

# OXFORD SPIRES SCOUT DISTRICT

England & Wales · Charity number 1090174

## Details

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**Other names** OXFORD SPIRES DISTRICT SCOUTS

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2002-01-21

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

## Contact

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## Activities

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**Objects:** 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 THEIR LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES.

**Activities:** The District supports all the Scout Groups within the district in the aim of the Scout Association "To help young people achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities."

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

- Oxfordshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£30,299	£45,248	-	-
2024-03-31	£52,065	£33,228	-	-
2023-03-31	£3,716	£2,718	-	-
2022-03-31	£4,819	£4,081	-	-
2021-03-31	£3,339	£2,865	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Valerie Jean Butcher BEM</b>	Chair	2018-07-13
ANTHONY DAVID MORRIS		2012-10-23
BRIAN CARVELL		
COLIN DOLING		2024-09-30
DAVID JONATHAN EYLES		2020-09-30
James Andrew Ellis		2018-07-13
James Heydon		2017-09-13
KEVIN HEYDON		
MARK SEAN COUGHLAN		2016-07-06
Rebecca Thomas		2012-04-16
Shane Clark		2020-09-30
Stuart Weekes		2016-12-13

**OXFORD SPIRES SCOUT DISTRICT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1090174

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# Accounts

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**Scouts**

**Oxford Spires**

**District Report 2025**

## OXFORD SIPRES DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL Annual General Meeting

WEDNESDAY 16TH JULY 2025 at 19:30  
28th Oxford Scout Group HQ, Fairlie Road, Littlemore, Oxford OX4 3SW

### AGENDA

1. **Introduction and welcome**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Governance topics**
  - a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd July 2024
  - b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)
  - c. Note the District's financial year - 1st April to 31st March.
  - d. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board (minimum 5, maximum 12)
  - e. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM) - 15 people.
4. **Review of the previous year**
  - a. The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts during the past 12 months in Oxford Spires
  - b. The County Lead Volunteer's remarks
  - c. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts
5. **Making appointments**

The Trustees for the District were appointed last year for 3 years and there are no Trustee vacancies at the present time.

The Board of Trustees is comprised of the following:

  - District Chair: Val Butcher
  - District Treasurer: Mark Coughlan.
  - District Lead Volunteer (Ex-Officio): Anthony Morris
  - Members of the District Trustee Board: Shane Clark, Brian Carvel, Coling Doling, Jim Ellis, David Eyles, James Heydon, Kevin Heydon, Rebecca Thomas, Stuart Weekes.
  - Bill Butcher is appointed administrator to the Board of Trustees but is not a Trustee.
  - a. Appoint the Scrutineer / Independent Examiner / Auditor [Delete as appropriate]
  - b. Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council - Anthony Morris & Val Butcher
6. **Closing remarks**

## OXFORD SPIRES SCOUT DISTRICT

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT 28<sup>th</sup> OXFORD (Littlemore) Headquarters

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

**Present:** - Val Butcher BEM, Bill Butcher, Anthony Morris, James Heydon, Kevin Heydon, Naomi Heydon, Rebecca Thomas, Wendy Tatham, Amber Hodges, R. Owen, Ami Walter, Colin Doling, S Thompson, C. Kalaja, Sue Springfield, Brian Carvell, Mark Coughlan.

**Apologies received:** - Shane Clark, Jo Noble, David Eyles, Simon Welsh, Sarah Meler, Emma Wyatt, Andrew Innes, Giles Puleston, Jim Ellis, Andrew Frawley, Tim Greaves, Phil Earl, Margaret Boggs, Anna Weekes, Stuart Weekes, Linda Philips.

**Minutes of the previous AGM:** - The minutes of the AGM held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were approved.

**Governance:** - The Model constitution as laid out in Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) was adopted. The financial year was to remain as 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

The minimum number of Trustees on the Trustee board should be 5 and the maximum 12. The Board of Trustee recommended we have 12.

The Board of Trustees recommended the quorum for District Scout Council meetings should be 15. The meeting agreed. (Not including this meeting)

**Review of 2023:** - Anthony Morris provided an overview of the previous year and was pleased to say the district was able to provide exciting and adventurous activities to the young people of the District. There is still a waiting list which we are doing our best to reduce. Whilst a lack of leaders is a major contributing factor there are other reasons such as providing accommodation when many scout centres are in use every night.

Mark Coughlan then gave an overview of the scrutinised accounts which were approved by those present.

**Appointments:** -

Chairman: -Val Butcher stood down as chairman and handed to meeting over to Anthony Morris. Anthony immediately nominated Val Butcher to continue as

chairman. She accepted the role for a tenure of three years. This was approved by those present. Val resumed the chair.

Treasurer: - Mark Coughlan agreed to remain treasurer, again for a tenure of three years. This was approved by those present.

Members of the Trustee Board: - Anthony nominated ... to be members of the Trustee Board. Bill Butcher has agreed to remain as secretary/administrator of the board. but will not be a trustee.

Scrutineer: - Mark Coughlan nominated Caroline Hield as scrutineer. This was approved by those present.

Nomination of the District Scout Council's representatives to the County Scout Council.: - Val Butcher and Anthony Morris were approved to perform this role.

