

ARROW DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Annual Report

Year 1st February 2023 to 31st January 2024



Scouts

Arrow District Scouts

Registered Charity Number 1204052



Section A: Reference and administration details

Charity Main Address, 3 Abbotsbury Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 8NZ

Website: www.arrowscouts.org.uk

Email: info@arrowscouts.org.uk

Charity trustees who managed the charity during 2023/24:

Trustee	Office	Appointed
David (Dick) Whittington	Chairman	24th October 2022
Colin Floyd	District Commissioner	24th October 2022
Jacqui Cunningham	Secretary	24th October 2022
Matthew Taylor	Treasurer	3rd July 2023
Dominic Andrews	Treasurer	24th October 2022 Resigned 31st July 2023
Matthew Warren	DDC	24th October 2022
James Elliott	DDC	24th October 2022
Robert Whittington	District Explorer Scout Commissioner	24th October 2022
Emma Wynn-Mackenzie	Trustee	24th October 2022
Ralph Bateman	Trustee	24th October 2022
Malcolm Young	Trustee	24th October 2022
Ian Patrick	Trustee	24th October 2022
Ian McIlroy	Trustee	24th October 2022
James Vaughan	Trustee	24th October 2022 Resigned 31st January

The District was formed on the 1st February 2023 as a result of the merger of the former Eastleigh and District Scout Council and Chandler's Ford District Scout Council. The District was registered as a Charity on 20 July 2023. The above Trustees are the forming Trustees appointed prior to the formal merger and were responsible for setting up the new District.

Section B: Structure, governance and management

The District's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. The District Scout Council 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.

The Board consists of three independent representatives - Chair, Treasurer and Secretary - together with the elected, nominated and any co-opted representatives and meets every 2 months. We have been pleased to welcome two Explorer Scouts onto the Board as participating observers.

The District Trustee Board exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for: The maintenance of District property; Assisting in the recruitment of Leaders and other adult support; Appointing any sub committees that may be required; The insurance of persons, property and equipment; District public occasions.

The District Trustee Board has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss. These include two-person authorisations for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policy to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Section C: Objectives and activities

The objectives of the District Trustee Board are as a unit of the Scout Association. The Aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable, attractive and challenging scheme of progressive training based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

The main activities in relation to these objectives primarily take place in the Borough of Eastleigh, Hampshire, specifically in Eastleigh Town, North Stoneham, Nightingale, Allbrook, Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath and Chandlers Ford (including areas within Test Valley Borough.)

The District Trustee Board meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Section D: Achievements and performance

The merger of the two former Districts has been successfully achieved providing a coordinated support structure that has delivered significant benefits to local Scouting. Financially it has allowed for investment in new resources and equipment as well as being able to provide financial support to 10 young people attending the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea and Project 23 in Europe.

The District now has a total of fourteen Groups, eight Explorer Scout Units and two District Scout Activity Support Units (Rock 'n' Roll and Spam 'n' Roll) The charity supplies advice, administrative and practical support to these groups.

The District Scout Shop has again traded well over the year providing a service to parents as well as generating funds for the District. The shop is run and staffed by volunteers and we welcome new offers of help. Teams from the Groups not only help with the running of the shop but also earn discounts and funds for their Group. The District Badge Secretary continued to meet a constant demand for badges which reflects the level of Scouting activity and achievement for our young people.

The Camp site located in the Cranbury Park Estate continues to be utilised extensively by our Groups and sections. The District was able to increase financial support to the site and negotiations have commenced with the Estate to agree a new lease and extend our use into the future. Plans have been drawn up for further development of the site to provide additional activities. Again, the site is managed by a volunteer team who put in many hours of work to maintain and develop the site and new members are always welcome. We are extremely grateful to the Cranbury Park Estate for their continued support of Scouting and the provision of such a valuable resource and we look forward to many more years working with the Estate.

Section E: Financial Review

Combining the various accounts from the two former Districts has proved to be challenging but the District invested in financial accounting processes provided by Online Scout Manager which has enabled all the existing accounts to be brought together. Further improvements provided include online banking facilities and authorised charge cards for some account holders. All processes are managed in accordance with Scout Association Policy Organisation and Rules (POR). Funds not required immediately have been transferred into an investment account. Further policies to set aside reserves are being considered based on the first year's performance and the Trustees' assessment of organisational risk.

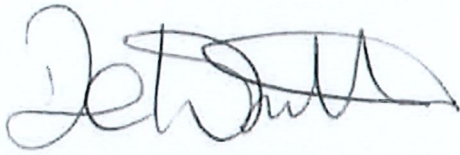
Overall income during the year was in excess of £145,600 with an expenditure of circa £111,400. Total cash funds held are just in excess of £135,000. Funds have been set aside for the Kandersteg expedition and to support the next District Camp. Non monetary assets, including equipment values, shop and badge stock account for just under £40,000. Further funds have been designated for camp site development. Full financial details are published in our Annual Accounts. Overall the District is in a healthy financial position and the Trustee Board will be seeking to further invest to support the development of Scouting.

Matt Taylor matt.taylor@arrowscouts.org.uk

District Treasurer

Section F: Declaration

**The Trustees declare that they have approved the Annual Report.
Signed on behalf of the Trustee Board 2nd May 2024**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dick Whittington', written in a cursive style.

