

SITTINGBOURNE, MILTON AND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales · Charity number 273173

Details

Other names	SITTINGBOURNE, MILTON AND DISTRICT SCOUT ASSOCIATION
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1977-04-18
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	36 Borden Lane Sittingbourne ME10 1DB
Phone	07786437026
Email	dc@sittingbournescouts.org.uk
Website	www.sittingbournescouts.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE INSTRUCTION OF BOYS OF ALL CLASSES IN THE PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLINE, LOYALTY AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

Activities: The charities aim is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and internation communities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON AND DISTRICT
- Kent

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£116,348	£72,043	-	-
2024-03-31	£22,414	£35,647	-	-
2023-03-31	£46,617	£50,148	-	-
2022-03-31	£44,548	£29,940	-	-
2021-03-31	£6,326	£18,238	-	-

Trustees

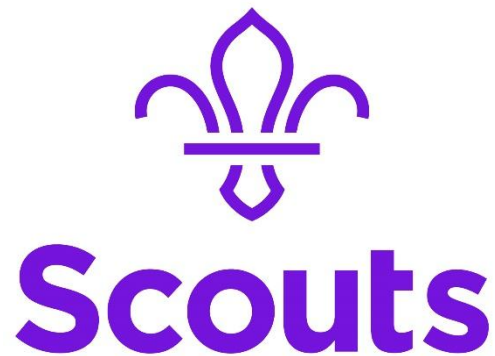
Name	Role	Appointed
Jonathan Foot	Chair	2016-05-18
Chris Till		2017-09-20
Debbie Maloney		
LINDA CURSON		2012-10-17
PAUL DICKENS		
Steve Coulter		2016-05-18
Stuart Turk		2015-05-20
Tom Manktelow		2024-04-20
Tracey Swift		2023-09-26

SITTINGBOURNE, MILTON AND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 273173

Accounts

SITTINGBOURNE, MILTON AND DISTRICT
SCOUT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

For Period September 2024 to September 2025

President: *Position Vacant*

Vice Presidents: *Position Vacant*

District Chair: Jon Foot

District Lead Volunteer: Tom Manktelow

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We aim to promote the progressive development of young people in Sittingbourne, Milton and District and help them to make the most out of life, by providing them with opportunities to participate in an attractive and enjoyable programme appropriately and locally delivered by an effective and fulfilled Leadership.

Contents

District Lead Volunteer Annual District Report 2025	3
Chair's Report 2025.....	5
District Treasurer's Annual Report 2025	6
Bexon Lane Campsite and District Headquarters 2025.....	7
Awards Committee Annual Report 2025	8
14-25 Section Annual Report 2025	9

District Lead Volunteer Annual District Report 2025

Wow – what a year it has been for Sittingbourne, Milton and District! A year full of ups, downs, and change.

This year, our District plan has continued to focus on our three key pillars: **DEVELOP, GROW, and SUSTAIN.**

DEVELOP

Campsite development, led by Paul, has gone from strength to strength, renewing activities and facilities and creating more opportunities for young people. This year saw the addition of a tomahawk range, an updated archery range, and the installation of floodlights, enabling activities to run 365 days a year. We have also invested in frisbee golf and acquired a new two-seater go-kart.

Looking ahead, 2026 will bring the renewal of the climbing barn, including the bouldering wall, along with key developments to maintain site safety. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our phenomenal campsite crew, who work tirelessly to ensure young people have access to such a fantastic space.

The development of young people has also been supported through a strengthened programme team.

- **Beavers** enjoyed a beach visit, a District sleepover, and “Beavers Take Over” at Lower Grange Farm, with another event already planned.
- **Cubs** visited the local panto, took part in their annual Cub Camp (with all groups represented – a fantastic achievement, breaking silos and uniting Cubs across the District), and will soon enjoy a sleepover at SOAR.
- **Scouts** braved a cold and wet pioneering camp in November, with over 120 young people building all kinds of structures – including a working Ferris wheel! They also ran a survival camp, where young people built shelters and learned skills such as skinning and butchering a deer.

Across the District, we also marked Founder’s Day, St George’s Day, and are preparing for the Festival of Light, Remembrance Day Parade, and District Panto.

Our top awards success continues to grow, with the District achieving record numbers of Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards. The **14-25 team** have raised their game yet again, providing opportunities for many young people to secure their Young Leader Belt, Platinum and Diamond awards, and one young person even achieving the King’s Scout Award. The **DofE team** has done an amazing job guiding young people through Bronze and Silver, with several expected to complete Gold shortly.

Over the year, **132 members from Sittingbourne, Milton and District attended KIJ**, representing eight groups or units. The Network team also successfully ran the Grasslands campsite – many visitors will remember the sea of orange, thanks to Beth’s leadership! Altogether, members of the District spent **14,872 nights away** this year – equivalent to 40 years!

GROW

According to the 2024 Census, the District grew by 20 young people. We also opened a new Squirrel Drey, bringing the total to four, with work already underway to open another this year.

The number of Adventurous Activity Permits and competencies increased by six, giving even more young people the chance to take part in exciting activities. All groups continue to operate in a stable and sustainable way.

SUSTAIN

We remain committed to reducing the District's CO₂ footprint from our activities and operations. A major step forward was the recent installation of solar panels at Bexon Lane, which, at the time of writing, have already offset 1,452kg of CO₂ – the equivalent of three return flights to New York.

This was made possible through the DEFRA Generation Green Grant, which also provided knock-on benefits for many groups across the District.

None of these achievements would have been possible without our incredible volunteers – those supporting groups, the District, and the campsite crew. A huge thank you to each and every one of you.

It has been a pleasure to see the District and its young people grow and develop this year, and I am excited to see what 2026 brings.

Tom Manktelow ~ District Lead Volunteer

Chair's Report 2025

This past year has been particularly full of exciting activities and enriching opportunities for our young people to come and spend time engaging with their peers, spending time in the local community and further afield, and learning and developing life skills. These experiences are only possible thanks to the incredible dedication of our volunteers, who generously give their time to plan and deliver these programmes. From leaders and assistant leaders to trustee board members and parent helpers, every adult plays a vital role.

This year has also been our DLV Tom's first full year. He has filled it with projects and activities throughout the District and has been particularly successful at accessing external funding and grants to assist with District camps and activities, and also improvements to Bexon Lane. These improvements include providing a range of construction materials, along with electrical updates including more efficient heating and a large solar panel and battery system on the roof of Bexon Lane hall to help reduce our utility bills.

We remain incredibly lucky to have our beautiful campsite which continues to be maintained and supported by our committed team to whom we remain extremely thankful.

Progress has also been made on protecting our campsite from the nearby potential housing development, with the impending risk of construction works impacting Bexon Lane hopefully now averted.

The year hasn't been without its difficulties, with a situation arising during the summer that has been very damaging to the District, deeply affecting a number of people some of whom are no longer with the organisation. As chair, I want to pay tribute to all involved, acknowledging the deep impact it has had on their personal lives, families and in some cases professional lives. Scouting is fundamentally based on volunteering and the benefit to all of the giving of time and skills for love and nothing more. For this situation to have so negatively impacted all involved is so very tragic, and I look forward to working with County and HQ to understand how such a situation will be prevented from happening again.