Val then thanked everyone for they do for Scouting in general and Oxford Spires in particular. She then invited Wendy Tatham to address the meeting. She too thanked everyone for everything to do.

The meeting closed at 21.13

## Oxford Spires District Scout Council

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Total Income	30,298.79	52,065.23
Total Expenditure	(45,247.94)	(18,837.61)
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>(14,949.15)</b>	33,227.62
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
District Current Accounts	123,822.27	123,822.27
District Reserve Account	3.25	3.19
District ESU Accounts Total	7,127	32,179.17
<b>Total for the District</b>	<b>130,952.52</b>	156,001.44

The total income for the year of £ 30298.79 included income for District camp but most of the income for that was in the previous financial year. However, most of the expenditure for District Camp was in this financial year hence why the account shows a deficit of £14949.15 for the financial year.

As the Explorer Units come under the District, it is the District that claims the gift aid and then passes it onto the Explorers

The District has also helped with grants supporting young people, Leaders and Groups in some of their activities.

For full copies of the accounts please email [treasurer@oxfordspires.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@oxfordspires.org.uk) and ask for them.

Oxford Spires Scout District

Income		Expenditure	
Activities		Activities	
Cub Boating	£675.00	Cub Boating	-£400.00
Cub Sixer and Seconder Weekend	£555.00	Cub Sixer and Seconder Weekend	-£428.64
Cub Sport	£0.00	Cub Sport	£0.00
District Camp	£14,755.00	District Camp	-£33,599.17
Scout PL and APL Training Weekend	£0.00	Scout PL and APL Training Weekend	£0.00
Scout Cooking Competition	£180.00	Scout Cooking Competition	-£169.34
Activities Sub Total	£16,165.00	Activities Sub Total	-£34,597.15
		District Team and BofT Expenses	-£704.30
		Insurance	-£691.77
		MPLC Licence	-£575.00
		Appointments Committee	£0.00
Gift Aid	£5925.29	Gift Aid	-£5,925.29
Badge Sales	£318.00	Badge Purchases/Expenses	-£155.00
3rd Oxford Hall	£2,976.00	3rd Oxford Hall	-£2,599.43
District Membership Fee	£4,914.50		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£30,298.79</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>-£45,247.94</b>
<b>Total Surplus/Deficit</b>			<b>-£14,949.15</b>

Balances		
Date	31/03/2025	
District Current Account	£10,147.19	Nat West
District Reserve Account	£3.25	Nat West
District Lloyds	£113,675.08	Lloyds
Amadeus ESU - bank account		
Angelmead ESU - bank account		
Angelmead ESU - saving account		
Acquistion ESU		
Buzz ESU - bank account	£6,519.65	
Buzz ESU - cash	£45.41	
Falcon ESU - bank account		
Falcon ESU - cash		
Felix ESU - bank account	£561.94	
Felix ESU - cash	£0.00	
Gordo ESU - bank account		
Red Kite ESU - bank account		
Red Kite ESU - cash		
Wanderers ESU		
<b>Total for District</b>	<b>£130,952.52</b>	

## **Programme Team**

Below are the reports from the District Section. A huge thank you to them for all their hard work.

The District had a large contingent of about 120 at the Oxford City Remembrance Day Parade. Many Groups supported town and village Remembrance Day Ceremonies and it was great to see large turn outs there.

**David Eyles**

### **DDC Programme**



The only event beavers have done since last AGM is the annual sports day in September. It was a shame that Groups that had said they would support the day were unable to do so for varying reasons.

On the week before the event there were storms and high winds predicted and there was lots of discussion if we should continue as only had small indoor accommodation available.

We decided to do event with change of risk assessments. We also discovered although we had sole use of outdoors & field building, that we were sharing venue carpark with 2 -3 other largish events taking part in school.

By time of event brilliant sunny day and just under 40 beavers and siblings [aged 4.5 – 8.75 years ] from 6 colonies [some only getting 1 child out of those booked ] had a great afternoon, five teams doing six bases each.

Then some refreshments followed by “old fashion” races and prize giving.

After the event several of main leaders got together to discuss viability of doing District events. We decided to change things around and not do fun day in March at Thame, possibly move sports day to end May beginning of June and have indoor event Oct/Nov.

Unfortunately due to main leaders encountering family health/bereavements or own illnesses we have not met for any leaders meetings in January or April and not organised any events.

We are hoping to put on a big event in 2026 possibly end Spring / beginning of summer term to celebrate beavers 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Chief Scouts Bronze Awards approx. 80 this year. Oxford Spires Had about 75 Bronze Award Achievers attend Oxfordshire County Awards day.

**Sue Springett**

### **Top Awards Volunteer Beavers**

# cubs

A number of activities for the Cubs in the District have taken place this year.

District Cub Sixer & Seconder Camp March 2025: Held at the 28th Oxford Headquarters around 30 Cubs from 2nd, 4th, 28th and 33rd Oxford Mowgli & Jacala Packs attended. We ran a programme on basic Scouting skills, including Cubs cooking their own dinner. The Cubs and leaders mixed well together.

