



**Maldon & East Essex District Scout  
Council**

**Trustees Report and Accounts**

For

the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

**Squirrels**



**SCOUTS**

**network**



**EXPLORERS**

## The Scout Groups of Maldon and East Essex District

1<sup>st</sup> Silver End

Kelvedon & Feering

1<sup>st</sup> Witham

3<sup>rd</sup> Witham(St Nicolas)

1<sup>st</sup> Hatfield Peverel

Tiptree

1<sup>st</sup> Beacon Hill

1<sup>st</sup> Blackwater

1<sup>st</sup> Heybridge(St Andrew's)

1<sup>st</sup> Maldon (All Saints)

Southminster & Maylandsea

1<sup>st</sup> North Fambridge (Holy Trinity)

1<sup>st</sup> 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  
2024**

*Presented at the  
Annual General Meeting on  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025*

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 12th  
May 2025 and signed on their behalf by the District  
Chairman and District Treasurer.

**President** *Mr B Cousins*

**Vice Presidents**

<i>Mr D Joyce</i>	<i>Mr M Bell</i>	<i>Mrs D Reed</i>
<i>Mrs P Turtle</i>	<i>Mrs M Webber</i>	<i>Mr B Martin</i>
<i>Mr C Burton</i>	<i>Mrs M Pritchard</i>	<i>Mr C Smith</i>
<i>Mrs M Flowers</i>		<i>Mrs P Rixon</i>

**Ex Officio Trustees**

*Mrs A Dukes, Lead Volunteer*  
*Mr D Joyce, District Chairman*  
*Mr C Burton, District Treasurer*

**Trustees**

<i>Mrs J. Richardson</i>	<i>Mr N Hunter</i>	<i>Mr P Goold</i>
<i>Mr G Bishop</i>		

**Members** *Mr A Goodwin    Mr M Catto    Mr T Bugg    Mr P Green    Mrs S Goodwin*

**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](http://www.meescouts.org.uk)

## **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

### **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).

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 Warmer Welcome Team. They held 3 warmer welcome panels in 2024. These were attended by a total of 8 candidates, from 4 Groups. There are c50 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, Prances Scout Shop, grants and donations from public bodies and individuals.

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

## **Objectives, Activities, Achievements.**

### **Our vision for 2025**

Our vision for 2025 was to have prepared more young people with skills for life supported by amazing volunteers that deliver an inspiring programme. The aim was to grow, be more inclusive, shape our work by young people and make a bigger impact in our communities.

As we're now in 2025, we're developing a new strategy in line with volunteers and young people's needs. Since mid 2024, we have been conducting research with people inside and outside of Scouting to inform the development of our next strategy.

### **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 4 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 2024.

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

*Derek Joyce*

District Chairman

## **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 Genral 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 2025**

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 2024 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 2024**

	Restricted £	General £	Princes £	Badge Secretary	Scout Shop £	Witham Explorers £	District SAS £	2024 Total £	2023 £
<b>MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>		39,780.00					0.00	39,780.00	35,360.00
Less paid		36,244.00				0.00	0.00	36,244.00	32,032.00
<b>Sub total</b>	0.00	3,536.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,536.00	3,328.00
<b>Gift Aid</b>		0.00		0.00	0.00	£594.52	0.00	594.52	332.40
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME RECEIVED</b>									
Scout Charity Deposit Account							0.00		238.27
Bank interest		630.42					0.00	630.42	336.11
<b>Sub total</b>	0.00	630.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	630.42	574.38
<b>DONATIONS/GRANTS</b>									
<b>Donations</b>									
Miss Prance Book							0.00		0.00
John Reed Memorial Fund							0.00		0.00
Brian Baldry Memorial Fund							0.00		0.00
<b>Grants</b>									
Early Years Grant									500.00
<b>Sub total</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>									
Squirrel Drey Day		1,455.00					0.00	1,455.00	0.00
District Camp	18.97	3,185.00					0.00	3,203.97	0.00
Other Activities							0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Sub total</b>	18.97	4,640.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,658.97	0.00
<b>FUND RAISING (gross)</b>									
<b>Sub total</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>									
Loan Repayments							0.00		364.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Sub total</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	364.00
<b>SUNDRY RECEIPTS</b>									
Camping Fees			6,080.00					6,080.00	7,159.75
Camp deposits received in advance			160.00					160.00	170.00
Hire of Peter Church Lodge			7,384.50					7,384.50	5,096.75
Princes Activities			9,453.00					9,453.00	6,264.25
Princes Sale of Equipment								0.00	0.00
WS Jamboree Receipts									3,075.00
Uniform Shop Sales					16,992.63			16,992.63	18,646.82
Scout Group credit sales					2,222.61			2,222.61	2,862.17
District Badge Sales				2,110.06				2,110.06	1,623.44
<b>Sub total</b>	0.00	0.00	23,077.50	2,110.06	19,215.24	0.00	0.00	44,402.80	44,900.18
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	18.97	8,806.42	23,077.50	1,623.44	19,215.24	594.52	0.00	53,822.71	4,998.96
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	319.99	9,253.98	16,083.86	1,368.10	16,109.91	594.52	0.00	43,730.36	44,750.74
<b>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>	(301.02)	(447.56)	6,993.64	255.34	3,105.33	0.00	0.00	10,092.35	5,248.22