Lastly, a large contingent from the District attended the nearby Kent International Jamboree, both as attending groups and also as a sub-camp team with responsibility for around 1,500 campers. I can attest first hand to the huge amount of effort and commitment everyone gave at group and sub-camp team level, that made KIJ the huge success it was. And it reminded me just what Scouting is all about and why all of us must do all we can to protect and maintain the fragile, precious and vital organisation that it is.

Yours together in Scouting

Jon Foot ~ District Chair

District Treasurer's Annual Report 2025

The financial year ending March 2025 proved to be much better financially than the year before. This was due to additional income generated through the Scout HQ Defra Grant plus a couple of legacies and a Local Councilor grant.

The Defra grant enabled both our Scout Groups and Bexon Lane to generate much needed funds. The grant's purpose is to support Groups with camps and residential experiences. The District benefitted due to capital income as part of the grant. The District will use this grant in the next financial year, to install solar panels on Carey House, Bexon Lane, so that we can try to reduce our electricity bills. With this grant, the District were able to put on some really good section camps. A big thanks to Tom Manktelow who found this grant and managed it with HQ.

Bexon Lane for the first time turned a small profit of £2,932 - this is through the Defra Grant plus careful management of the expenditure and utilities - especially the cess pit.

This year our independent scrutineer, Kevin Funnell has finally been able to retire. Kevin has been supporting us for many years as Chairperson between 2002-2008 and then our scrutineer. I would like to extend our thanks to Kevin for all of the support he has given us. Claire Knight has come forward, and worked with Kevin this year end so that a handover can be done, and Claire will work with us going forward.

Tracey Swift ~ District Treasurer

Bexon Lane Campsite and District Headquarters 2025

As always, the team have been very busy in 2025 with general maintenance and repair around the site. But it's been an odd year as we also had KIJ25. Several crew members supported Beth, Angela and James at KIJ and everyone got involved with the preparation ...Unfortunately this took up more crew time than we had hoped, but the extremely positive feedback "Grasslands" sub camp received demonstrates that Sittingbourne, Milton and District, again showed County the way.

Spending prep time on KIJ of course meant that some maintenance and project work did not get completed. The dry weather also played its part and by the end of the summer the site was looking a little shabby in places. Some of this "Shabbiness" however, was not weather related, but down to a lack of respect, thought and care from some users both external and within District.

Financially Bexon Lane has benefitted from some generous grants and donations and a couple of bequests from wills. These have enabled investment in solar power; this has reduced our summer electricity costs substantially. To further reduce our electricity use we are currently investigating LED lighting and a change to the hall heating and water heating. This however is expensive but is supported by a local council grant. Our mandatory electrical testing revealed some issues. These again need a quick resolution. We did manage to get some tools from Wickes and the Rotary club, but suffered the theft of the tractor Auger. This has held up a project while the insurance and replacement are sorted out.

In the summer a family event was held in the big marquee which was then left up ...this shelter from both sun and rain proved popular but suffered as its not designed to be up for any duration ...After a casual conversation at KIJ, with Tunbridge Wells District, we now have a more permanent marquee, for FREE! This will be left in position for as long as the roof lasts ...We would then aim to replace with a permanent roof ...Again this needs to be respected by all users.

The Explorer area is nearly complete and worth a look. Barn with log stove, new paved area and an undercover area. Somewhere to call their own. The Axe range is complete and appears popular. Many of the projects we tried to do will have to roll into 2026; the climbing barn, the shooting range, the obstacle course needs work and many more besides ...we will be prioritising and planning for 2026 in the next couple of weeks. We will try to be more realistic next year and focus on completing a couple of projects along with general maintenance tasks. If you think we are focusing on the wrong thing, please let me know ...Likewise if it's the right thing we would also like to know.

As always, I must thank the campsite crew for all the effort they put in, always with enthusiasm regardless of the weather.

Paul Dickens ~ Campsite Warden

Remember crew days are 2nd and 4th Sundays from 9am

What an amazing year we have had. Plenty of young people gaining their top awards and attending our annual event. It is the same with adults. It is good to see so many achieving so much. Well done to all.

The challenges we have faced this year have been from the new system making our work difficult with the long delays in replies from HQ. Many awards have been delayed. Please do be patient.

We have responded to all recommendations and advised the DLV accordingly. Doesn't always mean they are successful, but will be considered. There is a criterion!

We are up to date and have logged all those who have had awards or are to receive awards up to the end of September.

Please let us know when your young people achieve their awards by filling in the link <https://forms.office.com/e/MkHv6eimbR> so we can invite them to the celebrations. Why not put the link on your OSM dashboard for each section. That way your leaders can notify us promptly.

This all cannot be done without the help of all you amazing volunteers giving the young people a great scouting experience.

Thank you to the team for all their efforts in getting everything in place and organizing for the awards event.

The next celebrations will happen next year – dates to be confirmed soon.

Linda Curson, Joan Pantony & Frank Pantony ~ Local Awards Advisory Group

(email awards@sittingbournescouts.org.uk)

14-25 Section Annual Report 2025

The year 2025 has been a busy, engaging, and rewarding one for our Explorer Scout and Network sections, with each term bringing fresh activities, new achievements, and continued growth. Across the year, both the Phoenix and Dragons Explorer Scout Units have remained at the heart of our programme, while the Network section has developed its own rhythm of social and structured opportunities. Together, they reflect the strength of our District's commitment to youth-led scouting.

Explorers

The Phoenix and Dragons Explorer Scout Units have both enjoyed an active and productive year. From the outset, young people have continued to take ownership of their own programmes, leading meetings, choosing activities, and supporting one another in developing new skills. In the early part of the year, both groups created lively and enjoyable sessions that carried them through into spring, while also looking ahead with enthusiasm to the Kent International Jamboree (KIJ) later in the year.

Phoenix Explorers spent their time immersed in activities such as tomahawk throwing, frisbee golf, fire challenge boxes, and progress towards the Challenger badge. Meanwhile, Dragons Explorers developed skills through cooking student-style meals, enjoyed the creativity of painting, took part in team games such as rounders, and Hunted. Both groups made the most of the variety available to them, with every term offering something fresh and engaging.

The units have remained close to full capacity throughout the year, reflecting the popularity of the section. While the aging out of older Explorers has eased pressure slightly, demand remains strong enough that an additional Explorer unit could still be of benefit. However, such expansion would require further adult volunteer support to ensure it could be delivered sustainably.

Network

The Network section has also had a successful year, seeing a strong rise in attendance earlier in the year with the introduction of a simple but effective social programme. The monthly "trip-to-the-pub" initiative encouraged regular attendance, built camaraderie among members, and created a structure that many could rely on.