The District Boot & Compass competition was held at the end of April. This was an orienteering exercise held in Bernwood forest. We had 11 teams, with Cubs from 4th, 10th, 43rd and 33rd Oxford Mowgli. Thank you to Ed for running this event.

The District Cub Boating Day was held in June. Cubs from 10th, 43rd and 33rd Oxford Mowgli attended. The Cubs had a go at both canoeing and kayaking. Thank you very much to Dave Eyles and his team of instructors.

Finally, a Big Thank You is due to Claire Rylatt who stepped down from her District Cub role last year after several years. Thank you Claire for all you have done.

**Tom Plant**

**Top Awards Volunteer Cubs**

# SCOUTS

The scout section as had another busy year, as displayed with the number of scouts attending the county awards day and receiving recognition of their efforts in gaining the chief scouts gold award.

A number of troops attended County Patrol Camping Weekend at Horley and competed well in the competition.

The troops were well represented at Remembrance parades though out the district either in Oxford city, or surrounding villages and parishes.

## Scout District Cooking Competition - 18th February 2025

Scouts compete in teams of four to cook a three course meal. This is done "ready-steady-cook" style, with a set of compulsory ingredients and common items in a store cupboard. This year we had 9 teams take part from 8 different troops. A team from the 33rd Sea Scouts were the overall winners (2nd - 43rd; 3rd - 10th). Special thanks to our judges Emily (10th) and Naomi (Yarnton).

## Quest Oxford - Sunday 23rd March 2025

This was the second time we have run this event for Scouts. Quest Oxford is a quiz / scavenger hunt for teams of 3-5 scouts in the city centre. The event is designed for scouts to find out about the history of our city and the university. Answers were located around the city and within some of the colleges. About 60 scouts took part in 14 teams from 7 different troops. Gold awards (for the highest scores) were earned by teams from the 8th Oxford and Yarnton. All scouts who took part earned their "Local Knowledge" activity badge. Special thanks to St Edmund Hall and Mansfield College for providing facilities and helping us run the event.

The support for events has been good and many thanks go to the team of leaders who willingly help run these along side running their own troops, we love to see new events and hope more leaders will come forward with suggestions.

Thank you Jon (Yates) for taking on the organisation of Quest and Cooking Competition.

## Scout Top Awards Team

# EXPLORERS

There are nine Explorer Units in the District and all of them continue to offer great Scouting programmes including Chief Scouts Awards, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and Explorer Belt. The Census in January showed that Explorer numbers were up again and for the first time in our Districts history were over the 200 mark.

All the units completed Summer Camps last year of various shapes and sizes and looking forward most of the units have camps planned for this summer and a trip to Malta in October for Angelmead.

Notable events include Raidox, a county weekend long scavenger hunt, with over half the units in the District taking part.

I wish to say thanks to all the Explorer Leaders, Assistants and Helpers for their hard work.

Stuart Weekes who has been the District Explorer Scout Commissioner decided to step away from that role or the equivalent with the introduction of the new membership system and the new 14-24 Team structure. A huge Thank You! to Stuart for what he has done over the last 8 years for Explorers in the District!

**network** Network is continuing in the District but continues to be a challenge, training to get everyone together and co-ordinated is difficult with work/university etc.. naturally taking priority. There is a team of people trying hard to co-ordinate this and we look forward to continuing to grow this resource with the new 14-24 Section Team.

With the change in the Membership system and the structure our Network Scout Commissioner has moved on to new things. Thanks you Amy for your time in helping us get going!

## Growth & Development

This remains a challenge in the District and again the Census in January showed that Growth in the District was static with the number of Adults not changing from Census 2024 and the young people numbers being up by 1 young person last years figure and over the last three years these figures have varied by 13. It is likely that this has changed since January but not by much as most of our sections are full and the waiting list for young people in the District still numbers about five hundred.

The reasons for the membership total not going are probably numerous but three of the main ones are: lack of Adult Volunteers; lack of space the meeting places so sections can't expand; lack time slots in the buildings. These are all things that we as a District need to try and tackle over the next few years if the District is to grow.

Since January we have opened a new Scout Troop in the District and are looking to start a new Beaver Colony.

For various reasons we are still looking to get 3rd Oxford (Wolvercote), 27th Oxford (Barton) open and running and maybe get some new sections open at other Groups to try and reduce our overall waiting list.

## **District Lead Volunteer**

The start of the 2024 - 2025 academic year saw Scouting preparing to take on a new membership system. This eventually "kicked off" at the end of November and had us all confused, frustrated and wracking our brains as to how we cope with this new system. Despite the various Training courses, it hasn't been plain sailing and there have been many bugs, some fixed, some being fixed, some..... A huge thank you to all of you especially District Team and Group Lead Volunteers for sticking at it and getting on with great Scouting despite the challenges being thrown in our direction.

The Census in January was good for the District showing we are maintaining our numbers and growing in some areas - Explorer Scouts getting over the 200 young people mark for the first time in Oxford Spires history. The fact we have maintained our numbers is brilliant and a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm from our entire Leadership Team across the District.

