver

Esher District Young Leader Awards April 22-March23

First name	Last name	Group	YL Award
Zach	Slater	1st Claygate	Belt
Will	O'Brien	1st Claygate	Belt
Bethany	MacArthur	Cobham	Belt
Kara	MacArthur	Cobham	Belt
Jo	Sewell	Cobham	Belt
Amelia	McDermid	3rd Molesey	Belt
Kewin	Kobylski	3rd Molesey	Belt
Dion	Henderson	3rd Molesey	Belt
Eloisa	Burdett	1st Molesey	Belt
Elin	Humphries	1st Molesey	Belt
Evie	Mahon	1st Molesey	Belt
Hector	Anderson	Oxshott	Belt
Ben	Davidson	Oxshott	Belt
Gemma	Askew	Oxshott	Belt
Drew	Swallow	Dittons	Belt
Orson	Skittles	Dittons	Belt

Kewin	Kobylski	3rd Molesey	Level 2 Diploma in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community, now recognized by the Scout Association
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## Appointments Report

**Carole Needham, Appointments Secretary**  
**John Baldwin, Chair of the Appointments Committee**

Another year gone by and time flies. A good number of new adults have come through for Leaders, Section Assistants, and a few Skills Instructors appointments. It is really interesting to meet with these people and all have been excellent candidates.

The AAC saw the following from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 with the informal meetings more or less equally divided between Zoom calls and face to face.

	Leader	Assistant Leader	Section Assistant	Skills Instructor
Beavers		4	8	
Cubs	4	6	1	
Scouts		5	2	
Explorers	0	0	0	
Group	2			1

They were spread across the District as follows:

Group	Number	Group	Number
Ajax	2	Claygate	8
Cobham	1	The Dittons	1
3 <sup>rd</sup> Esher	3	Hinchley Wood	2
1 <sup>st</sup> Molesey	11	2 <sup>nd</sup> Molesey	0
3 <sup>rd</sup> Molesey	0	Oxshott	2
Weston Green	3	District	0
		TOTAL	33

There were also a number of GSIs (students/Young Leaders) who were not recorded in the numbers as they were not seen by the Appointments Committee having had prior approval by Team DC and their respective GSL, in accordance with POR.

In all, 33 people have been seen which is an increase from last year.

We need three on the panel and a reserve (in case somebody drops out or there are changes in circumstances) so our numbers need to be reasonable. We have had two new members, Sarah-Jane and Daniel, so thank you to them both.

Finally, my thanks go to all the panel members seeing the attendees. Thanks especially to Carole, the District Appointments Secretary who arranges the attendees in coming and the rota. Thank you Carole.

Adult Training in Esher District has again continued to achieve improvements in compliance levels. Indeed, across all of the key mandatory items of: 'Mod1', 'GDPR', 'Safety' and 'Safeguarding' - we closed the year at the end of March, with all four elements achieving 100% compliance in full (no one overdue), for the first time in 3 years!

Such evidence shows the outcome of progress made. Behind the headlines, what matters is that it requires the hard work of a number of members - from Group Scout Leaders, Training Advisors and Line Managers, via the work of the 'Appointments Advisory Committee', right through to the c.150 individual members (35% of the total), who were validated for completing or re-completing one or more of these courses during the past year.

So, a massive thank you must once again go to all our volunteers for all that they have achieved and put up with - as well as for the valued support provided by County team members.

Members' completion and validation of all elements of the mandatory Adult Training programme has continued to be a top priority for the Scout Association, ahead of planned organisational changes - so has continued to be tracked and reported on both locally and nationally, as summarised above and below here.

As a consequence, elements such as 'First Response' and 'Trustee Intro' training have been a high priority. That has led to significant advances being made, moving us up to our highest ever year-end position of respectively 97% and 98% compliant (with just 5 & 4 people remaining overdue).

Updates on training progress continues to be provided on a regular basis (now normally quarterly) to Group and District level stakeholders (Group Scout Leaders, Training Advisors and the District Leadership Team) so that awareness of successes achieved, as well as the challenges remaining, is understood and can be acted upon.