Over the summer months, the pace of Network's programme slowed somewhat, as members' personal commitments reduced the time they could dedicate to meetings. However, this has not dampened enthusiasm, and the intention is to pick up momentum again as the year closes. A review of membership early in the year reduced numbers from 47 to 26, ensuring that all remaining members are active and engaged. This step has strengthened the group by focusing on those who are genuinely committed, providing a better foundation for future programme planning. Firelighting, Laser tag, Ninja and a camp are in the plans for the future.

Awards and Achievements

The achievements of young people across both Explorers and Network have been particularly impressive. Several members earned top awards this year, including the Chief Scout's Platinum Award, the Chief Scout's Diamond Award, and the Young Leader Award. Each of these recognises not only individual effort but also the supportive environment in which these young people are encouraged to thrive.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme has also gone from strength to strength. Thanks to careful planning and delivery by the DofE team, participants have had access to a well-structured and enriching programme. This has offered Explorers and Network members alike the chance to

challenge themselves, work towards meaningful goals, and build skills that will serve them both within and beyond scouting.

Membership and Capacity

Membership across both sections has remained healthy throughout 2025. As noted, Explorer groups continue to be full, and the natural turnover of young people moving on has helped balance capacity slightly. However, interest remains high, and demand for another Explorer unit persists. The challenge continues to be finding and supporting new adult volunteers to make this expansion possible.

For Network, the membership review earlier in the year has brought greater clarity to the group's identity. With 26 active members, the section is now better positioned to deliver relevant and appealing activities. The combination of social meetups and more structured plans has created a balanced programme that caters to a range of interests and availability.

Financial Status

Financially, the year has been steady and positive for both Phoenix and Dragons. Early in the year, both units agreed to establish a shared fund that could be used for joint expenses, such as equipment and the refurbishment of facilities, including the Explorer barn. This collaborative approach has ensured that resources are used effectively for the benefit of all.

Thanks to the support of Ann Hodnett, Dragons' bank account has now been fully updated with correct signatories and online banking in place, ensuring smoother management. Phoenix are still in the process of setting up their account, but progress is being made. Overall, both units remain in a comfortable financial position and have the means to provide their members with engaging programmes and the equipment necessary to support them. With both groups within one combined account, the total amount for the account currently stands at £18,878.20.

Facilities Improvements

Significant attention has been given to facilities this year, with ongoing improvements to both the Explorer barn and the Network hut. The Explorer barn has been steadily transformed into a welcoming and functional space, thanks in large part to the tireless efforts of Paul and the wider crew. A new sheltered area has been built, allowing the barn to be used in all weathers, and James English has even taken pride in successfully growing fresh grass around the site. These developments have made the barn not only more practical but also a place young people and leaders alike are proud to use.

The Network hut, however, remains in need of substantial refurbishment. While improvements have been identified and plans are forming, major work will be required in the near future to bring it up to the same standard as the barn. This will be a priority moving forward into 2026.

Conclusion

In conclusion, 2025 has been a year of steady progress and significant achievement for both the Explorer Scout Units and the Network section. Membership has remained strong, finances have been well managed, and the young people involved have continued to demonstrate enthusiasm in everything they do. The dedication of leaders, volunteers, and supporters has been instrumental in making all of this possible. Looking forward, there is still work to do, particularly in expanding capacity and improving facilities, but the foundations laid this year give every reason for optimism about what 2026 will bring.

Bethan Foot ~ 14-25 Team Leader

Sittingbourne, Milton and District Scout Council
Annual Accounts
For the Year from April 2024 to March 2025

Accruals Accounts

Receipts	2024-2025			2023-2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Membership subscriptions	40,106.40	(5,834.90)	34,271.50	27,908.80
Less: Membership subscriptions paid to HQ/County	(34,426.50)	-	(34,426.50)	(31,440.00)
Net membership subscriptions retained.	5,679.90	(5,834.90)	(155.00)	(3,531.20)
Donations	407.13	26,585.00	26,992.13	250.00
Grants	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-
Section Activities	17,916.13	684.69	18,600.82	5,248.00
Badges	26.00	-	26.00	517.30
Other Income	34,210.77	-	34,210.77	5,152.60
WSJ 2023	-	-	-	2,367.68
Sub total	58,239.93	21,434.79	79,674.72	10,004.38
Grants				
Maintenance Grant	-	-	-	-
Other Grants	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Fundraising (gross)				
Detail 1	-	-	-	-
Detail 2	-	-	-	-
Detail 3	-	-	-	-
MISC Income	-	-	-	-
Other fundraising activities	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Headquarters				
Property rent (Camp fees/Hall hire)	13,699.34	4,574.40	18,273.74	11,003.72
Activities hire	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	1,405.64
MISC Income	-	16,400.00	16,400.00	-
Sub total	15,699.34	20,974.40	36,673.74	12,409.36
Investment income				
Bank interest	-	-	-	-
Other investment income	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	73,939.27	42,409.19	116,348.46	22,413.74

Sittingbourne, Milton and District Scout Council

Annual Accounts

For the Year from April 2024 to March 2025

Accruals Accounts

Payments	2024-2025			2023-2024
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Charitable Payments				
Youth Programme and activities	19,350.77	3,282.39	22,633.16	5,142.62
Adult support and training	127.50		127.50	1,742.48
Badge expenses	427.80		427.80	1,106.80
Admin costs	552.00		552.00	83.19
Donations	3,500.00	(3,500.00)	-	-
Bank charges	209.97		209.97	248.99
Hospitality	504.49		504.49	382.03
Cards	-		-	1,002.27
General expenses	-		-	416.00
Computer and software	1,779.80		1,779.80	2,522.35
Contribution to Headquarters	1,200.00		1,200.00	1,126.60
Defra Grant expenditure	31,440.00		31,440.00	-
WSJ 2023	-		-	2,931.48
Reconnect	-		-	-
Sub total	59,092.33	(217.61)	58,874.72	16,704.81
Headquarters				
Sewage/Water	2,920.00		2,920.00	6,308.59
Utilities	3,018.82		3,018.82	3,674.65
Broadband	262.80		262.80	-
Insurance	1,800.48		1,800.48	1,897.42
Licences	538.90		538.90	508.26
Tractor Maintenance	557.97		557.97	365.59
Building/Grounds Maintenance	1,831.62		1,831.62	2,371.26
Health and Safety	-		-	1,452.75
Refuse	1,418.08		1,418.08	1,332.20
Cleaning	318.15		318.15	817.20
Activity Maintenance	100.19	400.82	501.01	214.72
COVID Recovery			-	-
COVID Costs			-	-
Special Project			-	-
Project 20X			-	-
Reserves			-	-
Sub total	12,767.01	400.82	13,167.83	18,942.64
Fundraising expenses				
Other Fundraising Costs	-	-	-	-
Sub total				
Total Expenditure	71,859.34	183.21	72,042.55	35,647.45
Net of receipts(payments)	2,079.93	42,225.98	44,305.91	(13,233.71)
Cash funds last year end	9,780.64	18,854.74	28,635.38	70,270.39
Less membership received in advance last year		-	-	(28,401.30)
Cash funds this year end	11,860.57	61,080.72	72,941.29	28,635.38

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Cash Funds

Bank current account (Unity)	112,855.41
Pocket Cards	107.81
	-
Total Cash Funds	112,963.22

Other monetary assets

Tax Claim	
Debtors	2,017.93
Pre-payments	-
Sub total	2,017.93

Investment assets

Investment property - detail	
Quoted investments	
Other investments - detail	
Sub total	-

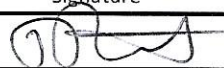

Non monetary assets for charity's own use

Badge stock	
Shop stock	
Other stock	
Land and Buildings	255,000.00
Motor Vehicles	15,000.00
Scouting equipment/furniture etc	78,372.00
Other	
Sub total	348,372.00

Liabilities

Lloyds Card	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	
Subscriptions not yet paid	42,329.85
Loan -detail	
Other Liabilities	-
Sub total	42,329.85

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 16th July 2024 and signed on their behalf by...