Our Adult numbers in Leadership Team roles have increased but we have lost a lot of the "behind the scenes" volunteers. Many taking time to revue where they were in their Scouting journey with the introduction of the new system in November 2024. The challenge now is to find volunteers to fill the new "behind the scenes" roles.

I am always in awe of the great Scouting that our Leaders, Helpers and Supporters provide throughout the year for the Young People and this year has been no exception with an amazing amount of Top Awards in every section including two Kings Scout Awards. A brilliant and fantastic achievement. Thank you everyone!

Every year people move on from their roles and this year is no exception and I want to say a huge THANK YOU to Maria Chaundy who was our Local Training Manager for 7 years and did an immense job in bringing Scout Learning to a huge team of Leaders. Thank you to Margaret Boggs for leading the AAC and for starting our welcome team. To Anna Weekes for doing the Recognition Awards Role and to Stuart Weekes who headed up Explorers in the District for 8 years seeing it over the 200 young people mark. To all the Leaders, helpers, supporters that have now moved on - a huge THANK YOU for what you have done and do come and see us occasionally!



Lastly a huge THANK YOU to the District Team and the District Board of Trustees for keeping me and the District on the right path. Also to all the Leaders, Assistants, Supporters who are out “in the field” delivering Scouting in many different ways and giving the young people of the District brilliant Scouting.

**Anthony Morris**

**District Lead Volunteer**

**OXFORD SPIRES SCOUT DISTRICT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1090174

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# Accounts

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**Scouts**

**Oxford Spires**

**District Report 2024**

**OXFORD SPIRES SCOUT DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD AT 28<sup>th</sup> OXFORD (Littlemore) Headquarters**  
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**In Attendance:**

Rebecca Thomas, Val Butcher, Bill Butcher, Naomi Heydon, James Haydon, Wendy Tatham, Sarah Thompson, Amy Walter, Camile Kalaja, Anna Bishop, Pietam Owen, Amber Hodges, James Wynne, Pip Doling, Pop Doling, Liam O'Lughlin, Justin Temple, Dave Smith, Stuart Weekes, Kevin Heydon, Lucy Webster, Sue Spriggett, Shelagh Hutson, Jim Ellis, Brian Carvell, Tony Wigley, Maria Chaundy, Anthony Morris, Mark Coughlan.

**Apologies were received from:** - Andy Dawson - Thame Beavers, Mark Walker - Wheatley Beavers, David Eyles - DDC Programme, Adrian Edwards - GSL 10th Oxford, Phil Earl - County Chairman, Giles Puleston - GSL 33rd Oxford, Linda Phillips - District Scout Advisor, Claire Rylatt - District Cub Advisor, Bernie Harris - Chairman 15th Oxford, Andrew Frawley - DGSL 22nd Oxford, Lorraine Crowther - GSL 22nd Oxford, Hannah Berrie - District Youth Commissioner, Michelle Cox - County Administrator, Lucy Theobold, Chris Rogers.

These were taken as read.

**Chairman's Welcome**

The chairman, Val Butcher, opened the meeting at 19:40 hours and welcomed all those in attendance. She went on to give a brief overview of the governance transition which converts Executive Committees to boards of Trustees and refers to members of that board as Trustees. It was to be minuted that the financial year is to be 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March. A board of Trustees is said to be quorate when a third of its members plus one are present.

**Minutes of the AGM**

The minutes of the AGM held on ??? were approved and signed by the chairman.

**District Commissioner's report**

Anthony Morris presented his report during which he made a presentation to Tony Wigley who is retiring as Appointments' subcommittee chairman. A post he has held since the formation of the District in 1998.

**District Accounts**

The District Accounts were presented and approved. The Independent Examiner is Mrs Caroline Heirp.

**Nomination of Chairman.**

Val Butcher stood aside and Anthony Morris took over the meeting. He nominated Val Butcher to be chairman for the forthcoming year. This was approved and Val Butcher resumed the chair.

### **Election of Officers**

Jackie Parker has resigned as secretary. Bill Butcher was proposed by Rebecca Thomas to take on the role this was seconded by Sarah Thompson and carried unanimously.

Mark Coughlan agreed to continue as treasurer. Proposed by Maria Chaundy and seconded by Kevin Heydon. Carried unanimously.

### **Nominations for election to the board.**

The following were nominated for election to the Board of Trustees.

Jim Ellis, Becca Thomas, Shane Clarke, Colin Doling, Tony Wigley, Brian Carvell.

They were voted for en bloc and carried unanimously.

### **District Commissioner's Nominations.**

The District Commissioner nominated the following to sit on the Board of Trustees.

Maria Chaundy, David Eyles, Kevin Heydon, Kate Wilson, Margaret Boggs. Their nominations were accepted unanimously.

The under 25 representative is yet to be appointed.

The visiting dignitary, Wendy Tatham, County Commissioner then addressed the meeting.

The Chairman then closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20:10 hours.

