



MILTON KEYNES SCOUT DISTRICT



2023 - 2024

MILTON KEYNES DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on the 27th September 2023 at The Cruck Barn, Bradwell Abbey at 7.30 pm

PRESENT : There were 68 persons present – list available on request

1.	Welcome and Opening remarks Bernard Hancox welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Thought read by Bev Delaney
2.	Apologies for absence There were 34 apologies
3.	To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 28th September 2022. These had been circulated to the District and proposed for approval by Rosie Worrall and seconded by Rex Exon..
4.	Governance Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules This has been circulated to the District Scout Council and Bernard Hancox proposed that this be adopted. Seconded by Rosie Worrallb. Note the District's financial year – The Chair confirmed that the financial year would be the 1st April to the 31st March.c. Agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board Four members to be elected and this was proposed by Ian Walker and seconded by Lesley Pantlingd. Agree the quorum for each of the District Scout Council (including this AGM) meetings of the District Trustee Board and meetings of any sub-committees. Bernard Hancox proposed that this to be set at 15 for the AGM and the quorum for District Trustee Board meetings would be one third membership of the board plus the Chair or District Treasurer, Seconded by Alex Garner. There are no sub committees at the present time.
5.	Review of the previous year <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The District Commissioner's review of Scouting in Milton Keynes District Jason Raggett, the Deputy District Commissioner presented this. The report had been circulated to the District.b. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board including the annual Statement of the Accounts. It has been circulated and includes the accounts. Should there be any questions the treasurer would be happy to take them. There were none.

6.	<p>Making Appointments</p> <p>a. To approve the District Commissioner's nomination of the District Chair Clare Clarke proposed that she would like to nominate Bernard Hancox to be Chair of the Trustee Board.</p> <p>b. Election of the District Secretary Bernard Hancox had received one nomination, Pat Pankhurst seconded by Ian Walker</p> <p>c. Election of the District Treasurer One nomination received for Ashley Pankhurst, proposed by Bernard Hancox and seconded by Rosie Worrall.</p> <p>d. Elections of members to the District Trustee Board Proposals for District Trustee Board were Rosie Worrall, Elisa McCarthy and Bev Delaney and these were duly proposed by Bernard Hancox. Seconded by Ian Walker.</p> <p>Alex Garner - 18 – 25 rep proposed by Bernard Hancox and seconded by Bev Delaney</p> <p>e. To approve the District Commissioner's nominations to the District Trustee Board It was proposed that this is left over until the DC is appointed.</p> <p>f. To appoint the Independent Examiner The Treasurer confirmed that this be decided nearer the time.</p> <p>g. To nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council No nominations and this will be confirmed in due course.</p>
7.	<p>High Sherrif, Dame Anne Limb thanked all of the Scouters in Milton Keynes. She was Chair of Scouts UK and her only connection to MK is to champion Scouting in Milton Keynes. Vice President of Buckinghamshire.</p> <p>High Sherrif has the opportunity to give out awards as she goes out to the various charities. High Sheriff presented Pat Pankhurst with an award in recognition of great and valuable service to the community.</p>
8.	<p>Address from County Representative</p> <p>James Williamson talked about the resilience of Milton Keynes and for what has been a turbulent year and thanked everyone for what they had done.</p> <p>James Williamson thanked Jason Raggett for what he has done on the ground locally during the last six months. Jason had attended the Jamboree with one of the contingents in what was a very difficult time for everyone. James Williamson presented a County Commissioner's Commendation for his work at the Jamboree. The District has been without a DC for a while and he confirmed that on the 9th October 2023 Jason Raggett would take over as District Commissioner for Milton Keynes</p>

9. Awards and Presentations

The following Awards and Certificates were presented

Chief Scout's Platinum Award - Alex Thumm and Izzy Bavington

Chief Scout's Diamond Award - Alexander Shipley

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award - Alexander Shipley and Alex Thumm
Wood Beads

Corin Mark – District Explorer Scout Leader

William Marks – District Section Leader (Cub Scouts)

Mike Walters – Assistant Scout Leader – Newton Longville

The Chief Scout's 15 year award –

Ian Walker – ADC (Activities)

Kim Monro – Group Chair – Bradwell Abbey Scout Group

The Chief Scout's 25 year award

Carol Blomfield – Group Secretary – Langland

Gordon Pantling – Member District Appointments Advisory Committee

County Commissioner's Commendation –

Andrew Frogbrook – Assistant Warden – The Quarries Campsite

Award of Merit – Jenny Smith – 1st Wolverton

Award of Merit – David Mark – District Explorer Scout Leader

County Commissioners Award presented to Alexander Garner

The main business closed at 8.10 pm



District Lead Volunteer's Report,

So here I am writing my first report as the District Lead Volunteer, and I can honestly say it has been an awesome journey so far. I have now officially been in the role for a year, and I can honestly say it has been a pleasure and we have had lots of great things happening in the district over the last year.

