

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From (start date)

0 1 0 4 2 3

to end date

3 1 0 3 2 4

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Royston District Scouts

Other names the charity is known by

Royston Scout Council

Registered charity number (if any)

1 1 3 0 3 4 6

HQ registration number

1 0 0 0 1 4 4 6

Charity's principal address

Royston District Scouts C/O Carole Rhind

5 Byron Road

Royston, Herts

Postcode

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Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

(These will be published in the annual report of the charity and the Charity Register if reporting for a Registered Charity with a charity regulator)

	Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Laurence Brett	Chair	
2	John Kazer		
3	Joshua Marshall		
4	Stuart Sharpe		
5	Carole Rhind		
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Names and addresses of advisers (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

(These will be published in the annual report of the charity)

Type of advisor	Name	Address

Section B**Structure, governance and management**

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

(e.g. trust deed, constitution)

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.

How the charity is constituted

(e.g. trust, association, company)

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods

(e.g. appointed by, elected by)

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

Additional governance issues (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

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

Policies and procedures adopted for:
a) the induction and training of trustees;
b) trustee' consideration of major risks and the systems and procedures to manage them

The Trustee Board consists of the Chair, Treasurer and up to 6 Trustees (including 2 Ex Officio Trustees, and 2 co-opted Trustees) and meets every 3 months.

Members of the Trustee Board complete Being a Scouts Trustee learning within the first 6 months of joining the Board.

This District Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is well-managed, risks are assessed and mitigated, equipment is in good working order, and everyone follows legal requirements and the organisation's policies and rules. Their support helps other volunteers run high-quality and safe programmes that gives young people skills for life.

Section B**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

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 a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	<p>The Purpose of Scouting Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.</p> <p>The Values of Scouting As Scouts we are guided by these values: Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal. Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others. Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live. Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes. Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.</p> <p>The Scout Method Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and: - enjoy what they are doing and have fun - take part in activities indoors and outdoors - learn by doing - share in spiritual reflection - take responsibility and make choices - undertake new and challenging activities - make and live by their Promise.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	<p>Running district events for all sections in the district. Supporting the seven scout groups in Royston district as per POR and helping towards leader training costs and leader development on projects that meet the aims of POR Running the 14 to 25 sections of explorer scouts and scout network.</p>
Additional details of the objectives and activities (optional information but encouraged as best practice)	
<p>You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy on grant making; • contribution made by volunteers; • policy on investments. 	<p>We do not make grants to other organisation from our main general income. We may have fundraising events we run where fundraising is split for example the Easter raffle where scout groups in our district tickets on our behalf and get a percentage of the monies raised on tickets they sell. We do make grants towards leader training for leaders from scout groups in our district where they fit in with our development plans and within the set yearly budget. We do not have any investments.</p>
Public benefit statement	<p>The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.</p>

Section D**Achievements and performance**

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

DC Review of the Year

Thanks to leaders for all the camps, sleep-overs and district hike with all sections. Great to see the overseas trip for the Explorers

Lots of new leaders, many as young leaders which is encouraging – up to around 25 young leaders now

We had 24 Bronze, 43 Silver, 20 Gold, 4 platinum and 2 diamond Chief Scout Awards

Programmes Team Report – Larry Eeles

Alison, Alderney and Sian helped create section programmes and the following is Larry's report.

We started the year out agreeing that we needed to review what the district did, and where we felt this was, and more importantly, what the district leaders felt was lacking, or too much of. What we agreed was that there were some groups that needed support in some areas, and others that did not. With this in mind we started to for the years activities.

Beavers, we had very little going on for Beavers at a district level, but some fantastic group level activities. We wanted to give something back to the beavers, so put on a Christmas party that had food, disco, and a visit from Santa.

Cubs had quite a lot going on, and need some activities removing to give space for groups to do their own program.

Sixers and Seconders weekend has turned into something the Cubs look forward to, and helps retain that 9.5 yr old into Scouts, The fun swim, was something easy that in the past was well represented, District Cub Camp gives the opportunity for leaders without a nights away permit to attend a camp, and give there Cubs that tick in a box.

Scouts had a lot of things when you look at the year as a whole, but nothing organised with full district support. Fishing in the summer, Scouts Camp, water activities day, even a Monopoly Run. We worked hard to boil this down to what was wanted by the Scouts themselves.

St Georges Day, Remembrance Day Parade, and the District Hike, now open to all sections, were well represented, but needing someone to take the lead.

This year we have done the same, sat down as a team and talked about what we think is wanted, and are about to come out to each section to confirm this, as well as ask for support for each event. Something that became clear in the first year of running this team was even now, with a team of 4 this was still to much of an ask for so few people, so I would like take this opportunity to say thank you officially to Alison, Alderney, and Sian for sticking with it while we find our new rhythm.