**David (Dick) Whittington
Arrow District Trustee Board Chair**

Chair's Report

I was asked to stand in as Chairman of the newly formed committee after the sudden passing of my friend and colleague John Mabb. The merger had been directed by the County Commissioner as part of the restructure of Scouting in Hampshire. Merging charities is always a challenging process when passionate and proud volunteers are involved, and my experience in my professional life of merging charitable organisations prepared me for the task ahead. However, in hindsight, I can honestly say that on the whole I was impressed by the support I received from members of both the former Districts for which I am extremely grateful. Scouting is a family, and we have successfully built a new larger family. The aim was always to minimise the effect of change on the individual Groups and sections, and this was achieved albeit with a change of badge. Our new identity was chosen by young people and the badge was based on designs submitted by young people, so we can claim our new District is indeed 'Youth Shaped'!

As will be seen from the financial accounts, the bringing together of two District funds has enabled us to invest in new equipment and resources. A grant to our Rock-n-Roll team enabled matched funding for external grants that saw a complete new fleet of Kayaks and accessories for water activities. Additionally we have been able to purchase archery equipment to provide yet another resource to support activities. My thanks must go to Dominic Andrews who came on board as Treasurer prior to the Royal Navy drafting him, and Matt Taylor who have managed to structure our finances.

I was particularly pleased with the support for our District Conference which brought together representatives from across the District. Feedback from those attending has helped us to ensure we drive forward the right programmes and activities for our young people.

As we go forward, there are changes being brought into play by the Scout Association that we must embrace and implement. However, I am confident that once again we will work together as a District team to implement all changes whilst ensuring we retain the high standard of Scouting activity we provide to our young people.

My thanks to all members of the Trustee Board who have worked hard to get our new District up and running. And of course my thanks to Colin Floyd as District Commissioner for his support and the work he has done to build an effective team.

Dick Whittington dick.whittington@arrowscouts.org.uk
District Chair

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER / DISTRICT LEAD VOLUNTEER

It has been a very productive year. Arrow District was launched on the 1st of February 2023 and got off to a flying start with the formation of a new District team to support our scouting. A big thank you to James Elliott and Matthew Warren for helping and supporting me.

We held a hugely successful District camp in May 2023 which I know everyone who attended had a wonderful time. All I get asked is when will the next one be held.

We also held our first District development day which gave us the opportunity to get together and share our Scouting and together look at ways we can move our Scouting forward. From that we have supported Groups with volunteer appointment training and recruitment. A big thank you to Jeff and

Claire Deacon who support us with the recruitment processes and to Margaret Patrick who with her training advisers help all our volunteers to be suitably trained and developed.

I personally would like to say a huge thank you to Jim Vaughan for his work on growth and development, it has been invaluable. We have arranged for every Group to have a Group development sign to publicise our need for more volunteers. I hope these will help Groups grow.

We have given the young people a voice and that initiative has been led by James Elliott DDC Youth Engagement Commissioner. We still have some work to do, however the young people are starting to give us a vision of what they want from Scouting. To summarise, they want to be outdoors, have adventures and be challenged.

New Squirrel sections have been introduced at many of our Groups and the others will be quickly setting them up. The new sections have made our parents offer to help and some of those parent volunteers are now moving through to the Beaver sections. It is just wonderful to see such young children be offered the opportunity to enjoy our game of Scouting. The Squirrel and Beaver sections are supported by Georgina Brockhurst who with her District leaders offer great support and encouragement.

The new Cub leader team have programmed a number of events and have this year organised a scrap heap challenge and a cooking competition which have both been phenomenally successful. I really hope more Cub packs will support these events as we are better when **we** get together.

The Scout section has held a Mustard Trophy hike competition which again was ably managed by James, Phil and Peter and the Scout section leaders, A big thank you goes to all of them.

I would like to send a huge thank you to the District Trustee Board led by Dick Whittington as our District Chair. Dick was appointed as the Chair after the sad loss of John Mabb and I am grateful to Dick for helping us to get ourselves into a strong position and ensure we fully meet the needs of the Charity Commission and Scouting.

Thanks go to our Trustee Board for the purchase of our new kayaks, and I am sure these will be put to beneficial use this summer season. A big thank you to Phil Harding and Peter Rawlinson and the other Rock & Roll members who have supported us so well with our adventurous activities.

We are extremely fortunate that our District has a wonderful Scout camp site and Arrow District is very keen to develop what is offered there. We have huge plans so watch this space. Thanks go to the management and maintenance team at Cranbury Park.

We also offer a Scout shop which gives our parents and volunteers the opportunity to purchase a range of Scouting clothing and resources. A big thank you to everyone who supports the shop and makes it an enormous success. This is supported further by our badge shop which is a great resource for our leaders and managed by Margaret Howell. Our thanks go to her for her hard work.

Our District Explorers have over the past year been improved under the direction of Rob Whittington our District Explorer Scout Commissioner. He has made heroic efforts to support our units and improve the way we manage this District provision. Explorer Scouting is in great demand, and we have recently opened a new Explorer unit at the 12th Eastleigh to give us better coverage across the District. The D of E provision and the top awards are healthy, and our Explorers now look forward to visiting Kandersteg Scout International Centre in Switzerland in a few months' time.

I have had the pleasure of visiting Groups on thirty-one occasions throughout the year presenting acorns, bronze, silver and gold top awards of the various sections. They can all be immensely proud and a huge

thank you to the leaders who have worked tirelessly to ensure they reach the award, and for offering an extensive and challenging and fun Scout programme. They work so hard.