Challenges to note as we move forward include:

- a) in the remainder of 2023, the need to manage 'Safety' and 'Safeguarding' training renewals as we continue through the transition to these having become a 3-yearly requirement back in 2020.
- b) the continuing need to support members to complete 'Wood Badge' training, where required, in a timely manner.
- c) preparing for the upcoming changes to the national training plan and being ready to manage the transition from the current training scheme to the next.

As my first report as 'Local Training Manager' – having taken up the post late last year – I would like conclude by extending a huge thank you to my predecessor Dave Creigh who had set in motion many positive changes that I'm very pleased to be able to pick up and run with.

And last but probably most importantly I wish to thank our 'Local Training Administrator', David Saunders, without whom we would not have the reporting and timely updates that are critical to us successfully achieving the training objectives for the District.



Escapade opened informally on Friday night at the main stage, with nearly every Esher Group and Unit attending in large numbers. There were Group evening activities as the setup continued ready for the next morning. It was a warm summery night, and from dawn on Saturday it was clear that it was going to be a hot day. We saw some deer and foxes around Walton Firs as the Scouts quietened for the first night.

Things started early, and by 8.30am there was a long line of traffic to drop off day visitors. The parking team worked very hard to get hundreds of cars though and our VIPs were just about able to park before the official opening. The impressive Flag Parade of all the sections from all the Groups was led by 3<sup>rd</sup> Molesey Band and over 1,000 scouts and adults were welcomed by the Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey, our local Councillors and Joe, our County Commissioner. We ensured that everyone had water and a sun hat ready for an amazing day.

The site and Group activities started promptly with huge inflatables on the main field and soon Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers (and a few Squirrels too) were running around Walton Firs from one activity to another. There was huge excitement about getting 10 activity symbols on the Scouts' wristbands so that they could win an Escapade '23 woggle. Our young people avoided long queues rushing from the Adventure Course, Nightline and Maze to the Low Ropes and Caving. Lots were in harnesses for the Crate stacking and High Ropes.

Ditton's ran a brilliant and very popular Laser Quest activity around the woods, close to the Archery and Tomahawk activities for the older Scouts. The new Walton Firs building contained air rifle shooting with the brand new Aeroball (opened especially for us) next door and close to the bouldering wall and the ever-popular tuck shop.

The lunch break was much needed as everyone rested in the shade and drank plenty of fluids (except for the ever-active Beavers who had a massive tug of war competition). The afternoon was just as frenetic – with Explorers heading off site for paintballing while lots of Escapade woggles were handed out for completing activities such as the Aerial runway, Stomp rockets, Craft Base, International Obstacle Course, Craft Base, Monkey bridge, Nerf Gun Range, Fire-lighting, Space Hopper Football, Campfire Sausage Dampers, Mystery Boxes Water slide, Badge making, Spaceship Challenge, Cub wash and the Matchbox Scavenger Hunt.

After dinner there was a special gig played by local singer Todd Dachtler (from The Voice Kids) and then after flag down we all were led by flaming torches to the District Campfire in the Horse Field. Lots of traditional and new campfire songs and sketches were rounded off by fireworks. We are blessed to have John Baldwin in the District as a campfire leader.

Sunday was even hotter and the Cubs and Scouts' Tug of War and Volleyball in the main arena was in full sunshine. Luckily the Walton Firs activities were running and offered plenty of shade as well as lots of fun and challenge. Soon enough the Claygate Scout Band was marching around the site playing some exceptional music and leading all the Groups back to the Main Stage for the short Scouts' Own and Closing Ceremony. It was the biggest event of the Esher calendar and came together brilliantly, our heartfelt thanks to all the leaders involved.

The District want to thanks everyone involved with the event it was very special, Particular thanks go to Andrew Burns, Pam Escott, Zoe Newton, Sue Hoad, Conrad Ayling, Rex Batey, Tiana Humphries, Chris Manning and Lisa Cross for all of the planning of Escapade 2023.

