



Maldon & East Essex District Scout Council

Trustees Report and Accounts

For

the Year Ended 31st December 2023.

Squirrels



cubs

SCOUTS

network



EXPLORERS

The Scout Groups of Maldon and East Essex District

1st Silver End

Kelvedon & Feering

1st Witham

3rd Witham(St Nicolas)

1st Hatfield Peverel

Tiptree

1st Beacon Hill

1st Blackwater

1st Heybridge(St Andrew's)

1st Maldon (All Saints)

Southminster & Maylandsea

1st North Fambridge (Holy Trinity)

1st Burnham-on-Crouch

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MALDON & EAST ESSEX DISTRICT SCOUT SHOP

For all your uniform, books and equipment requirements

Based at

Prances, Gt. Totham Rd, Wickham Bishops

Opening hours:

Saturday 10.00-13.00 hrs

Wednesday 17.00-19.00 hrs

Managers: Dave and Teresa Cousins, tel: 07849 628106

**Maldon and
East Essex District Scout Council**

**Annual Report
And
Accounts
2023**

*Presented at the
Annual General Meeting on
Monday 17th June 2024*

The Maldon and East Essex District Scout Council
is a Trust
established under the rules of
The Scout Association.

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

The accounts have been drawn up on a receipts
and payments basis.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 20th
May 2024 and signed on their behalf by the District
Chairman and District Treasurer.

President *Mr B Cousins*

Vice Presidents *Mr D Joyce Mr M Bell Mrs D Reed*
Mrs P Turtle Mrs M Webber Mr B Martin
Mr C Burton Mr C Smith
Mrs M Flowers Mrs P Rixon

Ex Officio Trustees *Mrs A Dukes, Lead Volunteer*
Mr T Baker, District Chairman
Mrs S Goodwin, District Secretary
Mr C Burton, District Treasurer

Trustees *Mrs J. Richardson Mr N Hunter Mr A Goodwin*
Mr P Goold Mr P Green

Bankers *Barclays Bank, Leicester, LE87 2BB*

Auditor/Examiner: *Mrs E. Ironmonger*

Charity Registration No. 1123146

Scout Association No. 11734

Contact address *District Secretary, 15 Brook Close, Gt. Totham, Essex, CM9 8PE*

Headquarters & Activity Centre: *Prances, Great Totham Road, Wickham Bishops, CM8 3NP*

Website *www.meescouts.org.uk*

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Structure, Governance & Management

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Training is ongoing, many leaders have completed their mandatory training, much of this is online. The Law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required too:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice);

- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, The Charity (Accounts Reports) Regulations 2008 and trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Maldon & East Essex District Scout Council is the electoral body which supports and encourages the development of Scouting in the District and operates in accordance with a written constitution. It is the body to which the District Executive Committee (the Trustees) is accountable. Details of the Trustees are shown in Page 1. The Trustees are appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting of the District Scout Council, either by election or nomination, and may also be co-opted by the Executive Committee during the year. Trustees are made aware of their responsibilities and can benefit from training provided by the Training Team as to the role of Trustee at District and Group level. Young people are also given opportunities across the district to become the Leaders of the future, leading to better retention of young people through to adult volunteering roles.

The Trustee Board met on 5 occasions through the year. The Trustee Board is supported by the Appointments Advisory sub-committee. They held 4 leader interview panels in 2023. These were attended by a total of 13 candidates, from 6 Groups. There are around 50 members of the District Team, advisers and supporters directly supporting the Maldon & East Essex District Scout Council. None of these volunteers receives any payments for services rendered.

The principal sources of the Scout Councils income are membership subscriptions, fees paid by members for activities, Princes Scout Shop, grants and donations from public bodies and individuals.

During the year the Trustees have closely monitored the maintenance of the Princes HQ including the Activity Centre, Princes Cottage and the surrounding outdoor site. Details of these activities are reported separately.

Objectives, Activities, Achievements.

Our vision for 2025

By 2025* we'll have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders delivering an inspiring programme.