**MALDON & EAST ESSEX DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**  
**Payments for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Restricted £	General £	Prances £	Badge Secretary	Scout Shop £	Witham Explorer	District SAS £	2024 Total £	2023
<b>PREMISES</b>									
Insurance - various		3,550.94					0.00	3,550.94	3,429.26
Utilities			3,857.84				0.00	3,857.84	4,099.49
Prances Improvements	0.00	3,550.94	3,857.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,408.78	0.00
									7,528.75
<b>DONATIONS/GRANTS/Loans</b>									
Gift Aid to Witham explorers						594.52	0.00	594.52	332.40
							0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	594.52	0.00	594.52	332.40
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>									
District Awards day		190.79					0.00	190.79	676.23
Equipment purchases/Repairs			4,287.15				0.00	4,287.15	2,004.25
District Camp	229.99	2,713.00					0.00	2,942.99	0.00
Squirrel Drey Day		1,454.85					0.00	1,454.85	0.00
Activities (general)		672.26					0.00	672.26	0.00
	229.99	5,030.90	4,287.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,548.04	2,680.48
<b>FUND RAISING</b>									
Fundraising expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>ADMINISTRATION/ESTABLISHMENT</b>									
Site/ Building Maintenance equipment			6,274.44				0.00	6,274.44	6,411.54
AGM & District Team Expenses		397.29					0.00	397.29	394.08
Rent							0.00	0.00	0.00
Training	90.00	274.85					0.00	364.85	0.00
	90.00	672.14	6,274.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,036.58	6,805.62
<b>SUNDRY PAYMENTS</b>									
WSJ Payments							0.00	0.00	5,657.00
Scout Shop purchases					12,534.11		0.00	12,534.11	14,673.26
Credit Card setup/processing costs					802.20		0.00	802.20	480.02
Cost of Scout Group credit Sales					2,222.61		0.00	2,222.61	2,862.17
Purchase of Badges				1,356.26			0.00	1,356.26	1,876.74
							0.00		332.40
							0.00		0.00
Sundries			1,664.43	11.84	550.99		0.00	2,227.26	1,521.90
	0.00	0.00	1,664.43	1,368.10	16,109.91	0.00	0.00	19,142.44	27,403.49
	319.99	9,253.98	16,083.86	1,368.10	16,109.91	594.52	0.00	43,730.36	44,750.74

**MALDON & EAST ESSEX DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**  
**Statement of Assets & Liabilities at 31 December 2024**

	Restricted £	General £	Total 2024 £	2023
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>				
Bank current accounts		35082.33	35,082.33	25,567.45
Bank deposit accounts	1,795.94	40742.83	42,538.77	41,908.35
Cash in hand			529.46	195.90
	1,795.94	75,825.16	78,150.56	67,671.70
<b>OTHER MONETARY ASSETS</b>				
Site & Activity Fees not paid			555.75	1,307.00
Badge Secretary's accounts unpaid			0.00	0.00
Scout shop accounts not yet paid				160.00
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>555.75</b>	<b>1,467.00</b>
<b>Outstanding Loans</b>				
			0.00	
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>0.00</b>	
<b>NON-MONETARY ASSETS for the Charity's own use</b>				
Audio Visual Equipment			133.00	133.00
IT Equipment			1,060.98	1,060.98
Scout Shop Stock			10,271.65	9,630.23
Gift Shop Stock			2,936.25	3,372.80
Badge Secretary's Stock			4,217.85	4,487.64
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>18,619.74</b>	<b>18,684.65</b>
Scouting equipment, furniture etc		Climbing/caving and tree felling equipment, filing cabinets, etc.	16,000.00	16,000.00
Land and buildings		District camp site including House, HQ building and toilet block		
<b>LIABILITIES due within one year</b>				
Brian Baldry memorial			299.69	299.69
Badge secretary's expenses			10.39	18.84
Balance of John Reed Memorial				
Explorer leader expenses				0.00
Scout shop credits attributable to Groups			2,946.46	2,862.17
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>3,256.54</b>	<b>3,180.70</b>