Photographs can be seen at:

<https://surreyscouts.smugmug.com/Public-Galleries/2023/Esher-District-Camp-2023/>

# Polyapes

**Chris Daley**  
**Joint Chair Polyapes Management Committee**

## Polyapes Campsite Report 2022/23

Following the major problems related to the Covid 19 outbreak in the previous eighteen months, the period covered by this report saw the site return to more typical usage. Possibly as Groups and Districts got back into the swing of normal Scouting, we saw a major increase in camping and other activities at the site, which was very encouraging to see.

Last year also saw some major improvements undertaken on the site, mostly by the service crew. The main toilet block was completely modernised with new plumbing and a new water system. The Mowgli toilets were also renovated. I am sure all users of the site have appreciated these updated facilities.

Improvements to the activities on site in the last year have included the installation of the cave bus and the building of the radio-controlled car track. Both these items have been very well received by users of the site, and these joined the other fairly new attractions like the archery and tomahawk ranges.

Simon and Hannah Clarke and the rest of the service crew have done a fantastic job at Polyapes, undertaking so many improvements projects, as well as carrying out the normal regular maintenance of the site. The District and the Trustee Committee of the site owe them a very big thank you for all their time and effort.

As many of you will know, an Annual Remembrance Day Service is held each year at the site war memorial, and this is always followed by the Polyapes AGM. This year the service will be held at the site on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 3pm for the service and 3.30pm for the AGM. All members of the District would be most welcome to attend.



## Adult Awards

The following Chief Scout's Length of Service Awards have been awarded across the District:

JAMES	Osborne	Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award
Philippa	Guildford	Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award
David	Saunders	Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award
STEVE	Bax	Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award
Dane	Wilson	Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award
Stephen	Valter	Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award
Jennifer	Williams	Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award
Callum	Davison	Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award
Elloise	Budd	Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award
Brian	Amys	Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award
Jan	Harley	Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award
Izzy	Elliott	Chief Scout's 5 Years Service Award
Phil	Evans	Chief Scout's 10 Years Service Award
Harriss	Cook	Chief Scout's 10 Years Service Award
Iain	Lobjoit	Chief Scout's 10 Years Service Award
Liam	Quinn	Chief Scout's 10 Years Service Award
Simon	Clarke	Chief Scout's 15 Years Service Award
John	Daoud	Chief Scout's 15 Years Service Award
Hannah	Clarke	Chief Scout's 15 Years Service Award
Laurence	Chenery	Chief Scout's 15 Years Service Award
Nicholas	Barber	Chief Scout's 15 Years Service Award
Gary	Ernest	Chief Scout's 15 Years Service Award
Peter	Wadsworth	Chief Scout's 20 Years Service Award
Russell	King	Chief Scout's 20 Years Service Award
Polly	Zabari	Chief Scout's 25 Years Service Award
Sue	Hoad	Chief Scout's 25 Years Service Award
Avril	Lobjoit	Chief Scout's 30 Years Service Award
Pam	Escott	Chief Scout's 30 Years Service Award
Roger	Umney	Chief Scout's 50 Years Service Award
Adrian	Ducker	Chief Scout's 50 Years Service Award
Norman	Goldsmith	Chief Scout's 60 Years Service Award

Congratulations and well done to all recipients.





### **Dennis Warren (1<sup>st</sup> Claygate GEC member and Group Chairman)**

Dennis arrived in Claygate with his wife Beryl and their two sons in 1968, moving into a newly built house in Forge Drive. He offered to get them into local youth organisations and Steve, the eldest chose to join 1st Claygate Scout Group in 1971.

He took him to various activities and realised that there was a shortage of supporters. He found out the GSL's address, went to his house, knocked on the door and offered his help to Jem Salter, the then GSL. He joined the large and active Supporters Association and soon became Chairman and joined the Group Executive Committee (GEC) where his background in business dealing with supplying building materials proved invaluable.

He became Chairman of the GEC in 1975 and helped Jem drive forward the programme for increasing the membership. In 1986 he stepped down as Chairman after an 11 years. He continued to serve on the GEC and in 2019 was given the Chief Scouts commendation for good service. He decided to step down from the GEC in 2021 due to ill health. He finally received a certificate of 50 years' service in the same year.