We'll be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

**Due to the impact of COVID-19, our Skills for Life strategy has been extended until 2025.*

Our mission

Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Our values

We act with care, respect, integrity, cooperation, exploring our own and others' beliefs.

Scouting is currently undergoing change Transformation.

We want to make volunteering with Scouts easier and more fun...

... so that we can attract more volunteers and our current volunteers want to stay

Training is ongoing, many leaders have completed their mandatory training, much of this is online.

Scouting in Maldon & East Essex District is open to all young people who are between the ages of 6 and 25 no matter what background, ethnic origin, nationality, race, gender, marital or sexual status, mental or physical ability, political or religious belief.

Scouting in our District is provided through 14 Scout Groups and 6 Explorer Scout Units, by around 200 committed, experienced and trained volunteers, working in teams across the district. The District Executive Committee acknowledges these volunteers are the most valuable asset and resource, without whose support it would not be possible to provide Scouting for the young people of our District.

The successes and achievements of the last twelve months can be seen in the Annual Review 2023.

The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the need in the Charities Act 2011 to demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit. Our assessment is that we have met the public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

The main principles of Scouting demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit in the following ways:

Developing young people towards their full potential, through the Scouting programme.

There is a clear link between the purpose of Scouting and the benefits to young people.

The various and numerous Scouting activities are undertaken with the health and safety of the young people taken very seriously, and the benefit of these activities far outweighing any associated risks.

The young people and other main beneficiaries of Scouting are in the 6-25 years age range.

Young people who are willing to make the Scout Promise can benefit from full Scouting membership.

We are an inclusive organisation with membership open to all, including those living in financial hardship. Whilst an annual membership fee is payable, the ability to join is not restricted by their ability to pay.

Sara Goodwin

District Secretary

Trevor Baker

District Chairman

District Lead Volunteer's Report 2023-24

Hi all,

While I have only been officially in the role for a few months, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all the help and support that I have been given by everyone to make this work.

It has been great to see all the fun and exciting visits, activities, camps (home and away) taking place, with more to come, across the district. So far, I have managed to make it around to about half of the group/section meetings and am looking forward to seeing the other half of the District in the coming months, especially if an invite to visit camp (not too far away) if Tea and Cake is involved.

We have already received our first growth award from County, as from the Census every Section has grown and with addition of the 2 new Squirrel Dreys in the District we are growing even more.

Training is going well, and Maldon and East Essex as a constant run at 96% all training and 99% DBS. As always there is room for improvement, but Well Done! all your efforts and hard work have not been in vain and we are doing well.

With the changes coming from Transformation, we have already changed to the Trustees board (Ex committee). While the district team is still quite small at the moment, I would like to welcome the new Team Leads to the District to be ready for Transformation when it happens. We are already working in these teams and are hoping to expand them in the future.

Andrew Goodwin – District Team Lead Support

Tony Bugg – District Team Lead Programme (4-14)

Paul Green – District Team lead Development

Vacancy - District Team Lead Programme (14-24) (old Desc)

We are hoping that some of you will be willing to join us on these teams. We are always looking for new people to come and join us, help at events, and bring new ideas to us.

We have had a few District events past and future.

October 2023 saw the adult's awards day with 27 of the leaders' receiving commendations from Scouting.

April 2024 Handicraft Exhibition. Great day even though the numbers of entries were down the quality of the entries were exceptionally high..

May 2024 saw the young people's awards day, with 85 YP invited to celebrate their achievements of Acorns, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum awards.

June 2024 AGM

September 2024 – District Camp Museum of Power

A Big thank you from me to all the Leaders and helpers that make Scouting happen in Maldon and East Essex. Without your hard work and commitment, you give to Scouting this would never happen.

Enjoy the rest of 2024!