I would like to start with the successful recruitment process of our District Youth Team. Nathan and Alex have been appointed as District Youth Leads and they will be supported by Victoria and Sophie as District Youth Team Members. I have no doubt that they will make a difference and will be the voice for the youth in the decisions we make. Huge congratulations to them and I am sure you will join me when I say I am excited to see what they are planning for our young people in MK Scouts.

We have also recruited an Events team which is Niki, Heidi, Heather, Angela and Emily who will be taking on the role of organising some of our key district events including St George's Day. We had a taste of what they can do this year with a very fun and exciting St George's Day Parade. They really have hit the ground running and look out for more events coming your way real soon. Thank you to this team of people for what you have done so far St George's Day was a very proud and fun event.

As you will know by now, we have started our journey towards transformation. I know that this has been a bit bumpy and continues to be a key ongoing project for us all. The aim for this change is to make Scouting more team focused not onerous on a few people. I would ask that we embrace these changes and make it work for us.

I am also delighted to report on our growth projects that have been happening across the district. We have taken full advantage and used the support available from the Growth and Communities Team at Scout HQ. Because of this we have seen a new Explorer Unit open in Bletchley, a Scout Troop started in Bradwell Abbey and an ongoing project for Squirrels in Langland Scout Group where we have held a very successful open day with lots of interest from the local community. We also have a few other projects in the pipeline. If you feel you have potential to grow your group and would like to see what support is available please do let me know. I am interested to see this coming years census and MK Leading the way.



Other success:

- Cubs went to space at Camp
- Beavers had an amazing camp despite the weather
- Fortress 24 was a blast
- Waiting list is now up and running
- Young Leader Programme is back with successful camps and regular training events
- GSL Meetings relaunched where we get the chance to share ideas and grow together

Plus, lots, lots more.

None of this is possible without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. From our parent helpers to our trustees and our Squirrel Leaders to our Group Lead Volunteers, no matter what role you hold this would not happen without you so thank you for all that you do.

I would also like to say a Huge Thank You to my team of Leaders, Supporters and Trustees that help and support me (also those that keep me on track) I would not be able to do what I do without your support.

As I put on my necker this evening I do this with a smile as I know that I am in my happy place when I am Scouting. I would like to thank you for attending this year's end of year celebration and hope you have a great evening with us.

Here's to another year of great Scouting, making many more memories along the way.

Jason Raggett
District Lead Volunteer



Milton Keynes District Squirrel Scouts, 1st April 2023 to 25th September 2024

Scouting's youngest section, 4-6 years old is in its beginnings in Milton Keynes. 1st Wolverton Scout Group has the only Squirrel Drey and they are celebrating a very successful 2 years running. The Squirrels Team; led by Karis, has grown and developed with the Squirrels doing many fun activities indoors and out and even partaking very successfully in nights away and sleepovers.

Activities undertaken this year – Craft, teamwork activities, disability awareness, sign language, den building, celebrate Diwali, visits to the Police station and Library, working at the allotment and planting things, hikes, caving, making rafting boat to name but a few.

Adult volunteers and Young Leaders have gained experience with this age group and used this to enhance their employability to great success.

Karis and the team are also helping to launch another Drey at Langland Scout Group. The Open session brought families from across MK and we hope to possibly launch another Drey soon as well. The Squirrels team are very happy to share their experience with other Scout Groups and help work forwards to more dreys.



Squirrels is the fastest and most fun hour of the week - Come and join us!

Bev Delaney

County Programme Team Member (Squirrels specialist).



Milton Keynes District Beaver Scouts, 1st April 2023 to 25th September 2024

It has been a busy year with challenges as well as adventures on the way. District Beaver Scouts have been on a hike around Tattenhoe Valley Park and walked 3 miles doing it.

They had a memorable summer camp at Bromham with lots of activities and achievements.

Beaver Scouts ventured out on chilly November afternoon to hike to The Quarries campsite with their guys through mud and puddles for a campfire.

The Cub Scouts and Beaver Scouts in the District held a joint event at Gullivers Xmas smasher for the day.

MK Safari soft play saw them doing a sleepover which was enjoyed by all.

Over the next year planned events are another sleepover at Safari MK sleepover, summer camp, hikes and a day trip to The Cotswold Wildlife Park.

As Lead Volunteer for Beaver Scouts I have visited groups doing various activities from camps, hikes and seeing young people gaining skills for life as well as well earned badges leading to their Bronze Awards.