He continued to take an active interest in the Group until his death on 27th November 2022 aged 92.

### **Brenda Gibbs 1<sup>st</sup> Claygate**

We are saddened by the loss of Brenda Gibbs on 13 March 2023, although not a Scouter, she was a Guider, and more importantly to Esher District she was a huge support to Graham Gibbs in his Scouting.

### **Alan Groves 1<sup>st</sup> Weston Green**

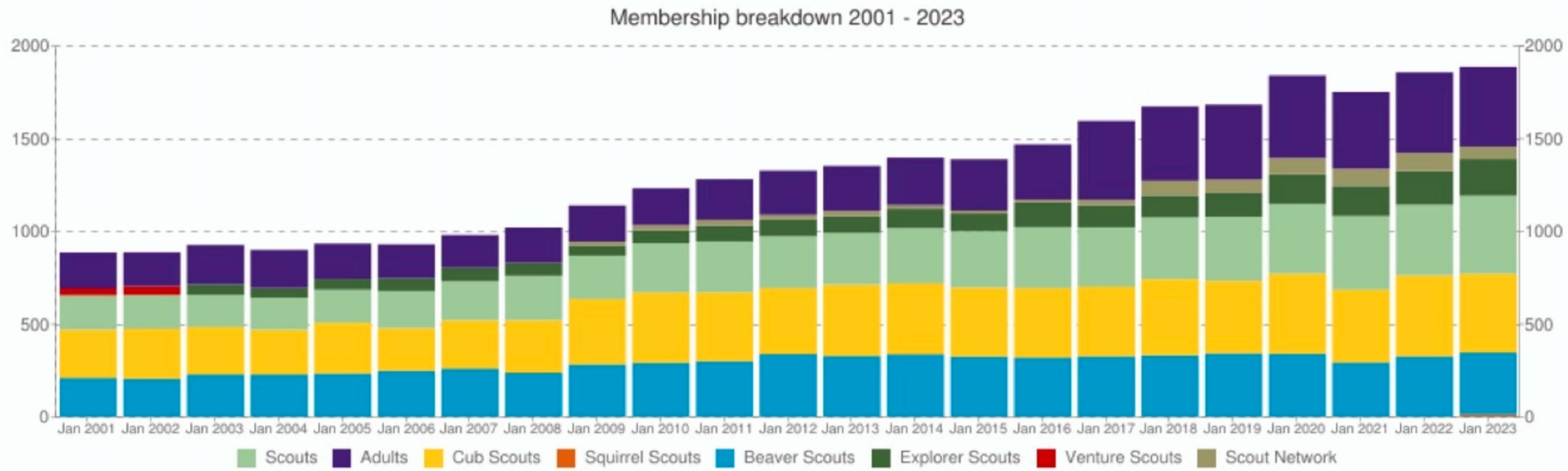
The District became aware of the news that Alan Groves, who was a past member of 1<sup>st</sup> Weston Green Scout Group, has died in August 2023. He had recently attended the Group's 80<sup>th</sup> Year celebrations and provided some useful background history to the current team.

## Membership as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

Census January 2023 - Summary - Esher																
Name	Dreys	Colonies	Packs	Troops	Explorer Units	Networks	Squirrels	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts	Explorers	YP 4-18	Network Members	Total Adults *	Total	
Esher	-	-	-	-	10	1	-	-	-	-	197	197	68	131	328	
1st Claygate	-	4	3	1	-	-	-	84	109	80	-	273	-	86	359	
1st Cobham	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	15	19	5	-	39	-	11	50	
3rd Esher	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	19	27	20	-	66	-	16	82	
1st Hinchley Wood	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	24	31	33	-	88	-	37	125	
1st Molesey (Jaguar)	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	24	55	69	-	148	-	63	211	
2nd Molesey (St Pauls)	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	26	26	32	-	84	-	13	97	
3rd Molesey (Matravers)	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	23	21	30	-	74	-	27	101	
1st Oxshott	1	1	1	1	-	-	10	18	31	32	-	91	-	13	104	
4th Thames Ditton (Ajax) Sea Scouts	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	23	30	45	-	98	-	48	146	
The Dittons	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	54	51	52	-	157	-	27	184	
1st Weston Green (All Saints)	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	24	23	24	-	71	-	25	96	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1386</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1883</b>	