**Note 1:** Restrictd funds include:

BPA account  
£1086.25 Road show  
£410 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 19 May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signature	Name	Date
Chairman	Derek Joyce	12/05/2025
Treasurer	Chris Burton	12/05/2025

**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 2024 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 8/5/2025

## District Lead Volunteer's Report 2024-25

Hi all,

Wow! Has it really been 2 ½ years since I took on this roll, nearly halfway through, it has gone so quick. The last year has seen many changes. Most of all is Transformation with the new system being introduced last November. I would like to say a big thank you to all of you and the people who have helped me introduce this. I can't say that it has been easy, and we still have a long way to go to make it work for us, but with trial and a lot of errors we will.

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. Essex Jamboree was last year as well, with 5 groups attending having a brilliant time. Maldon and East Essex has always been a great District for camping and trips and this year is no exception, we hope there will be many more to come.

We received our first growth award last year from County, and this year is no different we have received one this year as well. From the Census every Section has grown and with addition of the 2 new Squirrel Dreys last year and 2 more planned for this year we are well on track.

Training is going well, and I would like to welcome Mark Catto. Mark has come on board to the district as District Lead for Training. He will be contacting groups shortly for any training needs you may have.

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.

May 2024- Drey day at Prances with 10 Dreys attending from across the county.

September 2024 – District Camp Museum of Power. Great weekend with 150 young people attending Scouts and Guides. They had the run of the site access to the museum, train rides. Campfire, Magician and lots more. A big thank you to all those that made this happen and to the Museum of power who let us use the site.

May 2025 - saw the young people's awards day, with 85 YP invited to celebrate their achievements of Acorns, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum awards. And this year we saw a Diamond award as well. We gave out the John Reed award for Achievement and courage to Charlie a Cub from Kelvedon, who grew his hair for charity and fundraising a lot of money for the Little Princes trust. We gave out a Medal of Merit to Ben Hopkins (well deserved Ben) and a lot of long service awards to Leaders. Well Done everyone.

June 2025 – Drey Day at Prances

June 2025 AGM

May 2026 – Handicraft Exhibition (Looking for ideas and people to help)

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 2025!

YIS

Ann Dukes

## Prances District Scout Campsite Report 2024-2025

This past year Prances has been a busy site which is great. We're loving the site and with all the bookings and site works that have been carried out here it has been a hive of activity in the last year. Even more so into this year. It really feels like we're making headway from where we started. Hall Master has multiple bookings into 2026 and continues to manage our schedule. We have a maintenance crew helping around site and local contractors that have fixed and certified what needs fixing and certifying. At the end of last year, we were up from the number of bookings that we took in the previous year which is great and the direction that we want to be heading. Organising multiple groups on site allows us to increase bookings, along with the newly established DofE schools using the Beacon Hill site and our groups can camp at Headquarters which allows us to make this possible. Thank you, Janet Richardson and Ian Williams. It is great to have the whole grounds being utilised. All this considered, the numbers were starting to look good at the end of 2024. Having the site back to being a busy Headquarters again is fantastic although the grounds and equipment do also need time to recuperate and time to be maintained. The Upper camping field here has taken a bit of hammering with all the foot traffic through it, as well as it being one of the driest springs on record for at least fifty years. The result is that this combination has made for sparse grass regrowth on the upper camping field. Thankfully it has started to re grow this year and replenish to its former green grounds. With these bouts of intermittent rain and sunshine it should be ready for the 'ever busy' Summer ahead of us.