The Scout Association has been telling us we need to transform. The transformation has the word team running all through the way we shall work going forward. No grand titles, just everyone being kind to each other and working together in a team.

We have achieved so much this last year and we recognise we still have a lot to do. But with everyone's support we can, and we will improve our Scouting for our young people and for our valuable adult volunteers.

Colin Floyd, District Commissioner colin.floyd@arrowscouts.org.uk

Explorer Scout Section Report

At the start of the year we inherited 7 Explorer units across the new District, Scorpion, Phoenix, Panther, Fusion and two units both called Cobra. As well as 2 units with the same name we had two different necker designs to consider. The Explorers sorted this themselves, coming together to adopt one of the existing designs and one of the Cobra units had a renaming session resulting in them changing to Pleiades, which everyone needs to look up when trying to spell!



We started the year off with a membership of 126 Explorers, with good sized membership across 4 of the units and 2 with problems, the first was only attracting 4 members and the other by contrast was over 40, far too large for the team and the facilities. I am pleased to say that by year end this has largely been overcome with the unit struggling for numbers up to 10 and more on the way, and the large unit still strong at 30 but far more manageable. The key to the latter being the opening of a new unit, Kayoss, in September which has created the needed relief valve for Bishopstoke and Fair Oak where there are 5 strong feeder Scout troops. Kayoss, now up and running, has over 20 Explorers and we were able to gain some central financial support for its opening.

We set a new subs level that now covers the costs of membership and provides for a simplified operational budget for units based on membership. This combined with roll out of new OSM expense cards for all units has started to see units being able to plan their programme out, reduce admin burden of banking and accounting for individual accounts and remove need for volunteers to have to pay and reclaim their expenses from their own pocket.

Programme wise the units all have their individual processes for agreeing their termly activities but universally they are youth led in their makeup. Over the last year this has seen a wide range of activities being offered up including, go-karting, climbing, archery, paddle boarding, cycling, cooking, and much more. We started the year with Target camp and had Explorers from all the units represented on camp, cooking, eating and sleeping as one District, forming new friendships and having fun together. Some units have run their own camps, both locally and off to Devon and Wales.

Another massive success lies with the Explorers engagement with the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. The year saw 4 Bronze and 3 Silver Expedition teams, collectively 42 Explorers, working through their awards. Sign up for the scheme has grown and next year proves to be a really challenging

team for the year with 60+ signed up. We are working on aligning the above to the Chief and Kings Scout awards. This has nationally been weak, and a review is ongoing as to the way they work. In the meantime we are looking at ways we can improve attainment of these awards alongside the awesome attainment of D of E.

Explorers are the ideal age to push the boundaries to try more, see more and do more than they might have been able to within the younger age sections, and nothing challenges more than heading abroad to experience Scouting internationally. Arrow District was well represented by a team of 7 Explorers from across the District who headed to South Korea for the World Scout Jamboree during the summer. They took 3 leaders from across the District too. While the event itself was widely reported as problematic and ended up with the UK contingents having to remove themselves to safety, it was rewarding to hear back from our team as to how they made the best of the situation, immersed themselves in the culture and country, engaged with Scouts from around the globe and had a great time. This has I am sure fed the excitement and uptake for our 2024 expedition to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland where we have a mix of 72 Explorers and Scouts heading off from across the District for an adventure packed week in the heart of the Swiss Alps, but that's for next year's report.

Young Leaders are an opportunity for Explorers to support younger sections, this ranges from short periods supporting award attainment through to long term support that sees the Explorers as an integral part of the leader team delivering the programme for that section. We hope to improve the support and training opportunities across the Explorer Young Leaders next year, but we have seen some really impressive impact from their work so far. This has even led to the opening of a new Squirrel drey. We have also seen some of those dedicated Young Leaders turn 18 and go on to support the District by becoming adult leaders as well as swelling the ranks of the Network section that is going from strength to strength.

Explorers have also been seen across many other parts of the District and community, supporting the Scout Mustard trophy delivery team, taking on usher duties for the Royal British Legion, helping with Beaver craft days and many more. Some of our Explorers are even part of the County Explorer team, who have championed the sections across Hampshire including laying on Chaos camp, the first camp for Explorers, run by Explorers from all over the county.

If we needed a cherry on top for the Explorer report it would probably come in the form of Arthur Hide, known to many around Arrow District. Apart from getting stuck into pretty much everything mentioned above he has also closed out the reporting year by attaining both his Duke of Edinburgh Gold, and also the new King's Scout Award, the first person within Arrow District to gain these, the highest awards that can be gained by our youth sections. He did this just before his 18th Birthday and as a result was one of only about 4 Explorers on parade at Windsor this year for his presentation.

Rob Whittington rob.w@arrowscouts.org.uk

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Scout Section

We have appointed a District Scout Section team to run and sponsor District Scout events:

- o James Elliott – Interim ADC Scouts
- o Chloe Gillam – District Scouter
- o Callum Duggan – District Scouter
- o Stuart Sheppard – District Scouter



The first Arrow District Mustard Trophy had 12 out of 14 groups (88 scouts) participate in November 2023. Scouts had to hike through the night with various incident bases portraying map reading, first aid, crime scene investigation and knot skills. Two trophies were presented – one for the fastest time and one for the most scores.