Looking forward to the year ahead.

Barbara Smith (Chatters)

District Programme Team - (Beavers Lead)



Milton Keynes District Cub Scouts, 1st April 2023 to 25th September 2024

Milton Keynes have had two great events held within the time frame above and this is all made possible by a fantastic team of volunteers, who give up so much time and effort to help make these events possible.

The Quarries site crew work incredibly hard all year round, but particularly prior to our Cub Camp. I cannot count the amount of days the volunteers put in to ensure the site not only looks amazing but complies with all the various Health and Safety regulations which apply to a large event such as the cub camp. The catering team also work equally hard to ensure we are all well fed and looked after all weekend. Working out how much to buy for such large numbers certainly tests our mathematical knowledge!

Finally, a very big thank you to all the cub leaders for supporting these events – couldn't do it all without you.

Claire Harris

District Programme Team - (Cubs Lead)

Medieval Cub Camp

The annual Milton Keynes Cub Camp was held in early May and saw the Quarries transformed into a Medieval Village!



This camp was also the first District Camp where I was more than happy to welcome the Explorer Scouts to our District Cub Camp to start to develop their Young Leader skills and help the District team. What a fantastic group of young people we have! All I can say is..... THANK YOU – EXPLORERS WERE AWESOME!

Over 150 cubs transformed themselves into medieval tribes and joined in activities such as archery, creating a “medieval bear”, fire lighting, tomahawk throwing, playing in the village fair (including a turn in the stocks and winning a coconut in the coconut shy!) and meeting some Vikings!

Our cubs had the great opportunity of meeting members of Cestrefeld, who are a local group based in Derbyshire and part of the historical reenactment society Regia Anglorum (www.regia.org).

Cubs learnt how to use replica Viking shields, write runes, and even made their own Viking coins!



Gulliver's Land

Next we were off to Gulliver's Land for a Christmas trip. MK Cubs and Beavers enjoyed a fun day out at Gulliver's Land and showed the true scouting spirit by not letting a bit of rain dampen their fun!

Cubs went to Santa's Grotto where they got to not only meet Santa but allowed to go into the Elves Workshop and pick a gift!

In addition to the rides, Cubs were treated to a special Christmas Gully Show.....although I am sure the Leaders rendition of "Singing in the Rain" was far better 😊



Milton Keynes District Scouts, 1st April 2023 to 25th September 2024

The Scout Section has a new team of people helping to steer activities for the Scout Section. Between us we've visited a good number of groups to see how their young people are doing and if the leaders need any support.

We've facilitated and supported a Explorer lead camp; Fortress Camp, which was well received and attended. Patrol Leader nights are being run monthly, and a much appreciated opportunity that I've heard Scouts discussing at any section meetings I've attended.

There seems to be interest in a Role-Playing Game night (such as Dungeons and Dragons) but support was low (thanks very much to those that did offer assistance). I did manage to run a 'mini-event' on request for two groups, albeit a little rushed High Ash Scouts in Stoke Hammond did manage to finish the Adventure! Given the summer term it has been places on hold until Autumn/Winter when there is less inclination to be outside. Timing for it will be interesting as there are other events in the period such as JOTI/JOTA.

I've visited Howe Park and (re-)introduced them to 'Two Rooms and a Boom' which I used to run for the Scout Section when I was with HPSG many moons ago. It is popular at my current group, Newton Longville Scouts, and will likely be renamed and included as an Activity for my Jamboree Module in 2027.

Another group visit of interest was 26th Milton Keynes which had a lovely (indoor) medley evening with Swift Conservation talks including the building of Nesting boxes. I also got to see their St. George's Day Shield being decorated.

We have had two District Section Forums run on Monday and Tuesday, a Monday meeting being the better attended of the two. There will be another meeting in Autumn on a Wednesday. The meetings have been productive with ideas being given and exchanged. We have recently managed to gather a list of evenings most Scout Sections meeting and will use this to steer meetings days going forward.



Michael Walters Dave Eveling Kevin Sheehan Danni Smith

District Programme Team - (Scouts Leads)

Milton Keynes District Explorer Scouts, 1st April 2023 to 25th September 2024

A period of teeth-gritting, keep-on-going, path-rambling, belly-laughing, international Scouting.



Over the last eighteen months, our Explorer Scouts have truly thought on their feet, whether on the sports hall floor, along the ancient paths of Hadrian's Wall, on a stand up paddle board or balancing on a self-built obstacle course helping a Cub Scout experience their first rope swing adventure, Explorer Scouts in Milton Keynes have been on an incredible adventure. Racking up an amazing one thousand, five hundred and forty eight nights away between them, across twenty three thrilling nights away events, our members have embraced every opportunity to explore, camp, and connect, making unforgettable memories along the way.