Here's a brief outlook at how the year panned out. Winter January 2024, we had a few camps along with our regular's 1st Heybridge Scout group. They started back up with us when term time started after the Christmas holidays and had their annual Christmas meal here at camp. Although it was a hard start to the year for the whole group with the loss of Clive Searles, they have stayed strong and carried on. Rest in Peace Clive Searles. We had Waltham Guides camp, 8th Chelmsford Explorer camp and Ingatestone with a Cub camp. They all braved the elements; with frozen fingers they climbed the tower and fired down the archery range. With numb faces and toes they Stacked the crates and climbed the adventure area. Plenty of hot chocolate was needed but all camps enjoyed themselves. A couple of birthday parties and a few meetings in the PCL Hall and that was the Winter season through. Spring arrived and more regulars started up with our Fitness and Yoga groups back in the PCL Lodge. Our Forest school in the day scattered the grounds with toddlers and toddlers' toys. We had birthday parties, one in particular a rather loud 50th birthday party celebration, to which the group had requested light guitar playing around the campfire and turned up with a DJ and a PA system. They contested with the football grounds music until 10.55pm when it was shut down for bedtime with time and there was a sigh of relief from our neighbours. St Georges Day fete where 1st Heybridge held their AGM and I am told that they raised a decent amount in donations. Summer arrived and alongside the big camps we had a very successful Drey day with a hundred squirrels outnumbering the ones that live in our oak trees. A well organised fun day was collaborated by Graham Bishop and thank you to all that helped alongside to run the activities for the day. What I negatively presumed would be a day harder than herding cats, turned into a very successful well organised and calm day full of activities and fun. It was great to see.

We had activities for our regular and non-regular Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers in as well. We had Troop nights, DofE camps, Scout evenings, activity days. We also had group camps all the way through, Black Notley, 1st Danbury, 4th Braintree and Buttsbury guides towards the end of Summer. They all camped with us and had a good, successful and fun camp. Thanks again to all our instructors that help to make this possible with donating your time and effort to help the groups.

Autumn came and we had young leaders training in the PCL Hall, thank you to Rachel and Paul Wilkinson for all of your hard work. Multiple school DofE camps, a Theatre group using the PCL Hall for rehearsals. Buttsbury Guides back for a leader activity day and more birthday parties along with a multitude of activity evenings for Beavers, Cubs and Scout groups within district. An orienteering expedition from Rayleigh and the first District Camp for a very long time. The location was at the Museum of Power and the activity day here at Headquarters. Despite a few hurdles along the way it was a great Camp and a lot of fun. There are plans in motion for a repeat camp in August 2026. The activity day here on site ran through the Saturday with many of our instructors from district helping to run all the activities. Thank you to those that

helped to feed, transport, entertain and manage the groups. Putting in all that effort to organise such an event is no small feat and is greatly appreciated. Towards the end of Autumn we had bookings for bonfire night, 1st Maldon and 1st Heybridge with small category fireworks at a safe distance to round up the season with a great display. First aid training was held in the PCL Lodge and more training on our new defib machine attached to our PCL Hall now that we are on the circuit. Thank you to Trevor Hammond. Black Notley came back for their Scouts camp and had a great time with us to end off the year 2024. A lot of work has gone on at the beginning of 2025 on site. The huge amount of tree work carried out by Gary Steggal and his son in GKS tree care ltd has brought us up to date with the recommendations with our arboriculture assessment report from Hallwood Associates. The extensive electrical upgrades have been carried out making us compliant with the safe site audit that was sent out to scout sites. Once reviewed, the works have been taken on by Gareth and his team GJ building and electrical ltd. Newly fitted fire doors have been measured up ordered and replaced on the PCL Lodge and Ian Valentine block. Thank you Andrew Goodwin for all of the safe site management, time and admin that you've undertaken to get us up to speed and thanks to Derek Joyce and his son Steve Joyce that fitted the doors. It now looks great and adds that extra level of safety should a fire ever occur within the building. Annual checks of Fire system have been undertaken and all is okay. Boilers serviced and certified in both blocks. The maintenance crew have also sanded down and repainted the external cladding and re-stained the windows on both the Peter Church Lodge and the Ian Valentine shower block. It has revived the exterior of the building. Along with the substantial weeding and bramble control that is needed on this site, a fence fixing here and a handle fixing there, they have helped to keep the site functioning. Thank you to Chris Westall and Lewis Goodwin for your continued work and help on site. With the refresh of the climbing tower courtesy of Tony Bugg and Les Taylor, it is now looking great again. They have both cleaned the whole external structure whilst Chris Cushing and son Liam Cushing replaced the external safety netting. We aim to add new holds for new climbing routes in the future. They have completely refreshed it and it looks great, thank you guys. Graham Bishop, Simon Gill along with Tony Bugg helped to reinstate one of the climbing wall panels on a recent Scout party weekend and made it safe after installing the new frame work as per the reported requirements of 'High Times' our annual tower inspectors. The wall is certified and safe to climb. Thank you to all that have come to help with keeping this site refreshed and running safely. High Times are looking into restringing the cable for the zip wire next year and possibly adding some extra supports to the crate stacking structure when they come back to assess the climbing tower again. Thank you to our committee, our trustees and all that come to Prances for keeping this great site running and making it possible for those that enjoy all it has to offer.

Yours in Scouting

Louis and Rosie