Future scout events:

- o Summer term 2024 – Traditional Scouting Skills Workshop
- o Autumn term 2024 – District Scout Adventure Day and Mustard Trophy
- o Spring term 2025 – Emlyn Trophy

Author: James Elliott – james.elliott@arrowscouts.org.uk

Role: Deputy District Commissioner for Youth Engagement

Interim Assistant District Commissioner for Scouts

Cub Scout Section

We have the start of a cub leadership team and they have run two events we would like to share with you.

On Sunday the 4th of February, groups of Cub Scouts from across Arrow District met at the 12th Eastleigh Scout HQ for The District Scrapheap Challenge.



Nine teams met to see who was the most creative and original in creating something impressive from the scrap available.

We had two Judges, Margaret Patrick and Margaret Howell who were invited along to make the difficult decisions.

We set the scene, the Cubs were shown a clip from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. They were then tasked with designing and building a Car from scrap.

They were encouraged to think about working as a team, their design, build Strength, creativity, pitch and distance travelled all of which would be used to judge their car.

The Cubs were let loose on the piles of scrap to get creating for 90 minutes.

After a break for squash unwanted materials were cleared away before judging.

Well done to all groups who attended, with particular congratulations to the 3rd Chandler's Ford, who won!

On Saturday the 9th of March at the 1st Eastleigh HQ 7 teams from Cub packs across the district took part in the first ever district cooking competition.

The teams of up to 4 Cubs had a set time to make a two-course meal and lay a table for up to 4 settings, then then had to pitch their ideas to the Judges at the top table.

The teams were judged not only on their culinary skills but on how they worked as a team, table layout and design and how they cleared up.

Our first winners of the competition were the 7th Chandlers Ford, well done to all the teams for putting on such a good show which will go towards their Chief Scouts badge.

Beaver Scout Section

Beavers are represented in each of the Arrow District groups. Some Groups are lucky enough to have two colonies whilst the rest have just one. Overall, the sections have a strong and established Leader team but there are a few colonies who are struggling to recruit uniformed Leaders who are willing to stay within the Beaver colonies. I think that this is an ongoing situation throughout Scouting and not just within the Beaver section per se.



Events.

- Arrow District Camp. Beavers were represented at the District Camp and from feedback I received had an enjoyable time doing some things for the first time.
- Craft Competition – 5 colonies with 20 Beavers in total attended and enjoyed an afternoon of crafting.
- Christingle – Beavers attended one of the 2 services that the District put on. Apart from three, every group was represented at one of the services.
- Paultons Park/Historic Dockyard etc. These events are attended by any groups who wish to go.
- Hampshire Scouts in Hospital. I was approached by Judith James of Active Support about an idea that she wanted to put into action for HSiH. The Beavers were asked to write a traditional Christmas story or a Winter Tale using old cards for illustrations. Many colonies got involved and the stories that the Beavers put together were very well received by hospitals over the Christmas period.
- Olympic Event. A team of Beaver Leaders are helping to support me in putting an Olympic themed event for the Beavers to attend at Cranbury Park.

Since coming into the role as ADC I have held 4 Leader's meetings, one each term, and these have been well attended. I have tried to hold them on different weekday evenings, but this isn't always easy due to the availability of scout headquarters. I appreciate that some leaders are unable to attend due to work and family commitments, but I hope to reach out over the next year to have a representative of each group at the meetings.

I am hoping to build on the events that we have tried over the last year. At the last Leaders meeting all the events were found to be popular and will be run again. I am also hoping to run a Beaver Hike in the New Forest. I also believe that each group involves their Beavers through their group camps or sleepovers to try staying away for one night. I have no numbers for this but hope to follow this up over the next year.

I have been well supported by many Beaver Leaders throughout the District and Sue Walker as I started to find my feet within this new role. I have been to a number of colonies to present many Bronze awards but if I have been unable to attend then Sue has presented them on my behalf. I would also like to say thank you to Julie Spillar who has encouraged me in my new role and given me a few pointers as I took over from her.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Colin and Matthew for their support in helping me in my new role as ADC. They have always been at the end of the phone and answered my emails very quickly if I needed further support and advice about things.

Squirrels Section

Arrow District has presently got 7 Squirrel Dreys. Three Squirrel Dreys, 1st, 12th and Bishopstoke Sea Scouts, have been running for a number of years and are well established. Over the last two years four other Squirrel dreys, 2nd, 4th, 11th and 14th have been opened and three are running well. The 4th Squirrel drey has had to close due to Leader shortage and work commitments.



The Squirrels have been very busy in their own Scout headquarters as well as going out and about to experience new things.

Events

- Arrow District Camp. Squirrels were represented by a number of groups who took part.
- A Squirrel dance event that was a success and provided a small group of Squirrels the opportunity to do some street dance.
- Christingle Services took part in two local churches where Squirrels attended.
- Marwell Zoo are running a 'Scouting the Zoo' Day that some Groups are attending this May.
- I have also got a Teddy Bear's Picnic planned for 21st July at Cranbury Park for all the Squirrels to get together.
- Fernycrofts are once again running a Squirrel Fun Day in September which I hope a number of groups will take advantage of.

I have also decided, with feedback from Squirrel Leaders, to hold our own Leaders meeting. The Leaders meetings have been reasonably well attended so far and I hope to reach out to each Group to have a representative present.