Census 2023 - Trends - Esher															
Name	Squirrels			Beavers			Cubs			Scouts			Explorers		
	2022	2023	Growth	2022	2023	Growth	2022	2023	Change	2022	2023	Change	2022	2023	Change
Esher	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	181	197	+16
1st Claygate	0	0	-	80	84	+4	103	109	+6	62	80	+18	0	0	-
1st Cobham	0	0	-	8	15	+7	26	19	-7	6	5	-1	0	0	-
3rd Esher	0	0	-	23	19	-4	20	27	+7	18	20	+2	0	0	-
1st Hinchley Wood	0	0	-	24	24	-	34	31	-3	28	33	+5	0	0	-
1st Molesey (Jaguar)	0	0	-	24	24	-	59	55	-4	62	69	+7	0	0	-
2nd Molesey (St Pauls)	0	0	-	27	26	-1	31	26	-5	32	32	-	0	0	-
3rd Molesey (Matravers)	0	0	-	18	23	+5	21	21	-	30	30	-	0	0	-
1st Oxshott	0	10	+10	25	18	-7	26	31	+5	31	32	+1	0	0	-
4th Thames Ditton (Ajax) Sea Scouts	0	0	-	19	23	+4	34	30	-4	46	45	-1	0	0	-
The Dittons	0	0	-	54	54	-	51	51	-	41	52	+11	0	0	-
1st Weston Green (All Saints)	0	0	-	22	24	+2	30	23	-7	25	24	-1	0	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>+10</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>+10</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>+41</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>+16</b>

## Historical view



## Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

<b>President</b>	vacant
<b>Vice-Presidents:</b>	A J Palmer, C W Salter, N M C Stephens, R W Umney
<b>Trustees:</b>	
<b>Ex-officio – Appointment</b>	<b>Name</b>
District Commissioner	Hugh Gostling or Deputy District Commissioners – Mark Auld and Andrew Burns
District Chair	David Vorbrich
District Secretary	Lisa Cross
District Treasurer	Gary Ernest
District Explorer Scout Commissioner	vacant
<b>Elected</b>	Peter Hanna, Chris Daley & Stephen Valter
<b>Appointed</b>	Carole Needham
Co-opted	None
<b>Bankers</b>	CAF Bank Ltd. Kent
<b>Other Advisors:</b>	
Independent Examiner	Barry Hitchens
<b>District Registration Number with the Scout Association</b>	15409
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	1063001
<b>Contact Name and Address</b>	Gary Ernest, 55 Oaken Lane, Claygate, KT10 0RQ

### Governance

The District's governing documents are those of the Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, the By Laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association. The District is a trust established under rules which are common to all Scout Councils.

The trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

The District is managed by a Committee made up of all the charity's trustees. As charity trustees, they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping of proper accounts and making of appropriate returns to the Charity Commission.

The Committee meets approximately every two months and consists of three ex-officio trustees (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary), one nominee of the District Commissioner and three independent trustees elected by the District Scout Council at the Annual General Meeting together with the Deputy District Commissioner and District Explorer Scout Commissioner.

The Committee exists to support the District Commissioner and Deputies in meeting their responsibilities of the District and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of District property.
- The raising of funds and the administration of the District finances.
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment.
- District public occasions.
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support.
- Appointing advisors other than those who are elected.

The Committee is assisted by an Appointments Advisory Committee.

## **Risk Assessment**

The Committee has identified the major risks to which it believes the Group is exposed. These have been reviewed and systems exist to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

- Damage to the building and equipment. The District would request the use of buildings and equipment from neighbouring organisations. The District has sufficient building and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.
- Injury to leaders, members and helpers. The District, through the membership fees, contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.
- Reduced income. The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions. The District does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the District either temporarily or permanently.
- Reduction or loss of members. The District provides activities for all young people aged 6 to 25. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the District as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a group, or, in the worst-case scenario, the complete closure of the District.
- The District requires two signatories for all payments to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss of money and holds comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.
- COVID-19 please see below.