Our Programmes aims for the next year

Continue these events that are wanted and add value to your programs, along side this try to support the adults in the

programs, along side this try to support the adults in the district with things like OSM training, First Aid, Nights away, and coming to a hut near you a Camp Skill day that will be a space for new leaders to gain skills, as well as a nice social gathering, and a chance to talk to each other outside of the pressures of a week night or event.

This team is new, and we are still trying to find the right way for this district. I would like to thank each of the group that have engaged and really helped us to support each other as well as the young people of Royston.

Explorers

Developed a more formal system for transitioning scouts to explorers

Around 60 young people over the 3 groups, including 32

Young Leaders

Took part again in the Peak Assault event and had a great overseas trip

Section E

Financial Review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves Policy

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the group should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Trustee Board considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 24 months running costs, circa £10,000. and event contingency of £10,000. When selecting for world Jamboree the district reserves must be equal or higher than the cost of sending the young people to the event so we can cover any liabilities.

The District held reserves of approximately £20000 against this at year end. This is the level required for operating expenses.

Details of any funds materially in deficit (circumstances plus steps to eliminate)

None

Further financial review details (optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);

Most of the charities income is from our portion of the scout membership fees which is currently £10 per head from young person in the district which is currently around 500 members. Fundraising is generally used for international events for our young people however occasional grants and donations come in that are used for general activities and leader training.

- investment policy and objectives;

The District does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer term investments. The District has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

Section F

Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods

To continue to push the Youth Lead agenda across the district, recruiting another trustee board member that is under 25. Having a under 25s in as many of our district teams as possible. Supporting our young people to lead and develop their skills for life.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

CAROLE RHIND STUART SHARPLE

Full name(s)

CAROLE RHIND STUART SHARPLE

Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

TRUSTEE TRUSTEE

Date

13/10/24

Accounts Royston District Scouts 1-4-23 to 31-3-24		
	2023-2024	2022-2023
Income		
Badge Money From Groups	4,539.61	5,538.21
Bank Interest	161.69	0.65
Donation	0.00	250.00
Events - Cubs	6,871.00	4,999.50
Events - Explorers	3,545.22	4,981.50
Events - Scouts	8,085.30	8,782.67
Events - Young Leaders	15.00	247.50
Hertfordshire Scouts Lottery	6.76	11.05
Jamboree Loans	1,534.00	0.00
Lye End Farm	257.33	240.00
Membership Fees	31,625.00	32,696.00
Test Payments	0.00	0.01
WSJ2023	3,198.06	38,275.42
Expense		
Activity Equipment	0.00	90.00
Advisor / Auditor / Legal fees	250.00	250.00
Badges	3,808.74	5,117.03
Bank Fees	64.80	0.00
Donation Bequested	0.00	250.00
Events - Beavers	332.63	0.00
Events - Cubs	7,084.69	5,365.33
Events - Explorers	860.32	4,061.15
Events - Leaders	0.00	183.83
Events - Scouts	9,819.01	7,928.54
Events - Young Leaders	265.21	297.29
Hertfordshire Scouts Lottery	0.00	4.16
International District Support	760.00	500.00
International Loans	0.00	234.00
IT / Comms	108.35	0.00
Leader Awards / Leader Badges	83.99	63.00
Leader Training	4.10	147.45
Lye end Farm	0.00	846.00
Meetings	96.65	68.07
Membership Costs	26,565.00	26,800.00
Online Scout Manager	193.21	109.00
Rent	0.00	45.00
WSJ2023	5,103.43	35,235.38
Young Leader Training	338.28	130.09
Account balances		
Events Account Lloyds	7,852.52	9,541.45
Barclays Main Account	8,283.64	24,326.85
Barclays (Contingency Money)	20,141.32	299.50
Santander Badge Account	2,765.26	1,994.04
International Account Lloyds	1,219.66	0.00

Summary		
Account balance brought forward	36,161.84	27,864.65
Total income	59,838.97	96,022.51
Total expenditure	55,738.41	87,725.32
Net income	4,100.56	8,297.19
Account balance carried forward	40,262.40	36,161.84
Liabilities		
None		
Reserve / Contingency Policy / Liabilities YE March 2024		
Two Years Running costs with no income	£10,000	
Event / Contingency	£10,000	
Total Required in Contingency Account at least	£20,000	

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Royston District Scouts for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Royston District Scouts 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 Royston District Scouts 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 Royston District Scouts 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:



Name: Emma Farquhar BFP FCA

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): Fellow of the ICAEW, membership number 9251030


Date: 25 June 2024