Starting the year with a camp in Hexham, visiting the site of the 1908 Lookwide camp, the first recorded official Scout camp. During the weekend we also spent time on the water and walked a length of Hadrian's wall.

We have twice joined the excitement of the annual London Monopoly competition and jumped in to help out at numerous District events, adding a dose of adventure and teamwork to our busy calendar! During the summer months of 2023, twenty of our Explorers had the opportunity to attend the World Scout Jamboree and GT23 expeditions, truly life changing experiences.

In October 2023, we launched an exciting new Explorer Scout Unit. Based in Bletchley, this Unit has experienced phenomenal growth becoming a vibrant hub of Scouting energy and enthusiasm! With the incredible support of the Growth and Communities team at Gilwell we have secured additional funding to help Scouting grow in Milton Keynes.



One of our most memorable camps this year was definitely Skycamp at Paccar. Our first time attending this event was a huge success - one of our teams even secured second place! At Skycamp, the Explorers had a blast building treehouses and tackling various challenges to earn points. We're excited to announce that the event is already on the calendar for this year. We'll be bringing sixty young people and even fielding a team of leaders and Network members to join in the fun and competition!

Over the winter months, we have been actively supporting our amazing Explorer Scout Young Leaders by organising engaging monthly training sessions, exciting camps, and fun socials. Many of them are now completing their training and embarking on missions to put their skills into action. We are incredibly proud of our Young Leaders and the Phantom Unit that stands behind them, empowering them to succeed and make a difference!





Fortress25

28th to 29th June 2025

#SkillsForLife

Scouts
Milton Keynes

This year, we proudly launched Fortress Camp, an Explorer-led challenge camp open to Scouts, where participants built their own forts to sleep in over the weekend. The camp featured a variety of exciting challenges to earn points, and on Sunday, Scouts enjoyed a range of activities, including go-karts, laser tag, archery, and tomahawk throwing. A big congratulations to Furzton Ranchers for clinching first place, and a heartfelt thank you to the entire team who made this event a memorable success! Fortress25 will be taking bookings soon.

We've worked hard to ensure that all young people in Explorers have access to an exciting array of events. From thrilling shooting competitions and climbing sessions at Big Rock to the challenging Southern50 and Endurance80 hikes, we've got something for everyone. Our Explorers have also enjoyed heart-pounding laser tag, exhilarating high-ropes courses at Willen Lake, and fun-filled bowling nights, ensuring a diverse range of activities that cater to every interest.

We have been able to subsidise many of these activities thanks to our fundraising efforts, which often include car parking at MK Museum, supporting festivals at Newport Pagnell, and helping set up events. These initiatives require significant manpower and dedication from our volunteers. While we plan to continue these efforts, we are also actively exploring financial grants to further support our future programmes.

This year, we are thrilled to present several Chief Scout's Diamond Awards to our outstanding members. We are currently in the early stages of recruiting a dedicated volunteer to lead our top awards programme, which we believe will help more of our young people gain recognition for their hard work and achievements.

This summer, our Explorers had an amazing opportunity to experience global Scouting at the 2024 Essex International Jamboree, where we also hosted a contingent of Nigerian Scouts. They participated in over 100 diverse activities, swapped badges with Scouts from around the world, and enjoyed lively parties each evening. The activity zones offered something for everyone, including Tech Lab, Enterprise, Motion, Balancing Act, Up and Under, On Target, It's a Knockout, Survival, and Wet & Wild. In the evenings, they could unwind and have fun at zones like House of Music, Big Screen Cinema, Circus Extravaganza, 14-17 Retreat, Campfire, The Snug, Craft Barn, Daisy's Gaming Shed, Soft Rock Café, The Beach, All About Me, All About Us, Sports Field & Café, and EIJ Presents. It was an unforgettable experience that broadened their horizons and created lasting memories.

Given the number of Explorers, our leadership team may be small, but we work exceptionally well together. As The Scouts undergo transformation, we will be focusing on enhancing the 14-24 team by advertising roles based on specific tasks that will benefit our young people the most - It's all about jumping in, getting muddy, giving back, and being ready for whatever comes next.

Our Explorer Scouts embrace challenges, question all things, listen to others, and keep an open mind. The Scouts has taught them to take a deep breath and speak up, navigate the moment, and see the bigger picture. Thank you to all that are involved in making Milton Keynes District Explorer Scouts so fantastic.

Mike Gibson

District 14 to 24 Team Lead

Milton Keynes District Explorer Scouts.



Milton Keynes District Scout Network, 1st April 2023 to 25th September 2024

As of May 2024, the Milton Keynes District Scout Network includes 14 active members in Milton Keynes, with an additional 5-10 members participating when home from university. Recent Highlights.