Signature	Print Name	
	J. FOOT	Chair
		Chair
	T. SWIFT	Treasurer

Notes to the accounts

Bank reconciliation

Cash in Bank	112,963.22
Year end cash funds	72,941.29
Membership fees in advance	42,329.85
Less cash owing to District	(6,209.65)
Less payments made in advance	(2,017.93)
Lloyds cards outstanding	-
Less money owing to creditors	5,919.66
Total	112,963.22

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Sittingbourne, Milton and District Scout Council

Registered Charity No: 273173

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Sittingbourne, Milton and District Scout Council for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Sittingbourne, Milton and 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 Sittingbourne, Milton and District Scout Council accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Sittingbourne, Milton and District Scout Council as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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:

Kevin Funnell

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

F.M.A.A.T.

Address:

10 Nutberry Close, Teynham, Kent ME9 9SP

Date:

12 July 2025

SITTINGBOURNE, MILTON AND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 273173

Accounts

SITTINGBOURNE, MILTON AND DISTRICT
SCOUT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

For Period September 2022 to September 2023

President: *Chris Appleby*
Vice Presidents: *Position Vacant*

District Chair: Nicola & Jon Foot
District Lead Volunteer: Angela Palmer

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We aim to promote the progressive development of young people in Sittingbourne, Milton and District and help them to make the most out of life, by providing them with opportunities to participate in an attractive and enjoyable programme appropriately and locally delivered by an effective and fulfilled Leadership.

Contents

District Lead Volunteer Annual Report 2022 - 2023	3
Chairperson's Report 2022 - 2023.....	4
District Treasurer's Annual Report 2022 - 2023.....	5
Bexon Lane Campsite and District Headquarters 2022 - 2023	6
Appointments Advisory Committee Annual Report 2022 - 2023.....	8
Awards Committee Annual Report 2022 - 2023.....	9
District Explorer Scout Commissioner's Annual Report 2022 - 2023.....	10
Dragon Explorer Scout Unit Annual Report 2022 - 2023	11
Phoenix Explorer Scout Unit Annual Report 2022 - 2023	13
Network Section Annual Report 2022 - 2023	14
Scout Active Support (SAS) Annual Report 2022 - 2023	15
District Youth Commissioners Annual Report 2022 - 2023	16

District Lead Volunteer Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Wow what a year we have had! There has been ups and downs, but as a District we have all pulled together to make sure the Young People get the best Scouting experience.

Starting with our lows; we suffered several attempted break-ins and damage to the site. Followed by a group having a van stolen. It was disappointing people steal from a charity, but with true resilience we bounced back.

Onto the positive highlights...

We have historically had low numbers for District Founders Day. This year we tried something different. Our Youth Commissioners planned and delivered the activity day and oh boy it was a massive success. We had to put in an extra order of badges, taking the attendance to just under 350 people. Massive thank you to Hanah and Skye. This in turn sees the team grow and we welcomed Gemma to the Youth Commissioner team.

Our St. George's celebration is growing bigger and bigger each year. Inviting parents and guardians to stay has helped with recruitment. This year we decided to hold a fate style theme which everyone really enjoyed. The crew team worked particularly hard to get our new obstacle course open for St. George's day. A big thank you to everyone who built the new course and especially Beth who spent many hours drawing the plans.

We have had District camps and activity days. Thank you for the District Programme Team for providing these opportunities. This year we did our first District Jott hike, which has gained the nickname of SHOTT. Each section had different starting points along the same route with the end point being the Campsite. All sections really enjoyed the day and plans are on way for next year.

Our District Carol service was headed up by Megan and she really made our Christmas service. With laughter and signing, it was an amazing night. Donations of toys and food going to the Salvation Army. This year we will be trying something different. Look out for next year's report to see what we would have done!

This year has seen the opening up of two more Squirrel sections taking us up to 3 units. What's next? Plans are on way for the redevelopment of our Explorer area. The Cub team are renovating the bug hotels and making a new sensory trail. The District Trustees are very proud to be part of the District and thank everyone involved in making Scouting happen.

Angela Palmer ~ District Lead Volunteer

Chairperson's Report 2022 - 2023

"Ohana means family. Family means no one gets left behind or forgotten". Taken from the Disney film Lilo And Stitch, but definitely defines what Sittingbourne, Milton and District Scouts have been achieving over the last year.

With the establishment and successful running of our sponsored group from Meadowfield school to the setting up of more Squirrel groups for younger members, as well as an additional Explorer unit and the ongoing Network group. We have new Youth Commissioners on the trustee team and a successful and engaging SAS group to support District events. We are offering programmes, activities, and experiences to the diverse and varied population of Sittingbourne and Milton and once again we applaud all those that make it happen - leaders, young leaders, the executive teams of the groups, the parent helpers, and the parents who support us and volunteer their time and energy, the crew and campsite team, and all those who are too many to mention.

Thank you to you all.

Nicola and Jon Foot ~ District "Team Chair"

District Treasurer's Annual Report 2022 - 2023

2022-2023 Financial year, showed a year of recovery after the Covid pandemic.

The accounts for 2021-2022 have been restated in order for us to show a comparison between the 2 financial years. This is because we have slightly changed the way our accounts are administered.

When looking at the District, it looks like we've had massive growth, but actually this is misleading as the District heavily subsidized the membership fees in March 2022. Although in March 2023, the membership fee was again subsidized, the Covid grant was used to top that up.

The District received reconnect grants from KCC and the grants were used to put on a District Reconnect event to help to build our numbers again.

Bexon Lane showed a huge increase in usage following the pandemic, and this is reflected in the income which for 2022-2023 was £13,386 against £2,753 in the previous year. A lot of work took place at Bexon Lane over the 2 years as shown in the accounts, with the new assault course being finalized and opened in April 2023.

The participants of the WSJ were very busy this year, and were able to raise enough funds to cover the cost of their places, and this summer they went to South Korea.

Overall, the District accounts show an in-year deficit of £3,530 which considering the amount of work that has happened in the District, is a good result.

Finally, I would just like to extend my thanks to Melissa, who I took over from during this financial year for leaving the accounts in a good position to ease the transition period.

