

East London District Scout Council

Annual Report & Accounts



For the period 1st January to 31st December 2023



Creating the do-ers, and give-it-a-goers in the
London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Hackney in 2023
www.eastlondonscouts.org.uk

Bankers: Unity Trust Bank Plc, Nine Brindley Place, Birmingham, B1 2HB

Principle Address: 60 Watchouse Road, Galleywood, Chelmsford, CM2 8PU

Custodian Trustees: The Scout Association

Charity Registration Number: 281576 (England and Wales)

Scout Association Registration: 10001028

Trustee Board

Ex-Officio Members

District Commissioner: Mr J. Ellison (Until 30/11/23)

Mr K. Bridge (From 01/12/23)

Youth Commissioner: Position Vacant

Explorer Commissioner: Ms B Mesquita De Oliveira Pegado

District Officers

Chair: Mr A. Hands (Until 21/09/23)

Position Vacant (From 22/09/23)

Treasurer Mr K. Yousaf

Elected Members

Mrs J. Bridge

Mr G. Davis

Mr J. Poole

Co-Opted Members

Mr B. Bench

Mr C Greenslade

Ms K. Leggett

Nominated Members

Mrs J. Sacarello

Vice Presidents

Mr A. Hands

Mr P. Final

Independent Examiner

Rob Handworker

Description of the charity's trust

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 Scouts.

Organisation:

The Scout District is led by a District Commissioner and managed by a Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment and is accountable to the East London District Scout Council for the satisfactory running of the District.

The East London District Scout Council is an unincorporated charitable association under the umbrella of the Scout Association. It operates within the guidelines laid down in Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) by the Scout Association.

The Trustee Board meets formally five times a year and is responsible for:

- Promoting the development of Scouting in the District
- Acting with the District Commissioner and District Team in all matters relating to finance and property

Presenting an Annual Report and annual statement of accounts to the General Meeting of the Scout Council.

Risk and Internal Control

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Our Purpose and Method

Scouts gives young people skills for life. We actively engage and support them in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

In partnership with adults, young people take part in fun indoor and outdoor activities. They learn by doing, by sharing in reflection and by taking responsibility. They make choices, try new and challenging activities, and live their Scout Promise.

Scouts' Trustees have a duty to report on our public benefit in this Annual Report. We've assessed our aims, activities and charitable objectives, which are to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full potential as individuals, as responsible citizens, and as members of their local, national and international communities.

We believe we've met the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria for both the advancement of education, and the advancement of citizenship and community development. Scouts follows two key principles set by the Commission with regard to public benefit:

1. **Identifiable benefit** - The way we help young people in their personal development and empower them to make a positive contribution to society. This benefit is directly linked to the purpose of Scouts.
2. **Public benefit** - We're open to all young people aged 4–24 and adult volunteers who are willing to make the Scout Promise. We help young people step up, speak up and dream big. Most importantly, we help them gain the skills they need to succeed in life. We're proud that all young people from all backgrounds and communities can benefit from our programme and aren't constrained by their ability to pay to take part.

District Commissioner's (Lead Volunteer) Report – Kevin Bridge

It gives me great pleasure to present our Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023.

I have never been prouder to be a part of the team and feel privileged to volunteer with such a fantastic group of adults and young people to help move Scouting forward in East London District. My thanks go to my fellow Trustees, the District Team and to all those who support Scouting in East London Scout District.

A special thank you is reserved for three people who have given East London Scout the District so much of their time and dedication over many years.

- Jon Ellison completed more than 5½ years as District Commissioner of East London District. With his direction and support the District has increased its annual membership and for the first time ever recorded over a 1000 Young Members within the District.
- Alan Hands completed nearly 5½ years as Chair of East London Scout District and The Roland Philipps Fund for Scouts Trust. He has brought his energy and vast professional experience into the careful management of the charity's trusteeship, which has been highly valuable. He has single-handedly raised the funding which has provided the exciting District Programme as well as supported the numerous District tasks and activities, which have been invaluable.
- Judy Phillips provided 15 years' service as the District Appointments Secretary. It is a thankless role and quite often her face was the first one they saw from another Group, she made people feel at ease and provided support and assistance whenever required and no matter how hard the task was to succeed.

Our founder, Robert Baden-Power, always emphasised that Scouts are a Movement. They need to keep developing, changing and growing. They will not survive if they are allowed to become static.

East London District has for the last 5 years recorded an increase in membership and we are now providing a programme for 841 young members. Whilst there are 226 adults volunteering their time in providing programme delivery across 14 Scout Groups and 5 Explorer Units within the London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Hackney.