Successful Meeting: On May 29, we held a successful meeting at Big Rock, where six members enjoyed a climbing session. More recently we indirectly supported both Fortress 24 and the Beaver weekend in Bromham.

Upcoming Events: ○ Gilwell Reunion 2024: Six of our members are confirmed to attend, continuing our tradition of active participation.

Skycamp: We are submitting a joint team with the Explorer Scout Leaders to take part in this event. ○ London Monopoly Run: We will aim to put forward a team in next year's event after the success that we had this year. Future Plans

Regular Meetings: We plan to implement a biweekly meeting schedule starting in September to enhance engagement and provide better structure.

New Neckers: We will be ordering new neckers to properly invest our growing number of members and maintain our tradition.

Conclusion - Looking ahead, we are enthusiastic about revitalising the Scout Network provision and making a positive impact within the District. Our upcoming events and initiatives are designed to foster greater engagement and enthusiasm among members, as well as improving our links with the District Explorer Scouts. We are committed to enhancing the Network's presence and reputation, ensuring that we are a dynamic and integral part of the Scouting community.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication as we embark on this exciting journey.

Nathan Robinson, District Youth Lead

Mike Gibson, 14 to 24 Team Lead



Milton Keynes District Gangshow

What is a Gang Show?- Did you know that Milton Keynes Scouts have a Gang Show since 1990?

A Gang Show is a theatrical performance by youth members of Scouts and Guides. Some Gang Shows have leaders of Scouts and Guides on stage too. Leaders, youth members and parents help behind the scenes. The aim is, through performance, to empower young people to make a positive contribution to society.

The production teams and cast (all volunteers) plan, write, compose, choreograph, build scenery and props, make costumes and rehearse for several months. A typical show requires 3 to 9 months of rehearsals. Every how does it differently, but every show has the same three priorities.

1. It is for the young people
2. It is a public shop window on Scouting & Guiding, and therefore a great PR opportunity
3. If they are lucky, they will at least break even.

How to join us? - joinus@mkgangshow.co.uk

We are currently looking for Directors, Producer, Costume Team, Musical Director. No experience required just a sense of getting it done and having a fun with a great bunch of young people.

So what are we doing this year? - We have show at the end of November 2024 at the Chrysalis Theatre. You can book tickets online or for group discounts - Information will be coming out soon to every group in MK.

If you read this - then please quote #AGMReport24 when contacting us and a further discount will be applied.

The cast have been working really hard to produce our version of Alice in Wonderland and other songs and sketches picked by the members - plus even written and directed by the members.

Please see our website mkgangshow.co.uk for more info and links to videos etc.

So what are you waiting for - come see us and come join us. Let's continue #makingmemories for another 30 + years.

Yes Guides can also join us - as long as you're in Scouting or Guiding, you're welcome.

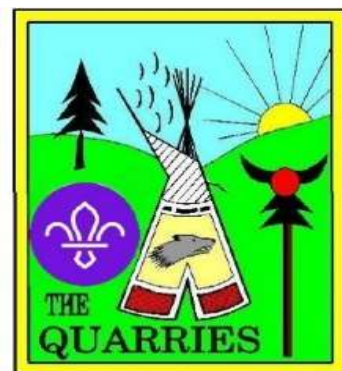
Gary Staff

District Support Team - (Gangshow - Producer)



The Quarries Scout Campsite

This year has seen the Campsite develop and change in more ways in the management and also with the expansion of activities and resources we can provide.



The District has now appointed Andy Frogbrook as the new Warden to oversee the day-to-day running of the campsite. He is working to improve the site with the help of the volunteer service crew. We have had a few new members join the service crew this year which means we can start to keep up with nature which seems to want to take back the campsite. We are still trying to get the site back to before the COVID lock down, when nature took back the site.

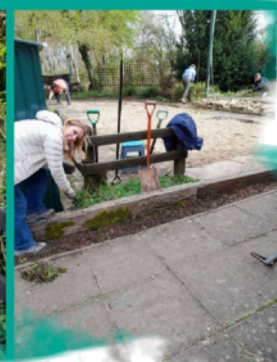
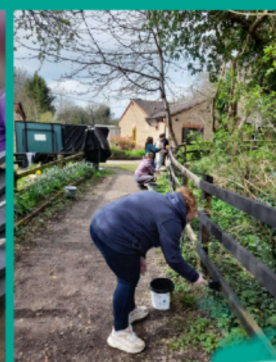
We have hosted more district events through the year with 3 annual events happening at the site.