I am hoping to meet and work with the other Arrow District Groups to see how viable and keen they are to introduce a Squirrel Drey. This can have a positive impact on the Group as it can introduce new parents to Scouting and give them the opportunity to volunteer with the Group. It also opens up opportunities for parents to become involved with much needed support roles within the Groups too. Throughout the District we have Squirrel Dreys running on different days and at different times which gives flexibility to parents.

I have been to a few Groups to present Acorn Awards and have been bowled over to see such a diverse and interesting array of evenings and activities that the Squirrels have been part of. This is down to the ingenuity, guidance and imagination of the Squirrel Leaders who have put some amazing planning together. Without them our youngest Scouts would not be finding out and challenging themselves as

much as they are doing now. I would like to say a particular thank you to Kristy who has made me feel very welcome to her evenings but also for her support in all things Squirrels!

Georgina Brockhurst georgina.brockhurst@arrowscouts.org.uk

ADC Beaver Scouts and Squirrels

Youth-Shaped Scouting

Arrow District Youth Council

- Since we formed, the District has put on a Youth Council opened to all ages
- Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Network can come along to make decision that impacts how the district worked
- The Youth Council meets once a term, showcasing the very best of Scouting and empowering our young people
- The structure is a series of team building activities, allowing young people to participate in feedback sessions and decide what they want from the District in the future
- We rotate the location and weekday to ensure it is open to all
- The Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs session is from 6pm – 6:55pm
- The Scouts, Explorers and Network session is from 7pm – 7:55pm.

How can we help you run Section Youth Forums?

- A good start is to get the young people to plan the programme for the term
- Create a game based around decision making
- Name it something fun – Beaver Log Chews, Wolf Cub Gatherings, Scout Troop Action Team, Explorer Adventure Planning
- Did you know? Holding section forums is a key part of the personal challenge badge requirement for Chief Scout Awards

James Elliott – james.elliott@arrowscouts.org.uk

Deputy District Commissioner for Youth Engagement

Interim Assistant District Commissioner for Scouts

ARROW SCOUT DISTRICT SUPPORT

Programme and Events Team

Arrow District Camp got off to a flying start early in the year when our team took on the challenge of arranging craft activities for all sections. As the event fell on the weekend closest to St. George's Day and to some extent replaced our regular parades, it was fitting that the theme should be the story of St. George. The Squirrels enjoyed colouring the cartoon pictures of the saint and the dragon; the Beavers had a great time creating mini dragons and other beasts from masses of small boxes and lolly sticks which were stuck together to make a fearsome collection of creatures. The Scouts produced banners for their troops to carry in the grand parade around the campsite and the Explorer Scouts made an incredible evil giant dragon, which was carried at the front of the parade and duly slain by St. George.

We assisted the registration and checking procedure at the start of the Mustard Trophy Night Hike Competition.

In the run up to Christmas we prepared a Christmas story activity where the Squirrels and Beavers were given an assortment of suitable Christmas cards and were asked to write a story using the cards (or parts of them) for illustrations. The completed stories were laminated and turned into books, which were then taken to Southampton General Hospital, Ronald Macdonald House and Naomi House for distribution on behalf of Arrow District to those children who would be in hospital over the Christmas period and were too poorly to enjoy Christmas at home. The books were really appreciated by the hospitals and the children's parents, who had no idea that Scouting was involved in this type of activity. It was quite an eye-opener for some, and it certainly helped to raise the image of Scouting. For the youngsters involved in the project, it qualified them for a possible total of four badges! The feedback we have had from Hampshire Scouts in Hospitals has been very encouraging and we have been asked whether we could supply the hospitals with an even greater number of books next Christmas! (We have already prepared a large number of cards in readiness.) This is not restricted to the Squirrels and Beavers. We would love the Cubs and Scouts to help as well, and it would be great if you all could work this into your programmes. If you would like more information, please contact the District Support Team.

Lastly, we also formed part of the judging panel for the Scrapheap Challenge Competition.

It has been a very quiet year for us – normally we are much busier. This is partly due to at least two District events having been cancelled and we were stood down, but there are still communication difficulties since the merger of the Districts and we feel that Groups do not fully realise the help that is available.

Judith V. James

Spam-n-Roll Team

The Spam-n-Roll team is a team of volunteers who come together to provide refreshment support to District events. The team has supported several recent events including the District Conference and the Recruitment Workshop. From a cup of tea or coffee to a full buffet lunch, nothing is too much of a challenge. This friendly team is led by ex-Army chef Brian O'Neill who would welcome anyone wanting to help out and join the team.

Brian O'Neill brian@4theastleigh.co.uk

Rock-n-Roll Team

In 2023 Rock n Roll were fortunate enough to raise funding to replace the very ageing fleet of kayaks with 20 new boats, this will enable us to get more young people out on the water and have kayaks that are fit for purpose. We thank all of the funders that assisted us with meeting our target. In this year we also purchased archery equipment ready for the 2024 season. In 2023 we helped 9 Groups plus many Explorer Units across Arrow District get active and take part in adventurous activities. We estimate that we had over 500 young people through our activities in 2023, ranging from Squirrels right through to Explorers. We even got a couple of local councillors out on the water and up a climbing tower. Through the year our team helped support Target Camp, Eastleigh Pride, The Mustard Trophy and other events and we want to thank all of our Instructors and Supporters for their hard work and time through 2023 and look forward to many more adventures in 2024 and beyond.