## Oxford Spires District Scout Council

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Total Income	52,065.23	3,716.40
Total Expenditure	(18,837.61)	(2717.92)
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>33,227.62</b>	<b>998.48</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
District Current Accounts	123,822.27	42,535.87
District Reserve Account	3.19	6,098.97
District ESU Accounts Total	32,179.17	9,637.64
<b>Total for the District</b>	<b>156,001.44</b>	<b>58,272.48</b>

The total income for the year of £52,065.23 includes some District Membership Fees from 2023 and more or less all District Membership Fees for 2024. The reason for some Groups paying two sets of membership fees in one financial year is that the payment deadline moved from mid April for 2023 to 31st March for 2024 so this has increased the income. Also there is payments from Groups for District Camp showing in this balance. District Camp took place in May 2024. The District has also taken over the running of the 3rd Oxford Scout HQ and the Groups Bank Account has been closed and monies transferred to the District Account.

District Expenditure this year has increased mainly due to the District Camp in May as deposits have had to be paid for activities and Youlbury Scout Adventures. The District has also helped with grants supporting young people, Leaders and Groups and a donation to the last years Jamboree Unit

For full copies of the accounts please email [treasurer@oxfordspires.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@oxfordspires.org.uk) and ask for them.

<b>Oxford Spires Scout District</b>					
<b>Final 2023-2024 accounts</b>					
<b>Income</b>			<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Activities</b>			<b>Activities</b>		
Cub boating	£490.00		Cub boating	-£340.03	
Cub sixer and seconder	£395.00		Cub sixer and seconder	-£470.41	
Cub Sports	£168.00		Cub Sports	-£78.00	
District Camp	£22,990.00		District Camp	-£2,990.75	
Scout Patrol Leaders training weekend	£409.27		Scout Patrol Leaders training weekend	£0.00	
Scout cooking competition	£180.00		Scout cooking competition	-£283.53	
		<b>£24,632.27</b>			<b>-£4,162.72</b>
			District team and exec expenses	-£932.62	
			Insurance and Licences	-£576.16	
			Appointments committee	£0.00	
Grants and Transfers		£19,012.51	Grants	-£11,120.00	
Badge sales		£585.95	Badge purchases/expenses	-£953.73	
3rd Oxford Hall		£1,045.00	3rd Oxford Hall	-£1,092.38	
District Membership Fee		£6,789.50			
<b>Total for District accounts</b>		<b>£52,065.23</b>			<b>-£18,837.61</b>
<b>Total for District</b>		<b>£52,065.23</b>			<b>-£18,837.61</b>
					<b>£33,227.62</b>
<b>Balances</b>					
<b>Date</b>					
District Current Account	£10,147.19	Nat West			
District Reserve Account	£3.19				
District Lloyds	£113,675.08	inc mem + dc			
Amadeus ESU - bank account	£ 4,422.31				
Angelmead ESU - bank account	£ 3,770.34				
Angelmead ESU - saving account	£ -				
Acquisition ESU	£ 5,311.06				
Buzz ESU - bank account	£ 2,239.71				
Falcon ESU - bank account	£ 3,554.05				
Falcon ESU - cash	£ -				
Felix ESU - bank account	£ 2,343.59				
Felix ESU - cash	£ 3.21				
Gordo ESU - bank account	£ 4,566.26				
Red Kite ESU - bank account	£ 833.43				
Red Kite ESU - cash	£ -				
Wanderers ESU	£ 5,132.02				
<b>Total for District</b>		<b>£156,001.44</b>			
			<b>Carried forward</b>		
<b>Audit Queries</b>					
<b>Outstanding</b>					

# Template for the scrutineer's report to the trustees

## Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of Oxford Spires Scout District

I report on the accounts of the Group/District for the year ended .....2023 -2024

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer

As the Group's/District's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

### Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the Group's/District's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out on pages ..... to .....

### Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.

Name: CAROLINE WIELD  
Address: BARN COTTAGE  
OLD BOARS HILL  
OXFORD  
OX1 5JQ  
Date: 10/06/2024

## **District Chairman**

Another year has passed and what an interesting year it has proved to be.

The Scout Association has introduced many changes, whether they are good or bad remains to be seen. Most of the changes are administrative to bring us in line with Charity Commission rules, to streamline our committees and how we appoint trustees and officers. It will take some getting used to but I do see the benefits. Then there are the role title changes, I think we all have our own opinion regards this although I do see the point that we must seek to destroy the myth that we are paid employees and not volunteers. I'm sure many groups will, at least internally, keep the old names.

These changes have not affected the brilliant practical Scouting that Oxford Spires has offered and continues to offer but in light of recent events, we must not be complacent. It is absolutely essential that careful consideration is given when organising events, that all relevant training must be done so that the person holding the specific qualification is present.

The District continues to offer activities and support to groups the most significant this year being the District camp which was a huge success even the weather was good. These events don't just happen so my grateful thanks to Anthony and all his team for making Oxford Spires the dynamic district that it is. My thanks too, to the board of Trustees who made sure all the behind-the-scenes work is correct and legal. This year the way we appoint and elect our Trustees is different so some may no longer have a role. So, thank to those who are standing down.

Finally, my big thanks to all of you. You provide the grass root scouting to the young people of Oxford Spires. Without you and all your hard work we wouldn't be here.

**Val Butcher BEM**

**District Chairman**

## Programme Team

Below are the reports from the District Section ADCs and Advisors. A huge thank you to them for all their hard work.