JOTA /JOTI in October where we connect with scouts across the world on the internet and HAM radio. This is an event that is growing year on year since lockdown. We now put on a number of other activities across the site to make a weekend of it.

District Cub Camp in May with a Space theme. We had just over 200 Cubs taking part in dozens of activities over the weekend. The Service Crew help with getting the site ready then transport all the Cub's kit to their camping areas and then support the activities with the help of the Explorer Scouts and Young Leaders. Another thing that happened was a rare display of the Northern Lights for anyone who was up in the middle of the night.

A new event we hosted this year was the District Scout Challenge Camp Fortress24. The event run by the Explorer Scouts for the Scouts in June. The service crew helped with setting up the site ready and deploy new resources for the activities planned. The Scouts built forts and took part in challenges over the weekend. Everyone enjoyed this event and next year's one is already in the planning.

We have refurbished The Hub after we had a large water leak in the roof. A new roof was installed and the Crew set about re-doing the inside. With the help of a load of donated second-hand wooden flooring boards we were able to update and bring the building back to life. This has now been adopted by the District Lead Volunteer as an office and a meeting space. Volunteers can now use this facility for meetings on site for up to about 5 people.



We have also cleared and re-instated the Crew Hut so when we are working up on site, we have a welfare area to have meals and also a refuge from the weather when things got too much.

We have continued to sort and improve the Crew Compound since we got it hooked up to the campsite electrics and Internet. We still need to do more development here with another container being installed soon to give us more storage and improve the working environment.

Community days from local companies have increased this year which helps the site to quickly do jobs in 1 day which would take several weeks for the service crew to do. We have had Santander, Network Rail, and other small groups making the campsite look better.

We haven't had any international groups this year but we hosted most of the local groups and also groups from all around the adjoining counties. We have also been a base for dozens of Duke of Edinburgh hiking groups from Milton Keynes and Northampton schools. At Christmas we supplied accommodation for the Canal society so they could clear the old Buckingham arm of the canal in preparation for re-instating the canal up to the A5 road. We received loads of logs from all the trees they had to clear along the route.

We continue to welcome our own Groups to the site for evenings and at weekends with more groups using the site for their AGMs

The site has reached the grand age of 100 years. We have designed a centenary badge which we have given to every member of the district from Squirrels all the way up to Explorers and all the volunteers. We are organising an event for the volunteer to come to site to have a look round and take part in activities. We are going to also put on an exhibition of the history of the site as well.

We are continuing to plan for a new lodge to bring the site to the next level. We are currently going through the planning stage and hopefully later this year we can start the seriously fundraise to get it replaced.

We are also planning to get solar panels on to the toilet block to reduce the cost of running the campsite. We will be generating electricity and pushing it back to the grid so we can do our part in the drive for green energy for the planet.

If anyone wants to join the crew, be it every week or when you can please contact either myself or Pat Pankhurst. There are always jobs to be done from getting the buildings ready for bookings, doing a deep clean of kitchens, clearing campsites, replacing fencing and of course getting the site ready for big events.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who has helped over the last year to keep the campsite going as we keep getting compliments on how we look after the users of the site and how we manage the facility. This is reflected on the internet on our Google comments with a star rating of 4.6.

Andy Frogbrook – District Support Team (Site Warden)

Pat Pankhurst –The Quarries Scout Active Support Manager



AWARD OF MERIT

Wayne Constable – Assistant Cub Scout Leader – 1st Bletchley

Rod Lester – Group Chair – 1st Wolverton

David Mark – Milton Keynes Scout District

Stephen Rowe – Assistant Scout Leader – 1st Bletchley

CHIEF SCOUTS COMMENDATION

Ray Gibbins – Group Chair – Oxley Park

Vincent Jarjadian – 1st Wolverton

Karl Norton - Loughton

Alex Titley – Newton Longville

David Wright – Broughton

COMMISSIONERS COMMENDATION

Helena Brookes – Beaver Scout Leader – 1st Olney

Alexander Garner – Milton Keynes Scout District

Dawn Markwell – Beaver Scout Leader – 1st Crownhill

Lewis Pobjoy – Group Lead – Great Linford (St Andrews)

Jason Raggett – District Lead Volunteer

Wendy Robinson – Assistant Cub Scout Leader – Great Linford (St Andrews)

Ian Walker – Assistant District Commissioner (Activities)

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Ruth Staff – Milton Keynes Scout Active Support (Gang Show) – 30 years

Carol Blomfield – Group Secretary – Langland – 25 years

Janette Gibbs – District Training Manager – 20 years

MASTER SIGNED SET
—

Milton Keynes District Scout Council
Year ended 31 March 2024

MILTON KEYNES DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT AND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1150177
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Milton Keynes District Scout Council
Year ended 31 March 2024