Phil Harding phil.harding@arrowscouts.org.uk

Arrow District Training Report Jan – Dec 2023

Training continues throughout the District, sometimes easily, sometimes as a challenge!

Safety and Safeguarding and First Response being the priority to ensure the Leaders are up to date with this mandatory training.

We know what training is required at present; what training looks like in the future has yet to be decided. So, we know changes will be taking place soon, but in what format, we will just have to wait and see.

Throughout the past year 23 Wood badges have been awarded so well done to those who have achieved this. I am sure the youngsters in their care will appreciate the training their Leader has completed.

A big thank you to the 11 Training Advisers that are working with the new Leaders to get Woodbadge training completed. It's not an easy job, but they get there in the end.

If you need any help and support with your training, please contact us.

Margaret Patrick margaret.patrick@arrowscouts.org.uk

County Local Training Manager

The District Appointments Advisory Committee (AAC)

The committee is appointed by the Arrow District Board of Trustees to assist with the process of appointing adults in Scouting. Primarily in place to 'welcome' new volunteers it also has other responsibilities, for example there may be a need to meet an existing volunteer who has changed or takes on an additional role(s). Three people drawn from the AAC form a Welcome Meeting with a new volunteer. The purpose of these informal conversations is to ensure the applicant is aware of and accepts the Scouts values and policies, understands the requirements of their role and are able to carry them out. Under current guidelines they should take no more than 15 minutes unless there is a particular need. Changing the way, we welcome new volunteers.

The First Year of Arrow District Welcome Meetings. It is important to appreciate and thank volunteers whether they have one week, one month or several years' service, to this end and as this document is being prepared for the AGM, I want to thank the following who are the members of the AAC and so warmly supported the meetings, often stepping in at very short notice.

Bob Clark, Tricia Cherrett, Ralph Bateman, Ian Greig, Ian Patrick, James Elliott and Matthew Warren.

Duties of the District Appointments Secretary and AAC members.

We have responsibility for ensuring Enhanced Disclosures are progressed in relation to new volunteers and calling for references. These are areas that occupy a great deal of our time. It is only the secretary that can mark up a volunteer with AAC approval and references satisfactory or otherwise.

We don't have any statistics for the number of new volunteers we have met during the last 14 months, GDPR prevents us retaining this information and there is no search function on Compass, suffice to say we have tried to hold at least one meeting per month. Obviously, this hasn't always been possible, but we tend to meet 3 – 5 new volunteers per 2 hour session. As mentioned the aim is to keep the conversations down to 15 minutes, although as you know Scout Leaders love to chat, share experiences and ideas. Meetings are generally held in the evenings but have included a few Saturday afternoons. We are even currently trying to arrange a lunchtime meeting close to a volunteer's place of work. Thank you for reading and here is to another year of Arrow District Scouts successes.

Jeff & Claire Deacon Jointly - District Appointments Secretaries

Badge Secretary Report

Within Arrow District my best customers were 13th Eastleigh. What follows is applicable to the whole of the district.

Our new (ish) section – Squirrels – have had all challenge badges awarded with “All Around” being the most numerous. Our Squirrels like to “Go Wild”; this is the most awarded activity badge.

All Beaver Scout challenge badges have been awarded with the “Skills Challenge” being the most awarded. All the activity badges have been awarded too, but “Builder” is the most numerous although “Experiment” and “Communicator” are also popular.

Arrow Cub Scouts like adventure as the number of challenge badges awarded shows. All activity badges have been awarded with the exception of local knowledge. They like their physical recreation and communicating.

The Scout section has managed to achieve all challenge badges and also a range of activity badges.

As a District, “Nights away” and “Hikes away” at many stages, continue to be popular. “Air Activities 1” and “Emergency Aid 1” are both numerous. We have musicians gaining badges too.

The system whereby Group treasurers pay direct to the District by bank transfer works well. It saves me trips to the bank to pay in money and Scouters do not need to come with cash. All I would ask is that treasurers pay promptly, then it is more likely that I can see the transaction in the District account and send out a receipted invoice. Also, the treasurer is less likely to have a queried payment e-mail from me when they have actually paid.

Scouters you do NOT need to stockpile badges. I have a good supply here. Everything for Squirrels Beavers and Cubs, all Scout challenge badges and most staged badges. Even if you do not have them (or enough) it doesn't take long to get them. If HQ decides to change the design, you will be left with badges you cannot use. Let District cope with that!!

Many thanks to Ian McIlroy who is the “gofer” for badges for old C/F district, and to John Howell for computer help and deputising when necessary

Margaret Howell. Badge secretary

GOOD SERVICE AWARDS

(from Bear Grylls, Chief Scout)

For many years The Scout Association has had a scheme providing formal recognition of good adult service. It also recognises special acts of bravery, courage and endurance for young people and adults alike who are involved in the Movement.

There is no mystery in the way our awards scheme works. It is governed by rules laid down in POR which are administered by the Awards Board at Gilwell. Applications are made through District and County to the Board, whose members are charged with maintaining consistent standards across the UK.

Most adult Leaders look for and expect no reward, but a timely word of thanks in the right direction can work wonders in terms of morale and motivation. To make that occasional “thank you” even more special, I would ask you to give serious consideration to making an application for an award for those Members and Associate Members who, over a period of time, you find yourself thanking more frequently.

Arrow District.

As we look back on our first year as Arrow District, I thought it appropriate, like the DC and others, to reflect here on the quality and service our leader team has provided for our young people across all the ages we serve.