## **COVID-19**

In accordance with Scout Association national requirements and Charity Commission guidance all face to face scouting was suspended throughout the lockdown period. This continued until the Scout Association advised that the risk level was lowered, when the District introduced a policy to provide guidance to Groups/Explorer Units as to how to return to face to face scouting. Using the Scout Association template all Groups/Explorer Units wishing to recommence face to face scouting had to carry out a Risk Assessment which had to be approved by the Group Executive then the District before starting. At the time of writing this report a number of Groups/Units have had Risk Assessments approved and have begun activities.

As well as its own status the District Executive has been overseeing Groups' financial positions and all are stable despite losses of income. All but two received Government grants through Elmbridge Borough Council. Those that did not receive the grants did not qualify as they were not paying Business Rates.

## **District Objectives**

The aim of the District is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of the local, national and international community. The method of achieving this aim is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training based on the Scout Association Programme and guided by trained adult leadership.

## **Overall District Strategy**

- **Growth** – to recruit and retain adults, expand/add sections taking numbers off waiting lists and to develop a plan to potentially start a new group. Enhance programme
- **Inclusivity** – to attract and include a wider range of young people, genders, ethnicities, special needs and faiths.
- **Youth Shaped** – to ensure Scouts are actively influencing programming and planning at Group and District level
- **Community Impact** – to encourage Group/District involvement in one publicized community engagement per term.

Esher District Scout Council (EDSC)

Accounts 2022-23

### **Financial Strategy**

There has been no material change in the financial organisation of EDSC in the year to 31 March 2023. Esher District Scout Council (EDSC) maintains the following three funds:

- The **Group Scout Leaders' (GSLs') Fund** is raised through a levy on all eligible scout members across the 11 scout groups ("the Groups") that comprise the District. The GSLs' levy recovered from Groups in March 2023 (to cover the 2023/24 financial year (FY)) was £1.50 per member, compared with £3.25 in the prior year (PY). The Fund is used at the GSLs' discretion to support scouting projects across the District. In particular, the Fund is used to provide 50% of the cost for local Explorers to attend the World Jamboree every 4 years, and to fund one-off grants to Groups or individuals in support of scouting activity.
- The **Building Repair (Bob Aldridge) Fund** represents a legacy from the estate of JS Easter received in 1997. The Fund is used to provide short-term loans to Groups for urgent building repairs and renewals.
- The **General Fund** comprises all other monies held by the EDSC and is used to fund day-to-day expenditure by the District. A levy of £0.50 per member was made on Groups in March 2023 (to cover the 2023/24 financial year) compared with zero in PY.

EDSC's financial strategy is to hold sufficient reserves within the General Fund to be able to continue the charitable activities of the District should income fall short. The Executive Committee considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months' running costs, about £2,000, plus funds to meet significant property repairs, £10,000 – so £12,000 in total. At March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 the General Fund stood at £14,379 (March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 £12,880).

### **Financial Review 2022-2023**

The accounts, as shown in Appendix A, are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, as provided for in the Charities Act 2011.

#### **Fund movements**

Balances of the District's funds at the beginning and end of the current financial year are as follows:

	1 Apr 2022 (£)	31 Mar 2023 (£)
GSLs' Fund	12,331	4,577
Building Fund	21,186	21,455
General Fund	12,880	14,379
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,397</b>	<b>40,411</b>

For the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 total funds decreased by £5,986.

The **GSLs' Fund** decreased by £7,754 reflecting the payment of the majority of the instalments of the District's 50% support for the 7 local Explorers who will attend the South Korea World Jamboree in August 2023. One more payment is due in May 2023, after which the fund will be gradually built up to part fund participation in the next World Jamboree to be held in Poland in 2027.

The **Building Repair (Bob Aldridge) Fund** increased by £269 due to interest received on the Scout Association Deposit account. No loans to Groups are currently outstanding.