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Registration Number: 1150177

Trustees:	Bernard Hancox	District Chair
	Pat Pankhurst	Secretary
	Ashley Pankhurst	Treasurer
	Stuart Bailey	District Commissioner (To 20 th April 2023)
	Jason Raggett	Deputy DC / District Commissioner
	Danielle Smith	District Scout Network Commissioner
	Michael Gibson	District Explorer Scout Commissioner
	Nathan Robinson	District Youth Commissioner (From 24 th March 2024)
	Rosemary Worrall	
	Elisa McCarthy	
	Alexander Garner	
	Beverley Delaney	

Principal Address: 51 Carey Way
Olney
Bucks
MK46 4DR

Bankers

Milton Keynes District Scout Council

Lloyds Bank PLC
NatWest Bank PLC
Barclays PLC

Milton Keynes Gang Show
Milton Keynes District Explorer Scouts
The Quarries Scout Campsite
Damboree

Lloyds Bank PLC

Milton Keynes District Scout Council
Year ended 31 March 2024

CONTENTS	PAGE
Trustees' annual report	1 – 2
Independent examiner's report	3
Receipts and Payments summary	4
Receipts	5
Payments	6
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	7

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Structure, Governance and Management

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

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the policy, organisation and rules of The Scout Association.

The Milton Keynes District Scout Council includes the following subsidiaries:

1. Milton Keynes District Explorer Scouts
2. The Quarries Scout Camp Site
3. Milton Keynes Gang Show

Additionally, funds are held on behalf of the Damboree Active Support Unit – a national initiative to promote camping, particularly within the younger sections.

The trustees have identified the major risks to which they believe the charity is exposed. They have established systems to mitigate these, hold regular liaison meetings and are continually monitoring the individual finances of each subsidiary.

Objectives and Activities

To promote and support successful Scouting throughout the Milton Keynes District. In planning activities for the year, the trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission with regard to public benefit. There are six different age groups covering ages 4 to 25 and all young people are welcome to join regardless of personal background, faith or personal circumstances. Members benefit greatly in developing their self-confidence and social skills as well as learning new practical and life skills.

Achievements and performance

The Assistant District Commissioner team, together with assistance from a great number of volunteers have organised and run many successful events held throughout the year for the young people including a themed Cub Camp at The Quarries, Beaver camp at Bromham, a joint Beaver & Cub day at Gulliver's Land.

A number of Scouts and Explorer Scouts were part of the World Jamboree in South Korea, whilst a number took part in Bucks Scouts "Grand Tour" event.

The Scout Shop and the Badge Secretaries continue to provide a valuable service to the parents and Groups respectively and make a small surplus over the year.

Investment has been made at The Quarries to bring all the site's electrics up-to-date. A new boiler has been fitted in the Oswald Hamilton Centre, together with roofing works to The Hub.

The replacement of The Lodge edges slightly closer with proposed plans having being submitted for planning permission, together with all the required associated documentation.

The Scout Association's "Transformation" projects continue, with changes to Rules and Policies on a seemingly monthly basis. Much work has been undertaken in an effort to support the relevant Group Trustees in these changes including several evening sessions, Zoom calls etc.

Financial review

At the end of the year, total bank and cash funds amounted to £237,079, with a liability (for Annual Membership Subscriptions) of £77,862

Reserves policy

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income fall short.

The District Executive Committee considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 10 months running costs, circa £80,000.

In addition, the District Executive Committee continues to build a fund for the future replacement of buildings at The Quarries Scout Campsite.

Additionally, the Trustee Board will continue to allocate 20% of its proportion of the Annual Membership Subscription towards funding future World Jamboree participants. At 31st March 2024 this amounted to £7,484.

Investment policy

The District has adopted a low-risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

Public benefit

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.

Plans for future periods

Milton Keynes Scout District intends to continue developing opportunities for young people to experience scouting. It also intends, to increase the participation of young people in decision-making at all levels.

The Trustees will continue to support the excellent work being carried out by the District Lead Volunteer and his team.

The Trustees are aware of The Scout Association's ongoing Transformation plans and are actively involved in preparing for the proposed changes. It is intended that, in addition to the ongoing support for Trustees of Scout Groups, there will be additional support in the areas of the Transformation plans that affect the Group Trustees.

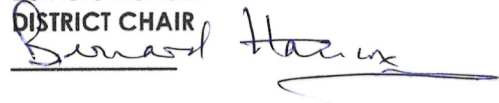
The buildings at The Quarries Scout Campsite will be refurbished / replaced as necessary. Following a substantial individual donation, solar panels will be fitted to the toilet block. It is intended to replace the minibus in the medium-term.