Tracey Swift ~ District Treasurer

Bexon Lane Campsite and District Headquarters 2022 - 2023



As always, the team have been very busy in 2023 with general maintenance and repair around the site, but much bigger things have been happening too.

The obstacle course is now complete to the original plan, but it's likely to see adaptations and improvements as we go on. There is probably room for another couple of challenges. We have a free supply of woodchip now so we can maintain the safety layer.

All the feedback has been very positive about this area, so thanks to all involved.

The installation of the new CCTV and alarm system is also complete, thanks to Deans efforts. The picture quality and view area are much improved. The alarm system allows remote deactivation and setting of the alarm as required. It would be worth looking at extending the system to cover the climbing wall area and the Explorer barn area in the future. We did have a break in to the store by the climbing wall but the cable and wheelbarrow taken were retrieved from a layby in Bexon Lane?

With the obstacle course complete, we are looking at the next project. This is to assist the Explorers in a revamp of their area to make it safer and more user friendly for all year-round use. This will include cladding the inside of the barn, insulating, sorting the electrics and locks, making all roofs watertight, clearing the fenced area and erecting a flag pole. This project will also include the erection of a light tower allowing all year-round use of the archery range. The radio club are still working on their shed and we are looking to provide a hard stand for our trailer fleet and equipment.

The wild flower meadow hasn't "bloomed" as much as we had hoped. We will probably enlarge it a little and try seeding and cultivating it again to see what happens. We have lost a couple of trees this year and are taking advice on tree management from the Woodland Trust and the Forestry Commission. Generally, the hedges and trees are in good health, too good in some cases and we need to consider drastically cutting them back. We don't currently have suitable equipment to do this so options need to be investigated.

We have had very little news about the proposed house building but this remains on the radar.

We are again starting to investigate the possibility of own water treatment plant. Removal of our waste water by tanker is not very eco-friendly and our largest cost by far.

We have recently made changes to the booking process, moving away from OSM, as it was felt that a more basic calendar and booking system fitted better with its users and allowed much more control for bespoke bookings.

We have had the first meeting of the management team. The main aim of which is to ensure we are compliant and have all mandatory testing, training, processes, and RA's etc in place. Steph and I are working with Dean to ensure this information is stored securely on the shared area. We are also looking into how to market the site in the scouting / guiding community to attract visitors from wider afield.

The District Cub team are working hard on a project to build a sensory area near the campfire circle. This is starting to take shape and will be another free activity for all.

As part of their charity commitments MHS, Medway will be doing a "Hands on day" in the next few weeks painting and clearing around the site. Thanks to Angela for arranging this.

The bouldering walls have stalled a bit and we need to make some changes, however I'm confident this will be ready for spring. We are also looking to put lights in the barn making this another activity available at all times.

As well as all the maintenance and project activity at Bexon Lane, many of the crew also attended District events and hirers events to set up marquee, electrical equipment, car parks and activities, as well as manning carparks etc. With changes in peoples work life balance its increasingly difficult to get the help required, especially if it's early evening. Improved cooperation from organisers and a thank you may help in the future.

Bexon lane looks and feels like it does because a hand full of volunteers who spend hundreds of hours maintaining it.

My thanks to everyone involved, not just on crew days but with bookings, cleaning, organising and planning

So, lots done ...but much more to do

Paul Dickens ~ Campsite Warden

Remember crew days are 2nd and 4th Sundays from 9am

Appointments Advisory Committee Annual Report 2022 - 2023

I am once again pleased to report the Appointments Advisory Committee has been kept very busy since the last annual report. For the period of this report, the committee has met on 5 occasions and carried out a total 30 appointments panel meetings.

It is particularly pleasing to report that the team has seen new and returning volunteers from 10 of the 11 groups within the district, which is amazing. We have also seen a number of volunteers taking on district roles; district roles are often additional roles, which bring with them exciting new challenges and responsibilities. These roles are key to the support of a cohesive District. It's been a real pleasure to see some of our younger volunteers taking on these new responsibilities, bringing with them new ideas and enthusiasm.

As well as carrying out Appointments Panel meetings, the committee has also looked at 9 role reviews. All roles were unanimously approved, some with shorter onward review dates, highlighting the need for extra support for some. We all have busy lives and the juggling of work, family and scouting commitments is sometimes difficult. As a District we recognize that sometimes our volunteers need a little extra support. Reviews whether formal or informal are an important way of checking in with volunteers to make sure they are doing ok.

District compliance monitoring and reporting continues to be a large part of what the Appointments Advisory Committee does. Appointments Secretary Kathryn Shires regularly sends out Group and District 'Red Flashy Lists' but these are more often than not green or amber lists these days. This is due to the commitment of our District and Group Lead Volunteers and their teams, well done everyone.

A massive "thank you" to Appointment Secretary Kathryn Shires for her expertise and unfailing support of our District from the Cumbria office. A huge thank you to Paul Dickens, Graham Killick, Sam Crook, Tanya Curson and Bridget Pike the awesome appointments team for put up with my whittering at panel meetings 😊

This is my 5th District Appointments Advisory Committee Annual report. Things are changing, the process of recruiting and welcoming new volunteers to the movement will be different this time next year. Writing reports has never been my favourite thing to do but I do very much like meeting and chatting to volunteers.

Yours in Scouting

Helen Harlow ~ Appointments Chair

The young people's event January went very well and they enjoyed their films. Adult's awards in February being well attended with ACC Neil joining us to issue a merit award for Angela. We were able to keep it a surprised until the last minute.

We have had a trickle of recommendations through so do keep them coming. We do not always know who has done what.

James English was awarded the last Queen's Scout Award in the District on St George's day or so we thought. Jack Noulton's award has come through and it is a Queen's Scout Award too. It will be presented to him at the next possible event. Congratulation to them both for all their hard work.

Explorers had a great evening recently with many Young Leader Belts / a few Platinum Chief Scout Award and a Kent Explorer Invicta Challenge Badge being awarded with some high nights away too. Well done to all. It's great to see you all achieving so much.

A big thank you to all leaders and supporters helping to make scouting so rewarding for all and to see such high achievements by all.

Don't forget to let us know when your youngsters achieve their awards by filling in the link so we can invite them to the celebrations.

Thank you to the team for all their efforts in getting everything organizing for the awards event.

Linda Curson, Joan Pantony & Frank Pantony ~ Local Awards Advisory Group
(email awards@sittingbournescouts.org.uk)

District Explorer Scout Commissioner's Annual Report 2022 - 2023

This year has been a big one for the Explorer Section.

In January we opened our second unit; Phoenix and they have been busy raising their profile within the District. Dragons have continued to grow too. Both units have camped and got together on a variety of events throughout the year.

I am pleased that yet more high awards are being awarded. Young Leaders Modules are being offered by both units as part of their programme.

I am pleased to announce that the next big Explorer project is working with the Crew Team to revamp and improve the Explorer area at the top of the site.

Leaders within both units now have camping permits and have camps in the planning process already for next year.