On behalf of the Awards Team at Gilwell, I have been pleased to award the following Long Service Awards in recognition of their service and dedication to the movement, and in particular to Arrow District:

50 years LONG SERVICE AWARD

Ian Greig Adviser Arrow District

Ian Patrick GSL 7th Eastleigh

Jill Robertson Grp Exec 8th Eastleigh

40 years LONG SERVICE AWARD

Teresa Jacobs Grp Sec 1st Eastleigh

Peter Darbyshire DoE Arrow District

Marilyn Carreras ACSL 8th Eastleigh

Dick Whittington GSL 4th Eastleigh

Tony Cole CSL 14th Eastleigh

25 years LONG SERVICE AWARD

Judith James ASU Chandlers Ford

Cecily Casey SAS Chandlers Ford

Daniel Nowell SL 15th Chandlers Ford

A Further 55 LSAs (for service between 5yrs & 20yrs) were awarded to other leaders
(21 of which were trustees and non-uniform members).

THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATION FOR GOOD SERVICE

This is the District Commissioners personal award and was presented to 10 leaders and young people across the District to mark their own personal achievement for the benefit of their peers.

National Roll of Honour

Each year at St. Georges Day, Gilwell publishes its National Roll of Honour, listing all those members who have given exceptional service over and above their normal role.

The full Roll of Honour is attached here for your information.

(It's 98 pages long, a good bedtime read).

<https://prod-umbraco-core.azurewebsites.net/media/iqju40j/2024-roll-of-honour-updated-060324.pdf>

It has been my great pleasure to present the following awards on behalf of the Chief Scout, for their continued and dedicated service of a most exceptional nature.

THE SILVER ACORN

John Leeks DC Chandlers Ford District

BAR TO THE AWARD OF MERIT

Tom Massey DESC Eastleigh District

Julie Spillar BSL 3rd Chandlers Ford

Iain Cox ASL 7th Eastleigh

Rob Whittington DESC Arrow District

Greg Walker AGSL 14th Eastleigh

Judith James SAS Arrow District

THE AWARD OF MERIT

Bob Kane AGSL 13th Eastleigh Sea Scouts

Kate Harding ABSL 4th Eastleigh Beavers

Patricia Cherrett ACSL 1st Chandlers Ford

Colin Brown ESL Arrow District

Angela Young ABSL 3rd Chandlers Ford

James Battle ESL Arrow District

James Hill ASL 4th Chandlers Ford

Emma Watts ASL 11th Eastleigh

Stephen Gilbert ASL 4th Chandlers Ford

Peter Turner TA 3rd Chandlers Ford

ARROW DISTRICT

Anyone in Arrow District can nominate an adult member of our Movement for a Good Service Award.

Arrow District has an established, District Awards Advisory Panel, made up of experienced leaders and others from across the entire District. Their role is to give advice on completing applications, and also facilitate their passage through the County Team to the Awards Board at Gilwell. If you think you have a deserving Leader or Supporter in your Group, why not contact the Arrow Award Advisory Group (AAAG) in complete confidence, to have a chat about it. The AAAG exists to help you get an appropriate recognition for each and every one of your leaders, at an appropriate time in their scouting career.

For lots more information on Awards and how to access them, take a look at our website. www.arrowscouts.org.uk or why not call the DC or AAAG now, for help or just for more local information.

Malcolm Young malcolm.young@arrowscouts.org.uk

Adult Recognition & Award Co-ordinator, Arrow District Awards Advisor

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Arrow District Scout Council for the year ended 31 January 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Arrow 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 Arrow 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.

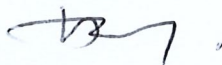
Independent examiner's statement

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 Arrow District Scout Council as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



Name: Mrs L A Parry, ACA
ICAEW

Address: Langdowns DFK
Fleming Court
Leigh Road
Eastleigh
Southampton, SO50 9PD

Date: 27 November 2024

Arrow Scout District: Charity No. 1204052

Statement of Income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Subscriptions & Donations			
Membership Subscriptions	77,844.00		77,844.00
Less Paid on to County	63,804.00		63,804.00
Net subscriptions retained	14,040.00	0.00	14,040.00
Donations	72.00		72.00
Sub-Total	14,112.00	0.00	14,112.00
Explorer Income			
Membership Subscriptions		11,722.30	11,722.30
Less Paid on to District		8,064.00	8,064.00
Net subscriptions retained	0.00	3,658.30	3,658.30
Gift Aid			0.00
D of E		2,270.00	2,270.00
Operational Programme		13,324.74	13,324.74
Sub-Total	0.00	19,253.04	19,253.04
Investment Income			
Bank Interest			
Sub-Total	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants			
Equipment Grants	2,500.00	3,605.06	6,105.06
County Merger Funding		2,339.17	2,339.17
Sub-Total	2,500.00	5,944.23	8,444.23
Receipts for Events			
Target Camp	9,192.50		9,192.50
District Conference	75.97		75.97
Kandersteg 2024		52,350.59	52,350.59
Sub-Total	9,268.47	52,350.59	61,619.06
Scout Shop Income			
Scout Shop Sales	26,618.68		26,618.68
Sub-Total	26,618.68	0.00	26,618.68
Other Income			
Badge Sales Income	8,591.82		8,591.82
Cranbury Park Income	5,503.71		5,503.71
District Activity Income (Mustard Trophy)	70.00		70.00
Growth & Development	150.00		150.00
Rock n Roll Activity Income	860.00		860.00
Volunteer Training	450.00		450.00
Sub-Total	15,625.53	0.00	15,625.53
Total Gross Income	68,124.68	77,547.86	145,672.54