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Bernard Hancox

DISTRICT CHAIR



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above Charity ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity Trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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



Simon J Gill

44 West Side Rise
Olney
Buckinghamshire
MK46 5HP

20/08/2024

Milton Keynes District Scout Council
Year ended 31 March 2024

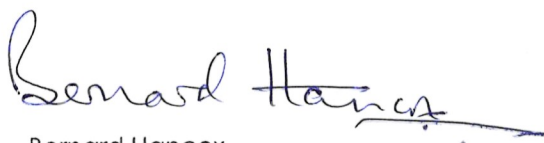
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT SUMMARY

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2023 £
Total receipts for the year (page 5)	231,613	3,190	234,803	234,914
Total payments for the year (page 6)	206,014	4,569	210,583	243,749
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25,599	(1,379)	24,220	(8,835)
<u>Cash, bank and funds</u>				
B/Fwd	211,349	1,510	212,859	221,694
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
C/Fwd	<u>236,948</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>237,079</u>	<u>212,859</u>

Unrestricted funds are those which the Trustees are free to spend in accordance with the constitution.

Restricted funds are those where the Trustees are bound by conditions which have been imposed by the donor or by the terms of an appeal and therefore can only be spent on specific areas.

Approved by the Trustees on 14.08.24 and signed on their behalf by:



Bernard Hancox

Trustee and District Chair

Milton Keynes District Scout Council
Year ended 31 March 2024

RECEIPTS

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2023 £
Membership subscriptions and Gang Show membership	106,621	-	106,621	93,096
Site fees : The Quarries	25,479	-	25,479	27,902
Sale of clothing and badges	23,733	-	23,733	25,150
Camps and activities	45,229	-	45,229	42,184
Donations, grants and Gift Aid	7,286	-	7,286	3,755
Other receipts	10,684	-	10,684	3,720
Jamboree/Damboree/International	10,162	3,190	13,352	36,050
Gang Show (main)	1,252	-	1,252	3,057
Bank interest	1,167	-	1,167	-
Total receipts for the year	231,613	3,190	234,803	234,914

Milton Keynes District Scout Council
Year ended 31 March 2024

PAYMENTS

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2023 £
Membership subscriptions paid to HQ	70,902	-	70,902	62,452
Stock of clothing and badges purchases	21,381	-	21,381	24,037
Camps, activities and hall hire etc (inc refunds)	31,553	-	31,553	29,441
Gang show expenses	1,316	-	1,316	3,931
Purchase and repair of equipment (solar panels)	2,500	-	2,500	7,720
Insurance	7,881	-	7,881	8,221
Utilities	10,601	-	10,601	13,920
Administration expenses	2,240	-	2,240	5,667
Site development expenses	6,456	-	6,456	-
Printing and stationery	300	-	300	230
Sundry expenses	5,001	-	5,001	1,765
Site maintenance	25,545	-	25,545	24,535
Trustee and leader expenses	11,294	-	11,294	9,618
Jamboree/Damboree/Special projects	9,044	4,569	13,613	52,212
Total payments for the year	206,014	4,569	210,583	243,749

Milton Keynes District Scout Council
Year ended 31 March 2024

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AS AT
31 MARCH 2024**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	2023 £
Cash Funds				
Bank current accounts	225,644	131	225,775	201,522
Bank deposit accounts	11,244	-	11,244	11,277
Cash in hand	60	-	60	60
	<u>236,948</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>237,079</u>	<u>212,859</u>
Other monetary assets				
Quarries Insurance and Development prepayments	13,890	-	13,890	4,805
Badge stock	6,218	-	6,218	6,289
Scout shop stock and fixtures	8,720	-	8,720	7,631
Quarries tuck shop stock	163	-	163	286
Quarries activity equipment and machinery	6,250	-	6,250	44,187
Quarries land and buildings	420,000	-	420,000	420,000
Other equipment	3,714	-	3,714	10,852
Other liabilities				
Annual membership subscription	(77,862)	-	(77,862)	(70,902)
	<u>618,041</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>618,172</u>	<u>636,007</u>
Analysis of funds	£			
General funds	518,172			
Designated funds – Development fund	100,000			
	<u>618,172</u>			

Designated funds - Development fund has been earmarked by the Trustees mainly for future capital expenditure.

Restricted funds are in respect of an account held in connection with Damboree.

Activity equipment and machinery at the Quarries site, still in use, has been written down to a reasonable notional value using principles of depreciation. It is also intended to re-value land and buildings at the site, the value shown represents a reasonable estimation by the Trustees,

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above Charity ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity Trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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



Simon J Gill

44 West Side Rise
Olney
Buckinghamshire
MK46 5HP

20/08/2024