The District had a large contingent of about 120 at the Oxford City Remembrance Day Parade. Many Groups supported town and village Remembrance Day Ceremonies and it was great to see large turn outs there.

As a District we all gathered at Youlbury for District Camp in May. The weekend was a huge success the activities and the weather were great! Thanks to all the Leaders and Helpers for getting your young people there and giving them such a great time. Thank you to the Camp Team for all your hard work and enthusiasm making it a really brilliant camp!

**David Eyles**

### **DDC Programme**



Currently 18 colonies quite a few changes in leaders and not all taking part in district events '

September sports day attended by 10 colonies approx. 80 beavers and siblings [aged 4.5- 8.75years], we used the playing field by Cherwell school south site, as we had a staff contact that organised and got us a good discount. Parent of 8th Oxford .

It's a great site as accessibly by public transport both from Headington and Banbury road also has safe cycle path into Marston . It has toilets and kitchen.

Sports day colonies are mixed up in advance and they play 8 bases ie welly wanging , football goals water pipes and other bases using different skills so each team has chance of succeeding. Alongside the points for sports achievements there are team bonus points [different per base ie sportsmanship, encouragement , team work and this gives 2 opportunities for being in a winning team, whilst final scores are totalled we have some team races and also refreshments .

March funday at Thame was attended by 8 colonies about 50 beavers. We have two games that all join in together, Then each colony supplies a base which beavers go to when spaces available . We earned the paw prints time traveller badge which also links with many challenges and activity badges thanks Susie for doing list of available badge components earnt. This year there was really nice atmosphere and Beavers were well behaved and occupied themselves for full session. Best fun day for a long time.

Bronze awards: Sue gave out about 60 but at Awards day there were over 85 on list as some colonies get GSLs or other District Team to present. Congratulations to the top colonies for achieving CSBA are 8<sup>th</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>. Some other colonies have had a lull year due to having younger colonies so I expect next year will be high levels of awards.

Thanks to Amber, also Susie (booking events, badge criteria and certificates) and Lucy for being minute secretary at the District meetings.

## Sue Springett

### ADC Beavers



The pencil game with all attendees at District beaver fun day

Exhausted beavers after sports day waiting for results



# cubs

The District Cub Programme is spread out over 2 academic years with some events being run annually while others are in either Year 1 or Year 2. 2023-24 was Year 2 in the District Cub

Programme.

It was agreed that the 2023 Scuba Diving event would not be arranged this year due to timing and the cost in addition to District Camp.

The Sixer and Seconder Weekend was held in March as an outdoor camp at the 28th Oxford, with 25 Cubs attending from four Packs. The programme focussed on Scouting skills such as backwoods cooking, shelter building, fire building, meal planning and budgeting, we also took the Cubs on a hike. The Cubs and leaders mixed and worked well together. A big thank you to the 28th for hosting us again.

The 2024 Boating Day again saw us able to offer 50 places per session (2 sessions offered - morning and afternoon) thanks to the number of instructors who volunteered. We had 100 Cubs sign up with 98 attending on the day. This event is always popular with the Cubs and gives them a great opportunity to try out both canoeing and kayaking.





At our September 2023 meeting it was agreed that the District Cub programme would be reduced to one event per term to make it more manageable for both District Cub Advisors and section leaders. The events we have kept target badge criteria or experiences that would be difficult for leaders to cover or provide themselves, while also being cost effective. We will keep all the plans and documentation needed for past events but would encourage other volunteers to take the lead on additional events if they would like them to be held.

Old District Cub programme:

Year 1 - even-odd years			Year 2 - odd-even years		
Event	When	Term	Event	When	Term
Scrapheap Challenge	Biannual Y1	Autumn	Scuba Diving	Biannual Y2?	Autumn
Castle Sleepover	Biannual Y1	Autumn	Kub Kar	Biannual Y2	Autumn
Sixer and Seconder Weekend	Annual	Spring	Sixer and Seconder Weekend	Annual	Spring
Boot and Compass	Biannual Y1	Spring	Orienteering	Biannual Y2	Spring
Sports Taster Day	Biannual Y1	Summer	Athletics Day	Biannual Y2	Summer
Boating	Annual	Summer	Boating	Annual	Summer

New District Cub programme:

Year 1 - even-odd years			Year 2 - odd-even years		
Event	When	Term	Event	When	Term
Boot and Compass	Biannual Y1	Autumn	Scuba Diving	Biannual Y2	Autumn
Sixer and Seconder Weekend	Annual	Spring	Sixer and Seconder Weekend	Annual	Spring
Boating	Annual	Summer	Boating	Annual	Summer

It was agreed that the following events would be removed from the programme:

- Castle Sleepover - too expensive for such a short stay. Max of 50 people, inc adults, all paying £25 each + extra for snacks and breakfast.
- Kub Kar - doesn't go towards a lot of badgework and what it does cover is easily covered by section nights, also kits have to be ordered from Canada so also not environmentally friendly.
- Scrapheap Challenge - doesn't go towards a lot of badge work and what it does cover is easily covered by section nights; event could even be run on a section night.
- Sports Taster Day - This was difficult to arrange as it relies on trained volunteers to run sports activities, and although all leaders were asked to help find or share contact details for instructors they may know, there were very few suggestions meaning not all bases were sports which defeated the objective of the day.
- Athletics Day - The Athletics badge is not a difficult one to cover on a section night depending on the criteria used; a version that can be covered in 1 evening will be shared on OSM.
- Orienteering - This hasn't run yet as we're reliant on the Thames Valley Orienteering Club (TVOC) to have suitable events we can tag along to; however, it would likely be easier for individual sections to sign up to their events at a time and place that suits the Pack and leaders concerned. This would also likely be easier for TVOC as they may not need to have the hassle of running 2 simultaneous events which they would likely need to do if we encouraged all the Packs in the District to take part at a single event.