We are committed to our programme for young people from 4–24 years old. We're there for young people at every stage of their journey!

In addition to all those working directly with young people on programme delivery we have a variety of teams helping to ensure governance, safeguarding, safety, finances and facilities are outstanding. Many of these are quietly working away in the background helping to make the magic happen including our wonderful volunteers looking after Charles Watts Memorial Hall and Fairmead Scout Camp Site.

We are very thankful to generous financial supporters of East London Scouting.

This external funding of over £64,000 including £15,000 grant from Jack Petchey Foundation for camp site improvement has made it possible to make Scouting open for all during these tough times for many of our families.

The Trustee Board is pro-active finding ways to support more young people benefit from Scouting. Speak to your elected trustee if you have any innovative ideas.

Annual Census of Membership (31/01/2023)

	Youth Members	Adult Volunteers	Total
2nd East London (Isle of Dogs)	122	52	174
3rd Bethnal Green	24	10	34
4th Poplar (Ss. Mary and Joseph)	18	3	21
4th Stoke Newington	22	7	29
5th Tower Hamlets (West)	113	42	113
6th Hackney	36	8	44
7th Stoke Newington	24	11	35
8th East London	68	26	94
9th Stepney	9	10	19
10th Stepney (Hayaat)	85	18	103
14th Hackney (St John at Hackney)	47	9	56
16th East London	68	50	118
23rd Poplar	45	28	73
63rd Hackney	62	10	72
Explorer Scouts	98	9	107

East London District Scout Council (Charity Registration Number 1114589)

Receipts and Payments account

Year start date

Year end date

	1st January 2023	To	31st December 2023
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Receipts and payments

	2023 £	2022 £
Receipts		
Programme - activities	4,660	192
Programme - badges	650	664
Campsite fees and electricity charge	29,826	20,820
Hall hire - Charles Watts Memorial Hall (Bouverie Road)	565	15,157
Donations and grants Note 2	64, 359	33,377
Membership fees	46,910	4,655
Bank and building society interest	67	11
Miscellaneous income	1,372	
Total receipts	148,409	74,877

Payments		
Programme: Activities	5,776	13,190
Programme: Badges	4,678	5,059
Programme: Jamboree support	400	6,750
Administration	46	
Campsite: Maintenance/ improvements Note 3	47,035	36,900
Charles Watts Memorial Hall: Maintenance/improvements	7,565	5,535
Bank charges	72	72
Training	426	180
Membership fees	34,155	31,024
Promotion/ recruitment/ retention	1,057	709
Sundry payments		29
2022 AGM	1,080	
Miscellaneous expenses	120	
Total payments	102,409	99,448

Net of receipts/(payments)

Cash funds last year end

Cash funds this year end

45,999		-24,571
125,850		150,422
170,559	-	125,850

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash funds		
East London Scouts	69,807	16,346
Charles Watts Memorial (Bouverie Rd) Note 4	83,597	90,598
Fairmead camp site	17,155	18,906
Total cash funds	170,559	125,850
Non-monetary assets for charity's own use		
Equipment	3,040	3,200
Badge stock	400	800
Charles Watts Memorial (Bouverie Rd)	403,001	403,001
Fairmead camp site	414,105	414,105
Sub total	820,546	822,097
Total net assets	991,105	972,519

Notes to the accounts

- The accounts incorporate the funds administered by the District Scout Council and do not include any of the funds administered by the individual Scout Groups within East London Scout District

2. Donations	2023	2022
UK Government Covid relief grant		£4,024
Amazon	£22.84	£14
Much Loved	£1,056.52	
Pemberton Barnes Will Trust	£48,000	£24,000
Jack Petchey Foundation	£15,000	
Tesco Foundation		£1,125
29th Hackney Scout Group		£1,357
Red Panda	£280	

- Camp site improvements include £32,028 for new equipment to improve facilities. Jack Petchey Foundation have approved a £15,000 grant in 2022 and received in this period.
- Funds held to replace roof on this grade 2 listed building - quotes received to date are for £80,000 plus. There will be £2000 - £3000 expected costs for surveys and consultations.

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on Thursday 5th September 2024 signed on their behalf by

Kevin Bridge

Kevin Bridge
District Commissioner (Lead Volunteer) East London District

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The East London District Council Annual Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the East London District Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the East London District Scout Council for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the East London District Scout Council 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 East London District Scout Council accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the East London District Scout Council as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed: *Rob Hardworker*

Name: Rob Hardworker

Address: Thirteen Accounting and Management Services Ltd, E18 1DW