YIS

Ann Dukes

District Lead Volunteer, Maldon & East Essex Scouts

Prances District Scout Campsite Report 2023-2024

We have been getting positive feedback at the end of camps and compliments from groups on how the site is looking good well maintained. This is great, the hard work is paying off and camp life is good. Thank you to our crew that have helped to keep this site running smoothly and that keep it well maintained and safe for scout groups to enjoy. Thank you to our committee for keeping this great site running well and making it possible for scouting to enjoy all that it has to offer here. There has been a lot of sorting and refreshing in 2023 and into 2024. Graham Bishop and Tom Maguire came for a maintenance weekend back in February 2023 fixing a lot of things on the site maintenance 'to do' list. Ann Dukes cleared out and re-organised the district cupboard with Sara Goodwin's help making it more accessible and better organised. Paul Goold cleared out and organised the Archives room, filing all the important historical archives that we have. In more recent days Andrew and Sara Goodwin along with Ann Dukes have cleared out the crew room and have reinstated it for future bookings and Instructor use. Thank you all for your efforts and those that continue to help with equipment, mending arrows and building of stands etc. Slowly but surely it feels like space is freeing up here and things are more organised, the ever growing memorabilia, lost property and generously donated items along with disused kit and cupboards of miscellaneous is getting sorted.

Looking back over 2023-2024 it has been quite a busy year of Scouting fun. The activity areas have all been safety assessed and repaired to meet the standards required. Fire safety regulations have been updated and so has the site. There has been an increase in bookings for Archery and subsequently half of those were indoors whilst the safety firing structure was being constructed for outdoor Archery / Rifles. It is now fully functional and a safe space to practice those activities within it. Climbing bookings have been steady and on the increase moving through 2023 and into 2024. New holds and grips have been purchased to be installed to add alternative climbing routes. Pedal Karts have had new tyres where needed and servicing. We are looking into improvements for the track with the possibility of resurfacing it. The adventure area had a revamp and new structures replaced the old rotting ones. The cave maze has had a new entry door added to the front entrance. These have been the most popular self led activities in 2023 running alongside the Instructor lead activities. We have serviced all the machinery and the woodland area has had a good clearing and is suitable for troop camps again. We're starting to tackle the ever growing foliage that swallows up space on site and hope to utilise it for additional activities in the future with potential upgrades to our existing activity areas as well.

We continue to build our relationships with the groups that visit here and we're progressing with ideas and talks on how to better the site. Team building with new groups and our regulars that come to Prances will hopefully lead to an increased input from them enabling us to improve the site and gain more support for our future camps. Throughout the year we have had interest from charities for D of E camps, looking to increase our bookings we decided to have talks and arranged site visits, we now have booked large multiple camps in 2024. This is a great earner with minimal output required from our team. As long as the groups are happy with this it will increase revenue substantially. We have been promoting private events as well as scouting for their friends and family in the hope that it will attract more support and involvement in Scouting overall.

Bookings in 2023 were predominantly activity evenings and group camps, whole site bookings with their activities ran through the year. We did have a Silver Wedding anniversary and birthday parties but it was steady scouting and a few multiple bookings during week days testing the water with how successful it would be and how well it ran. We held climbing assessments, first aid, pistols and rifles courses, re certifying our instructors and obtaining a few more to the team. It is certainly busy now and we have a lot of visitors with continued multiple bookings during the week and on weekends moving in 2024.

Hall Master will enable us to manage this excess smoothly as we transition to using this online booking / invoicing system. We now have the advantage of offering the Beacon Hill Site to groups thanks to Janet Richardson and Ian Williams who have kindly opened their site grounds for us to use. This has been great, allowing the two charities with their D of E camps to run alongside our existing bookings when needed. So far it has been working in tune with our aim since taking this role

. We have been trying to get the site as busy as safely possible and to get the most out of 'Prances Camp Site' for our own district, for out of district and for other organisations too. During Covid lock down, scouting took a heavy knock across the board and we want to get the 'District Headquarters' back to being as busy as it has been in previous years, if not busier.