Claire Rylatt has decided to step down as a District Cub Advisor from July 2024 to focus more on her various roles at the 40th Oxford.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped make Cub events happen this year.

**Claire Rylatt and Tom Plant**

**District Cub Advisors**

# SCOUTS

The scout section as had another busy year, as displayed with the number of scouts attending the county awards day and receiving recognition of their efforts in gaining the chief scouts gold award.

4 troops attended County Patrol Camping Weekend at Horley

At district level we made a conscious effort to keep costs as low as possible to allow as many scouts and troops as possible to attend

For the first time the scout section ran a district JOTI / JOTA weekend in October where scouts could not only get in contact and speak with other scouts from round the world but also worked on their international activity badge at the same time.

To this end we ran a free district wide game at Youlbury in November and had about 200 scouts running about in the dark getting nice and muddy.

The troops were well represented at Remembrance parades though out the district either in Oxford city, or surrounding villages and parishes.

In January we ran a patrol leader training day with approx 40 scouts participating, this worked really well and we were able to cover many skills such as first aid, knotting, navigation, fire lighting, running games and the inevitable learning to look at risk assessments.

February saw the ever popular cooking competition, here a team of 4 scouts must produce a 3 course meal from previously unseen ingredients, prizes were awarded for best starter, best main and best pudding along with most hygienic and best teamwork.

March was another new event we ran Quest Oxford a large scale treasure hunt in the city on a Sunday - this was well attended and even the leaders ended up in parts of oxford they had never been in before, thanks to St Edmund Hall for hosting us.

The support for events has been good and many thanks go to the team of leaders who willingly help run these along side running their own troops, we love to see new events and hope more leaders will come forward with suggestions.

**Naomi Heydon**

**ADC Scouts**

# EXPLORERS

There are nine Explorer Units in the District and all of them continue to offer great Scouting programmes including Chief Scouts Awards, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and Explorer Belt. The Census for in January showed that Explorer numbers were up 13% with some units now having 40+ members.



All the units completed Summer Camps last year of various shapes and sizes and Looking forward we have summer camps and Acquisition Unit are planing an Explorerbelt trip to Slovenia , Slovakia , Budapest and Vienna.

Notable events include Angelmead winning Raidox a county weekend long scavenger

hunt, Falcon, Amadeus, Wanderers and Buzz also took part.



One highlight of the year included all nine units attending District Camp in May, enjoying Explorer only events in the evenings.

Now that Network is up and running we are working hard to get the link between Explorers and Network established with visits from Amy our District Scout Network Commissioner to Explorer Units with young people nearing the top age of eighteen.

I wish to say thanks to all the Explorer Leaders, Assistants and Helpers for their hard work.

**Stuart Weekes**

**District Explorer Scout Commissioner (DESC)**

# network

Network have been meeting for the last few months, with about 12 regular attendees and additional who are currently away at uni but interested in joining in the summer. There is so much potential for what can be achieved in this section, and the priority being having a smooth transition process from Explorers into Network. I look forward to continuing to develop & grow this section, with many more pancake & scavenger hunt evenings to come! (photos of pancake day & 'find the smallest' in Oxford)



Amy Walter

District Scout Network Commissioner

## **Growth & Development**

The Census in January showed that Growth in the District was static with the number of Adults not changing from Census 2023 and the young people numbers being down by ten. It is likely that this has changed since January but not by much as most of our sections are full and the waiting list for young people in the District still numbers about five hundred.

The reasons for the membership total not going are probably numerous but three of the main ones are: lack of Adult Volunteers; lack of space the meeting places so sections can't expand; lack time slots in the buildings. These are all things that we as a District need to try and tackle over the next few years if the District is to grow.

For various reasons we are still looking to get 3rd Oxford (Wolvercote), 27th Oxford (Barton) open and running and maybe get some new sections open at other Groups to try and reduce our overall waiting list.

We know Groups are struggling with the recruitment to various volunteer posts, this is not just for appointed leaders but also new Trustees to be on the Board of the Scout Group. We also know this is a huge barrier to enabling Groups to expand and meet demand. Unfortunately, this is the picture nationally for all voluntary sectors. The Scout Association continues to support groups with recruitment and retention of volunteers. If you have not already seen it, do go and have a look at the many resources and ideas for recruitment provided by The Scout Association. Further information can be found here: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/growing-scouts/>

**Kate Wilson**

### **DDC Growth and Development**

## **Appointments Committee Annual Report**

The Appointments Committee has held 11 meetings during the last year – 10 on ZOOM and 1 face to face at the District Camp – and 30 appointments were confirmed.