The **General Fund** increased by £1,499. This movement is a combination of payments received and paid out for District activities such as District beaver party, District cub camp, Scouts' Night & Day hikes and Explorers' Winter Activity Weekend; the deposit paid out for the 2023 District Camp at Walton firs in June 2023; payments in and out on fees for the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme; and general District expenses such as the AGM, insurance and bank charges.

#### Assets and liabilities


As the accounts are maintained and prepared on a receipts and payments basis, there is no District balance sheet.

The District holds cash on deposit with the Scout Association Short Term Deposit account, the balance of which was £24,670 on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The remaining day-to-day cash, £15,713 at the same date, is held at CAF Bank.

The Scout Association has notified us that it will close the Term Deposit Account over the summer of 2023 and the balance will be transferred to our CAF account.

No liabilities or pre-payments are carried forward.

## Appendix A

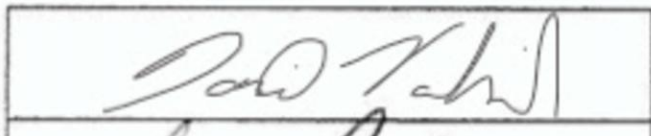
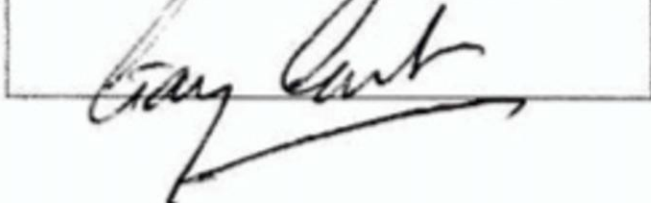
	Esher District Scout Council		1063001	<b>CC16a</b>
	<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>			
	For the period from	1st April 2022	To	

Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Capitation & Insurance Fees received (Note 1)	3,666	62,706	-	66,372	65,098
Less: paid to County	-	(60,638)	-	(60,638)	(57,794)
Less: paid to Unity (PIP insurance)	(3,502)		-	(3,502)	(3,258)
Net Capitation Fees received	164	2,069	-	2,233	4,046
Course Fees received	730	-	-	730	222
Activities and district camps	14,791	-	-	14,791	4,004
2023 Jamboree (from Groups)	-	9,900	-	9,900	-
Interest receivable	29	269	-	298	-
Other receipts	27	-	-	27	638
	-			-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	15,741	12,237	-	27,978	8,910
<b>Total receipts</b>	15,741	12,237	-	27,978	8,910
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Activities and district camps	13,040	-	-	13,040	4,203
2023 Jamboree paid to UK HQ	-	19,723	-	19,723	1,750
Administration and miscellaneous payments	572	-	-	572	2,441
Other payments	-	-	-	-	-
Training costs	630	-	-	630	300
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	14,242	19,723	-	33,964	8,694
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Equipment purchases	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	14,242	19,723	-	33,964	8,694
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	1,499	7,485	-	5,986	217
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	12,880	33,516	-	46,397	46,180
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	14,379	26,031	-	40,411	46,397

**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank current account	14,379.54	1,333.44	
	Scout Assoc Short Term Deposit	-	24,697.94	
		-	-	
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>14,379</b>	<b>26,031</b>	
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Loans	-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
		-	-	
<b>Total assets</b>	GSL's Fund		4,577	4,577
	Building Fund		21,455	21,455
	General Fund	14,379	-	14,379
		<b>14,379</b>	<b>26,032</b>	<b>40,411</b>

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	David Vorbrich District Chairman	14 / 09 / 23
	Gary Ernest, District Treasurer	3/7/23

**Esher District Scout Council Charity Number 1063001**

**Report of the Independent examiner to the Trustees of Esher District Scout Council**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above Charity for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 that are set out on the pages attached.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust's 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 that gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- a) the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- b) the accounts did not comply with the accounting records or
- c) the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of the independent examination.

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.

Barry Hitchens- Australian Society of Accountants  
24 Effingham Road, Long Ditton, Surrey, KT6 5JY

*Barry Hitchens*  
*13<sup>th</sup> June 2023*