I would like to thank both leadership teams for their adaptability and enthusiasm.

Sam Crook ~ District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Please see below reports from both units:

Dragon Explorer Scout Unit Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Wow! What an action-packed year we've had! We have 37 Explorers currently registered at our unit, with a regular attendance of 30 Explorers per evening. We continually work hard to ensure we are as Youth Shaped as possible, providing multiple opportunities per term for the Explorers to provide feedback on activities we have done, to ensure our programme of events and meetings is as broad and balanced as possible. We have re-introduced the patrol system this term, with new patrol leaders, and assistant patrol leaders, and we will continually monitor how the peer leadership works in the unit.

On to the good stuff! What've we been up to in the last twelve months? This summer comprised of two camps! We had a summer camp at Bexon which was enjoyed by 18 Explorers, and we have just returned from taking 20 Explorers to Legoland for the weekend (they chose Legoland!) I have to admit I wasn't expecting to be spending all day there!! Both camps were enjoyed thoroughly by all. Next year we are hoping to take the Explorers away to an activity centre for a Summer Camp. Events throughout the rest of the year included an afternoon of Water Activities, a DofE Bronze Expedition, Young Leader First Aid Training, a joint camp with Phoenix, Lazer Tag, Bowling, and district events including the JOTT Hike and St. Georges Day Event. Our Explorers have also started taking part in county run events run by Kent Explorers, including a day trip to Thorpe Park, Winter Survival and Young Leader Training. Explorers that have attended these events have enjoyed meeting other Explorers from around the county. Recently, we have all enjoyed hearing about the adventures that Aimee, Charlotte, Charlie & Joshua H had at The World Scout Jamboree in South Korea this summer! All four Explorers have been awarded their 75 Nights Away Badge upon their return.

Within our unit we have 17 Explorer Scout Young Leaders, who volunteer with one of the younger sections across the district. We are particularly proud of Tom, Charlotte, Adaani, Ewan and Aimee for recently achieving their Young Leader Belts! The Belt shows they have completed all of their training as a Young Leader, including 11 modules and 4 missions. The Belt also shows a huge level of commitment to the younger sections they support. Young Leaders ARE the future of Scouts; Leadership Teams would be very different without Young Leaders. A huge well done to them all; it has been a pleasure to support them all through the scheme. We are very proud of the positive role models all of our Young Leaders are for Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts across our District.

We recently presented the Explorers with their Top Awards, that they have earned over the past year. I am very proud to say that a huge 18 Top Awards have been achieved by the Explorers this year, including 4 DofE Bronze Awards, 4 Chief Scout Platinum Awards, 5 Young Leader Belts and 5 Kent Explorers Invicta Challenges. A huge congratulations to all of our Explorers who received an award! These awards don't just happen overnight, a huge amount of commitment and dedication has been involved in the completion of these awards. The Chief Scout Platinum Award is one of the highest awards in Explorers, it has taken a lot of work for Adaani, Aimee, Ewan, and Tom to receive this award, so congratulations to you all. Tom, Ewan, Ben, Poppy and Mig all completed their DofE Bronze Expedition this year, finishing off their award for most of

them. We are planning to present these awards at the District Carol Service this year. Going all the way back to the District Carol Service last year, we presented Ewan with our Explorer of the Year Award, as a symbol of recognising Ewan's contributions to our Unit and District. Very well deserved! Who will our Explorer of the year be this year?! On top of these awards, an astonishing 460 Badges have been earned and awarded by the Explorers in the last 12 months; I'm particularly pleased that that's more than last year! That must mean that we have done more this year?!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing Leadership Team, within Dragon Explorers for everything they have done this year. The team consists of myself, Bethan Foot, James Dickens, Jack Noulton, and Andrew Thomas. We are very lucky to also be supported by our District 14-24 Team Leader for Explorers, Sam Crook. We are also supported by Erin Foot, and Oliver Sutehall when we need extra help and support. I am also very grateful to Linda Curson and Roger Langley who have supported me leading this year's DofE Bronze Expedition. We are very pleased to recently welcome Callum Southwell to our team, who will be joining us as a leader. Thank you to each and every one of you for helping to make our unit so great; I hope you agree that we all make a fantastic team.

And finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to our Explorer Scouts. They have joined in with everything we have done with them this year so enthusiastically, and they deserve recognition for their hard work, and everything they have achieved this year. It is a real privilege to see the Explorers grow as individuals throughout their time with us. I am so proud to be the leader of this amazing unit and I can't wait to see what the next twelve months will hold for us all.

James English ~ Explorer Scout Leader: Dragon Explorer Scout Unit

Phoenix Explorer Scout Unit Annual Report 2023

Phoenix ESU have had a very successful first 9 months. We now have 20 members and are currently full, having grown from 3 in January.

Throughout the year many explorers have started their bronze DofE (via school) and we are working on them getting the International, Community and Values elements of the platinum award.

The program has been a diverse one where we have focused on building a selection of base scouting skills. These have included fire lighting, pioneering, cooking, map and compass skill and first aid. All Explorers have achieved their level 3 first aid and many opted for the level 4 young leaders course which was offered over the summer break by the County. The Explorers have also done backwards cooking including gutting fish. For many this was the first time. They have done many more activities focusing around the core values of community, communication and team work.

We had our first summer camp which was attended by 8 young people, some doing some activities for the first time.

Financially, due to starting up, we were lucky enough to have Mars Wrigley fund the first 6 months of our programme to enable us to build a bit of a security fund.

As we move into the winter program, we will begin working on community impact project as we were lucky enough to have 5 adults salvage equipment, dried food and other items from the Reading Festival. This will allow us to provide items to a food bank, as well as spare sleeping bags, roll mats and potentially some tents to give to those less fortunate and are currently homeless.

All of this would not have possible without the amazing team of volunteers we have at Phoenix and I thank them all for the hard work support and dedication to providing the best possible program to the young people.

Tom ~ Explorer Scout Leader: Phoenix Explorer Scout Unit

Network Section Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Having been officially appointed District Network Section Commissioner (14-25 Team Leader Volunteer) in March of this year, Network has slowly and surely been improving. Sam Crook took Network from a small group and grew it in to the Network we see today, and graciously handed the group over to me to continue her good work. Although it has been a slow start, the future is looking bright for Network.

A regular, monthly programme of activities and meetings has been the goal from the beginning, ensuring that Network members do not lose interest. Although this hasn't always been achieved due to varying factors this year, the activities organised have been lots of fun and thoroughly enjoyed. Activities include helping out at a crew weekend, a trip to the pub, campfires and S'mores, Lazer tag, volunteering opportunities and a pub hike so far. Future proposed activities include back-to-basics campfire cooking, speed boating, kayaking and canoeing, a theme park trip, a Network camp and Bluewater Skywire.