Squirrel Scout Section Assistant	3
Beaver Scout Section Assistant	2
Assistant Cub Scout Leader	4
Cub Scout Section Assistant	2
Scout Leader	2
Assistant Scout Leader	4
Scout Section Assistant	8
Group Skills	1

Group Scout Leader	1
Explorer Section Assistant	2
District Scout Network Commissioner	1

### **Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)**

This is still a cause for concern. District and Group Officials have done an excellent job in making the applications but some members have to be prompted to do part 2 of the DBS which causes delays in getting them cleared. There does not appear to be any order system at Atlantic Data/HQ with some cleared the next day and others taking weeks.

The District has been running with a membership of between 600 to 620 over the last year and has been 99% and no lower than 96% compliant during that time. In all, 125 DBS have been cleared in the last 12 months.

### **Reviews**

We have 77 historic ones outstanding but, in some cases, no GSL to do them. Another 9 review forms are to be raised for the rest of 2024.

### **Future**

When all the changes for the future of Scouting take place, come November time the Appointments Committee will cease to exist. It will be replaced by the **Welcome Conversation** where the new volunteer will be made welcome, told about learning etc. Taking part in the conversation will be the New Volunteer, the Person responsible for recruiting the volunteer and a volunteer with the Welcome Conversation Volunteer Accreditation who is independent (not the same Group as the new volunteer).

The Welcome Conversation Volunteer must have had an active role for 5 years in scouting and complete a training course.

A new Membership System, coming online later this year, will be used with the disclosure check by a mobile self-service process (via Atlantic Data) and for references the applicants enter details and if responses are clear they are automatically approved.

In charge will be the **District Volunteering Development Team Leader**.

**Margaret Boggs**  
**Appointments Chair**

**Brian Carvell**  
**Appointments Secretary**

### **Training**

Oxford Spires continue to see many new Leader appointments and these new Leaders are getting on with their mandatory training and making contact to push on with their Wood Badges and other training.

The County continue to make courses available on the website although some of them may not be as plentiful as is needed. The First Aid courses in particular have filled up very quickly.

We have seen a few Leaders from Oxford Spires gain their Wood Badge and four more completed over the last month which is excellent news.

We should still be following the current training programme until the new system comes into action. Later in the year. When the new Membership system does come on line the mandatory training once completed will update automatically on the system, cutting out the need for downloading and sending certificates for different e-learning. With the new system Training will be referred to as learning, this is to make it “more friendly”.

As always a big thank you to current TA's for all they do! I shall be meeting with them over the coming weeks to complete reviews looking at roles under the new scheme to come.

**Maria Chaundy**

**Local Training Manager for Oxford Spires**

## **District Commissioner**

Another year has past and it has been a pleasure and privilege to be the District Commissioner of such a vibrant and friendly District. As many of you know a lot of changes are due to happen in the next year and by the time we get to next year's AGM things will be similar but look different!

The Census in January indicated we were 10 young people down on the 2023 Census, however the District has maintained it's numbers and has grown since January providing great Scouting to over 1500 young people. This is absolutely brilliant and a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm from our entire Leadership Team across the District.

Our Adult numbers remain static and this along with venues and time slot allocations is the main reason for the us not being able to reduce the waiting list significantly. We hope to be able to push forward with recruitment and the opening of more sections and Groups during the next year.

The changes in learning talked about last year are coming on line along with how we recruit adults. By this time next year our Appointment Advisory Committee will be a thing of the past and I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all those who have been members of this group and the brilliant work that they have done over the years. We will of course be looking to ask these people to still help us in providing great Scouting in the District.

I am always in awe of the great Scouting that our Leaders, Helpers and Supporters provide through out the year for the Young People. This year this culminated in May with District Camp at Youlbury. The whole site was booked for the weekend and about 750 young people and 150 Adults joined together to produce what I think was the best District Camp we have done as Oxford Spires. It was the first time since the pandemic the whole District had been together at one activity and I believe we all had a blast. A huge THANK YOU to David Eyles for his hours of hard work, planning, liaising, chasing and the team that helped him to put on a brilliant camp. I would also mention the Youlbury team

who worked really hard to make their end the best it could be. A great weekend, doing brilliant Scouting, THANK YOU to all involved.

Every year people move on from their roles and this year is no exception and I want to say a huge THANK YOU to Shelagh Hutson for her time, work and enthusiasm over the last three years as GSL in Thame. Shelagh will be staying as one of the Cub Leaders but has decided to step down from the GSL role at the end of term.

Claire Rylatt has been one of the District Cub Team since 2018 but has decided to step down from this role at the end of term but is continuing with her role(s) at 40th Oxford. A huge THANK YOU to Claire for everything she has done for District Cubs in the last 6 years, we will miss you on the team!

Lastly a huge THANK YOU to the District Team and the District Board of Trustees for keeping me and the District on the right path. Also to all the Leaders, Assistants, Supporters who are out "in the field" delivering Scouting in many different ways and giving the young people of the District brilliant Scouting.

**Anthony Morris**

**District Commissioner**