We have been joining in and assisting with our instructors for groups that book with us and have been helping with their activities where and when needed. It has been an absolute pleasure and continues to be great fun working with a fantastic team of skilled and positive instructors. We have learned a lot from our team, our committee, our Instructors and groups that take time to share knowledge and advice. Thank you all. It has been almost 2 years to the day that we enquired about the position here. With great 'like minded' people, all enjoying the outdoors and creating fun for scouts, we really do feel lucky to have been given the opportunity to share it with you and hope that we are running the site well. We are learning to move with the tide of scouting and the ways in which it operates.

Yours in Scouting

Louis and Rosie

Management and Policies

Governance

The District operates under the Royal Charter of The Scout Association which gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and the Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Trustees

The District is managed by the District Executive Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the District. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. Appropriate Induction and Training is offered on appointment using the Charity Commission document CC3 – The Essential Trustee as well as internal Factsheets.

Reserves policy

The Trustees recommend that the balance on the General Fund should be maintained at a level of not usually more than 25% of annual expenditure. This allows a suitable contingency to protect the continuity of business. In addition there will be a maintained balance in the Development Fund depending on available funds and requirement for development work both capital and in support of Groups. The Trustees will monitor the level of reserves on a regular basis.

Investment policy

The Trustees recognise the need to ensure that available liquid funds are invested in the best way by using the Bank Savings Deposit Account dictated by the requirement to readily access these funds should particular emergencies arise.

Risk Assessment policy

The Trustees are committed to undertake Risk Assessment in all areas of responsibility and in particular with due regard to the Safety Policy of The Scout Association. A detailed Risk Assessment of all activity and operation including both Safety and Finance at the District Activity Centre has been completed.

There are in place systems of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss.

Treasurers Report 2023

The District continues to operate on a sound financial footing, with funds set aside to support District Events and to subsidise attendance at four yearly International Jamborees.

The Scout Association made the decision to close the Short Term Investment Service during the year, these funds are now in the deposit account.

The Accounts and Independent Examiner's statement for the year to 31st December 2023 appear on the following pages.

I would like to thank everybody for all the hard work they have put in to ensuring the District remains financially viable.

Chris Burton

MALDON & EAST ESSEX DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
Receipts for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Restricted £	General £	Prances £	Badge Secretary	Scout Shop £	Witham Explorers £	District SAS £	2023 Total £	2022 £
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS		35,360.00					0.00	35,360.00	30,959.00
Less paid		-32,032.00				0.00	0.00	-32,032.00	-27,975.00
Sub total	0.00	3,328.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,328.00	2,984.00
Gift Aid		0.00		0.00	0.00	£332.40	0.00	332.40	0.00
INVESTMENT INCOME RECEIVED									
Scout Charity Deposit Account		238.27					0.00	238.27	59.66
Bank interest		336.11					0.00	336.11	22.68
Sub total	0.00	574.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	574.38	24.61
DONATIONS/GRANTS									
Donations									
Miss Prance Book								0.00	0.00
John Reed Memorial Fund								0.00	0.00
Brian Baldry Memorial Fund								0.00	0.00
									0.00
Grants									
Early Years Grant								500.00	0.00
Sub total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
ACTIVITIES									
District Hikes							0.00	0.00	0.00
Camping / Caving trips							0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Activities							0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FUND RAISING (gross)									
Sub total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OTHER INCOME									
Loan Repayments								364.00	0.00
Miscellaneous							0.00		0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	364.00	0.00
SUNDRY RECEIPTS									
Camping Fees			7,159.75					7,159.75	6,230.25
Camp deposits received in advance			170.00					170.00	275.00
Hire of Peter Church Lodge			5,098.75					5,098.75	4,146.50
Prances Activities			6,264.25					6,264.25	1,717.58
Prances Sale of Equipment								0.00	0.00
WS Jamboree Receipts								3,075.00	3,075.00
Uniform Shop Sales					18,646.82			18,646.82	17,080.59
Scout Group credit sales					2862.17			2,862.17	2,522.74
District Badge Sales				1,623.44				1,623.44	2,189.61
Sub total	0.00	0.00	18,692.75	1,623.44	21,508.99	0.00	0.00	44,900.18	37,987.27
TOTAL RECEIPTS	0.00	3,902.38	18,692.75	1,623.44	21,508.99	332.40	0.00	49,998.96	41,053.61
TOTAL PAYMENTS	0.00	10,356.57	13,112.99	1,894.68	18,721.70	332.40	0.00	44,750.74	69,943.66
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)	0.00	-6,454.19	5,579.76	-271.24	2,787.29	0.00	0.00	5,248.22	-28,890.05