Unfortunately, so far, attendance to these events and activities has been averaging around 5 people per event. With 47 members on OSM, this is less than 10% of the people who are part of Network. As a result, attendance will be promoted even further in the next year to try and get as many people attending as possible. In April 2023, each Networker was emailed individually to ensure they are still happy to be a part of Network. A lot of people responded, with 12 asking to be removed from Network due to moving away etc. It has been found that the main reason for poor attendance is most Networkers are at Uni or working but still wish to attend when they are free- an issue that is not easily resolved. The age of people who attend Network is the main factor in this, with 18-25 years being a key chapter in a lot of people's lives.

Recently, the issue of age has been discussed and resolved by the Exec. Most of the regularly attending Networkers are over the age of 25- the maximum age of a Networker. As attendance can be limited, the decision was made that the over 25's who still wish to be a part of Network can still partake in activities, as long as they are DBS checked and essentially become part of the 'junior SAS'. This is yet to be actioned.

During this year, it was also decided by the exec that Network will have their own budget of £200 a year. This is to fund activities such as cooking, ingredients and any badges that are required. It is understood that Networkers will pay for their own activities individually (such as Laser tag), and when communal activities (such as S'more making) is required, this will come out of the Network budget.

In the future, many activities will be planned with the hope that with continued communication and events, the attendance will slowly increase. Another aim is to increase the attendance and promotion of Network at District events, with the scarf being worn with pride by anyone in the age range (something which is currently not achieved). A Network camp will be planned for Easter of 2024, and continued collaboration between Network and Explorers should ensure that Explorers will look forward to moving up to Network when they reach 18. Overall, it has been a joy to lead Network up until this point and there is much hope for its future.

Bethan Foot ~ District Network Section Commissioner

Scout Active Support (SAS) Annual Report 2022 - 2023

We have increased our members and we now have 24. As mentioned before, a high percentage of our members have other roles within the District – good for them 😊

I believe we are going to have another change to our name shortly and we will wait for that.

Happy Scouting

Stuart Turk ~ District Co-Ordinator for SAS

District Youth Commissioners Annual Report 2022 - 2023

Over the last year, we have had a brilliant time attending and supporting various events and are looking forward to helping with planning and running many more scouting activities in the future.

Our first event we attended as Youth Commissioners was last Christmas' carol service.

At the beginning of the year, we also helped support 9th Sittingbourne at some of their evenings where we shared ideas for many games and badges which they could use in their program.

In February this year we planned and organised Founders Day and after an amazing turnout of young people and feedback we have decided to plan it again for next February 2024. After careful consideration, we have chosen to go in a different direction this time and celebrate the Scouting movement over the years and Baden Powell's birthday, which will of course mean lots of cake. We are more than happy to receive more feedback and ideas you would like to see it at the next Founders Day in 2024.

In April we attended St George's Day and a brilliant cub camp which both had very popular turnouts.

Going forward we have decided to add a new member to the District Youth Commissioner team - Gemma Willett - who will help us with planning and events in the upcoming future.

We are planning on running another event next year which will be a sports day for the young people which will offer activities for all sections.

We hope to see you all at many more scouting events and activities.

Thank you.

Yours in scouting,

Hannah, Gemma & Skye ~ District Youth Commissioners

Sittingbourne, Milton and District Scout Council

Annual Accounts

For the Year from April 2022 to March 2023

Receipts and Payments

Receipts	2022-2023			2021-2022
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	RESTATED Total Funds £
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Membership subscriptions	30,719.00	-	30,719.00	10,728.00
Less: Membership subscriptions paid to HQ/County	27,063.00	-	27,063.00	20,382.00
Net membership subscriptions retained	3,656.00	-	3,656.00	(9,654.00)
Donations	693.81	-	693.81	346.11
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-
Section Activities	1,688.82	-	1,688.82	100.00
Badges	661.91	-	661.91	1,536.51
Other Income	-	-	-	555.00
WSJ 2023	-	13,384.81	13,384.81	2,968.50
Sub total	6,700.54	13,384.81	20,085.35	(4,147.88)
Grants				
Maintenance Grant	-	-	-	-
Other Grants	-	13,145.57	13,145.57	19,050.85
Sub total	-	13,145.57	13,145.57	19,050.85
Fundraising (gross)				
Detail 1	-	-	-	-
Detail 2	-	-	-	-
Detail 3	-	-	-	-
MISC Income	-	-	-	-
Other fundraising activities	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Headquarters				
Property rent (Camp fees/Hall hire)	11,125.91	-	11,125.91	1,773.50
Activities hire	2,260.63	-	2,260.63	280.00
MISC Income	-	-	-	700.00
Sub total	13,386.54	-	13,386.54	2,753.50
Investment income				
Bank interest	-	-	-	-
Other investment income	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	20,087.08	26,530.38	46,617.46	17,656.47

Sittingbourne, Milton and District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from April 2022 to March 2023

Receipts and Payments

Payments	2022-2023			2021-2022
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	RESTATED Total Funds £
Charitable Payments				
Youth Programme and activities	5,529.67	-	5,529.67	598.69
Adult support and training	1,724.73	-	1,724.73	1,831.38
Recruitment/Retention	-	-	-	-
Badge expenses	273.00	-	273.00	2,351.16
Admin costs	723.09	-	723.09	1,883.02
Donations	408.26	-	408.26	-
Bank charges	182.93	-	182.93	275.27
Hospitality	123.87	-	123.87	166.36
Postage	302.59	-	302.59	322.72
Cards	563.17	-	563.17	680.20
Stationary	-	-	-	275.00
Jamboree/Eurojam	-	(5,332.84)	(5,332.84)	2,085.00
WSJ 2023	-	13,172.92	13,172.92	1,600.00
Reconnect	-	16,000.00	16,000.00	-
Sub total	9,831.31	23,840.08	33,671.39	12,068.80
Headquarters				
Sewage	3,437.00	-	3,437.00	1,792.00
Utilities	1,830.09	-	1,830.09	2,197.69
Telephone	342.69	-	342.69	313.14
Insurance	1,672.92	-	1,672.92	1,439.92
Licences	1,908.20	-	1,908.20	666.63
Equipment purchase/maintenance	-	-	-	-
Tractor Maintenance	225.33	-	225.33	1,413.99
Building/Grounds Maintenance	5,896.21	-	5,896.21	4,791.69
Refuse	1,041.30	-	1,041.30	3,026.93
Cleaning	954.15	-	954.15	88.56
Activity Maintenance	89.94	-	89.94	46.96
COVID Recovery	-	-	-	252.49
COVID Costs	-	-	-	-
Special Project	-	1,500.66	1,500.66	-
Project 20X	-	(2,885.96)	(2,885.96)	1,840.93
Reserves	-	463.60	463.60	-
Sub total	17,397.83	(921.70)	16,476.13	17,870.93
Fundraising expenses				
Other Fundraising Costs	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	27,229.14	22,918.38	50,147.52	29,939.73
				Less Membership fees - see income
Net of receipts(payments)	(7,142.06)	3,612.00	(3,530.06)	(12,283.26)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Memberships received in advance	28,401.30	-	28,401.30	26,892.00
Cash funds last year end	19,733.52	25,665.63	45,399.15	57,682.41
Cash funds this year end	40,992.76	29,277.63	70,270.39	72,291.15

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Cash Funds	
Bank current account (Unity)	69,770.51
Cash/floats	499.88
Less unrepresented cheques	-
Income not on the statement	-
Total Cash Funds	70,270.39
	<i>check</i>
Other monetary assets	
Tax Claim	
Debts due from the County	
Insurance Claim outstanding	
Sub total	-

Investment assets

Investment property - detail

Quoted investments

Other investments - detail

Sub total -

Non monetary assets for charity's own use

Badge stock

Shop stock

Other stock

Land and Buildings 255,000.00

Motor Vehicles 15,000.00

Scouting equipment/furniture etc 78,372.00

Other

Sub total 348,372.00

Liabilities

Accounts not yet paid

Expenses incurred but not invoiced




Subscriptions not yet paid

Loan -detail

Other Liabilities

Sub total -

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 26th September 2023 and signed on their behalf by...