Arrow Scout District: Charity No. 1204052

Statement of Expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Rent			
District Storage	3,020.91		3,020.91
Meeting Venue Hire	876.89		876.89
Sub-Total	3,897.80	0.00	3,897.80
Explorer Expenditure			
D of E		2,483.83	2,483.83
Operational Programme		20,068.61	20,068.61
Equipment		724.89	724.89
Partnership Agreements		316.00	316.00
Sub-Total	0.00	23,593.33	23,593.33
Grants & Funding Expenditure			
International Grants	3,960.00		3,960.00
Hardship Funding	325.00		325.00
Sub-Total	4,285.00	0.00	4,285.00
Expenditure on Events			
Target Camp	7,597.88		7,597.88
Kandersteg 2024		9,825.25	9,825.25
Christingle Service	42.60		42.60
District AGM	285.00		285.00
District Conference	590.89		590.89
Sub-Total	8,516.37	9,825.25	18,341.62
Scout Shop Expenditure			
Scout Shop Stock Purchases	19,799.60		19,799.60
Scout Shop Running Costs	947.67		947.67
Scout Shop Group Rebates	2,480.00		2,480.00
Sub-Total	23,227.27	0.00	23,227.27
Other Costs			
Activity Equipment	9,676.43	3,605.06	13,281.49
Admin Costs	624.77		624.77
Cost of Badge Sales	8,134.14		8,134.14
Bank Charges	770.48		770.48
Cranbury Park Expenditure	3,880.79		3,880.79
District Activity Expenditure	789.44		789.44
Growth & Development	1,920.60		1,920.60
Insurance	2,857.10		2,857.10
Licenses	901.85		901.85
Merger Costs	92.94	2,339.17	2,432.11
Rock n Roll Activities	470.00		470.00
Volunteer Training	1,486.12		1,486.12
Uniform	380.45		380.45
Website	120.00		120.00
Sub-Total	32,105.11	5,944.23	38,049.34
Total Gross Expenditure	72,031.55	39,362.81	111,394.36

Arrow Scout District: Charity No. 1204052

Statement of Receipts & Payments (Summary)

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Subscriptions & Donations	14,112.00	0.00	14,112.00
Explorer Income	0.00	19,253.04	19,253.04
Investment Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants	2,500.00	5,944.23	8,444.23
Receipts for Events	9,268.47	52,350.59	61,619.06
Scout Shop Income	26,618.68	0.00	26,618.68
Other Income	15,625.53	0.00	15,625.53
Total Gross Income	68,124.68	77,547.86	145,672.54
Rent	3,897.80	0.00	3,897.80
Explorer Expenditure	0.00	23,593.33	23,593.33
Grants & Funding Expenditure	4,285.00	0.00	4,285.00
Scout Shop Expenditure	23,227.27	0.00	23,227.27
Expenditure on Activities	8,516.37	9,825.25	18,341.62
Other Costs	32,105.11	5,944.23	38,049.34
Total Gross Expenditure	72,031.55	39,362.81	111,394.36
Net Income	-3,906.87	38,185.05	34,278.18
Cash Balance introduced from Chandlers Ford District	36,997.60	5,411.75	42,409.35
Cash Balance introduced from Eastleigh District	49,849.13	8,500.60	58,349.73
Balance of Cash Funds at 31/01/24	82,939.86	52,097.40	135,037.26

Arrow Scout District: Charity No. 1204052

Statement of Assets & Current Liabilities at 31/01/24

Cash Funds	2023/24
Arrow District Lloyds Current Account	£ 46,167.22
Arrow District Lloyds Deposit Account	£ 30,000.00
Cranbury Park Campsite Account	£ 13,863.74
Expense Card Account	£ 19,878.88
Rock n Roll Account	£ 5,029.47
Scout Shop Account	£ 19,061.60
Chandlers Ford District Scorpion Explorer Account	£ 1,036.35
Total Cash Funds	£ 135,037.26

Restricted & Designated Funds	2023/24
Certain Funds are treated as restricted if they are allocated for a specific purpose	
Designated Funds	
Campsite Garage Fund (Target £5.5k)	£ 5,500.00
Campsite Septic Tank Fund (Target £10k)	£ 4,000.00
Target Camp Balance	£ 1,594.62

Restricted Funds	
Explorer Funds	£ 9,572.06
Kandersteg 24	£ 42,525.34
Total Restricted & Allocated Funds	£ 63,192.02
Available Cash Funds	£ 71,845.24

Non Monetary Assets	
District Equipment	£ 14,006.38
Scout Shop Stock	£ 21,592.40
Badge Stock	£ 4,310.49
	£ 39,909.27

<u>Explorer Cash Balance</u>	
Explorer cash balance introduced from Chandlers Ford	£ 5,411.75
Explorer cash balance introduced from Eastleigh	£ 8,500.60
Explorer Total Income	£ 19,253.04
Explorer Total Expenditure	£ 23,593.33
Explorer Closing Balance	£ 9,572.06

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees Board on 15th April 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Signed: 

Name: Matt Taylor (Treasurer)

Signed: 

Name: David (Dick) Whittington