MALDON & EAST ESSEX DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
Payments for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Restricted £	General £	Prances £	Badge Secretary	Scout Shop £	Witham Explorer	District SAS £	2023 Total £	2022
PREMISES									
Insurance - various		3,429.26					0.00	3,429.26	3,017.05
Utilities			4,099.49				0.00	4,099.49	3,349.50
Prances Improvements							0.00	0.00	30,963.88
	0.00	3,429.26	4,099.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,528.75	37,330.43
DONATIONS/GRANTS/Loans									
Gift Aid to Witham explorers						332.40	0.00	332.40	0.00
1st Burnham							0.00	0.00	364.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	332.40	0.00	332.40	364.00
ACTIVITIES									
District Awards day		676.23					0.00	676.23	0.00
Equipment purchases/Repairs			2,004.25				0.00	2,004.25	640.82
Camping / Caving trips							0.00	0.00	0.00
District Activities							0.00	0.00	77.51
Activities (general)							0.00	0.00	439.32
	0.00	676.23	2,004.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,680.48	1,157.65
FUND RAISING									
Fundraising expenses									
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ADMINISTRATION/ESTABLISHMENT									
Site/ Building Maintenance equipment			6,411.54				0.00	6,411.54	4,559.15
AGM & District Team Expenses		394.08					0.00	394.08	1,054.10
Rent							0.00	0.00	
Training							0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	394.08	6,411.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,805.62	5,613.25
SUNDRY PAYMENTS									
WSJ Payments		5,657.00					0.00	5,657.00	3,825.00
Scout Shop purchases					14,673.26		0.00	14,673.26	16,300.37
Credit Card setup/processing costs					480.02		0.00	480.02	323.95
Cost of Scout Group credit Sales					2,862.17		0.00	2,862.17	2,522.74
Purchase of Badges				1,876.74			0.00	1,876.74	1,436.89
Gift aid to Explorers								332.40	0.00
John Reed memorial							0.00		0.00
Sundries		200.00	597.71	17.94	706.25		0.00	1,521.90	550.55
	0.00	5,857.00	597.71	1,894.68	18,721.70	0.00	0.00	27,403.49	25,478.33
	0.00	10,356.57	13,112.99	1,894.68	18,721.70	332.40	0.00	44,750.74	69,943.66

MALDON & EAST ESSEX DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
Statement of Assets & Liabilities at 31 December 2023

	Restricted £	General £	Total 2023 £	2022
CASH FUNDS				
Bank current accounts		25567.45	25,567.45	18,854.99
Bank deposit accounts	2,096.96	39811.39	41,908.35	19,447.65
Short Term Investment Service (Scout Charity Deposit Account)				21,389.05
Cash in hand			195.90	250.08
	2,096.96	65,378.84	67,671.70	60,141.77
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS				
Site & Activity Fees not paid			1,307.00	867.25
Badge Secretary's accounts unpaid			0.00	0.00
Scout shop accounts not yet paid			160.00	557.45

Note 1: Restrictd funds include:

BPA account
£1297.27 Road show
£500 early years grant
£299.69 Brian Baldry Memorial

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 22 April 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Signature	Name	Date
Lead Volunteer	Ann Dukes	20/05/2024
Treasurer	Chris Burton	20/05/2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Maldon & East Essex District Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Maldon & East Essex District Scout Council for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 3 to 5 of this report

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Maldon & East Essex 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 Maldon & East Essex 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 Maldon & East Essex 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.

Elizabeth Ironmonger
20 Brook Close
Great Totham
Essex
CM9 8PE

date 10 May 2024