Signature	Print Name
	JONATHAN FOOT Chair
	NICOLA FOOT Chair
	TRACEY SWIFT Treasurer

Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of the Sittingbourne, Milton and District Scout Council

I report on the accounts of the District Scout Council for the year ended **31st March 2023**

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer

As the District's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the District's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out in the financial reports.

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.



Name: Kevin Funnell F.M.A.A.T.

Address: 10 Nutberry Close
Teynham
Sittingbourne
Kent ME9 9SP

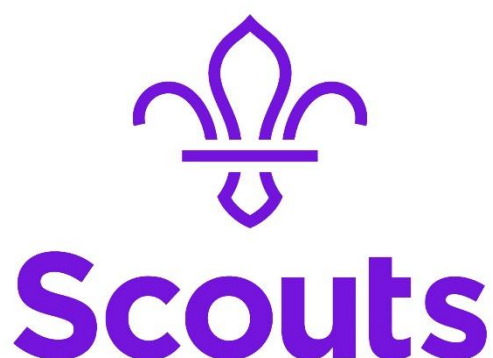
Date: 17 July 2023

SITTINGBOURNE, MILTON AND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 273173

Accounts

SITTINGBOURNE, MILTON AND DISTRICT
SCOUT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

For Period October 2021 to October 2022

President: *Position Vacant*

Vice Presidents: *Position Vacant*

District Chair: Nicola & Jon Foot

District Commissioner: Angela Palmer

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We aim to promote the progressive development of young people in Sittingbourne, Milton and District and help them to make the most out of life, by providing them with opportunities to participate in an attractive and enjoyable programme appropriately and locally delivered by an effective and fulfilled Leadership.

Contents

District Commissioners Annual Report 2021 - 2022	3
Chairperson's Report 2021 - 2022.....	4
District Treasurer's Annual Report 2021 - 2022.....	5
Bexon Lane Campsite and District Headquarters 2022 - 2022	6
Appointments Advisory Committee Annual Report 2021 - 2022.....	8
Awards Committee Annual Report 2021 - 2022.....	9
Explorer Scouts Annual Report 2021 - 2022.....	10
Scout Active Support (SAS) Annual Report 2021 - 2022	11

District Commissioners Annual Report 2021 - 2022

Since the last AGM the District has had some lows but more impressive highs. The District has had some challenges with having to cancel our yearly District carol service which had been renamed "Carols by Campfire" for 2021. Since then, all of the groups in the District have returned to their meeting places and groups are building back up their numbers.

Despite the end of 2021 sending us many challenges, we are starting to slowly rebuild. We have seen a steady increase in members apply for permits that had expired throughout Covid which is great news.

We started off at the beginning of 2022 with a selection day for the WSJ Korea. During the day we were supported by Sheppey District. This was a great opportunity to share ideas during the planning and the day brought it back what scouting is there for.

We went on to have an awards celebration for the young people at a local theatre. The event was over two sessions; one session for Beavers and Cubs and the second for Scouts and Explorers. They all really enjoyed themselves especially the McDonalds or Fish and Chips!

The annual leader's awards celebration went ahead. A member went around the room and counted up the number of years people in the room had been involved, 1046 years!

We have started to hold District events. A first being inviting parents along to stay at St. George's day. The day was a big success with our car parks full. During the day we were able to recruit a few leaders which was really welcomed. Our ADC's have been very busy with organising a reconnect event for the general public. The event was aimed to recruit more leaders. The day was really good fun and we hope to do an event like this again. More recently the newly formed Cub team held a fun day. Scouts teaming up with the explorers for the JOTT 2022. The Beavers are due to hold a fun day in October. Cubs are arranging a trip to Dover and the Scouts will be supporting the porchlight cardboard sleep out. We are in the planning process of the District carol service which I am sure will be a great success.

Some highlights in the District include opening a Squirrel dray at Upchurch. The leaders at Unchurch worked really hard to open the section. They are at full capacity with a waiting list which is amazing. 1st Sittingbourne celebrating their 15 years anniversary. 5th Sittingbourne celebrating their 90th Anniversary. 1st Teynham celebrating their 110th Anniversary!

What's in store for next year? We hope that to continue to develop the District by opening more squirrel drays. Improvements to our campsite such as the new obstacle course going in. Refurbishing the bounding wall and much more.

Angela Palmer ~ District Commissioner

Chairperson's Report 2021 - 2022

Another COVID affected year has been and gone with many sacrifices and adjustments made by many to ensure the continuing opportunity of Scouting is provided within the Sittingbourne, Milton and District Area. Groups have continued to run adaptable, interactive and immersive programmes suitable for all young people, no matter their background or ability and we are always incredibly proud to call ourselves Team Chair of such a committed and dedicated group of volunteers.

The District has provided a wealth of opportunities for all the groups to come together in a safe way over the last year, including St Georges Day, awards events and a community fun day to name but a few. We have young people going to the World Scout Jamboree and leaders and young people having just attended Kent International Jamboree.

The future of Scouting is looking exciting with the addition of a section for younger children and we have already had our first Squirrels group meeting.

What strikes us most of all when attending the scouting events is the sense of community and 'family' that is evident with everyone, from parents, to leaders, to past leaders and the Active Support team, there to ensure the young people of Sittingbourne, Milton and District have the best opportunities to be the best people they can be as they grow and take their place in a fast-paced, demanding world. For this we thank you all.

Nicola and Jon Foot ~ District "Team Chair"

District Treasurer's Annual Report 2021 - 2022

Firstly, many thanks to Kevin Funnell for agreeing to audit the accounts again this year. After a year of COVID the previous year, we managed to open the bank with a healthy balance of £57,182.53. We have ended the year on £70,880.33.

Compared to the previous year, where zero income was achieved on the campsite/activities, we were able to provide some services with a turnover of £2,000 with most activity occurring from September 2021.

The cost of running the site from April 2021 - March 2022 was £15,776; this covered Utilities and Site repair work.

Our District costs for the year, not including Capitation was £8,383, with the biggest costs being Badges, Awards and Software (accounting and OSM)

I am hoping by the AGM of 2023, I will have been able to set up the new NatWest bank account so that it provides easier use along with having Xero running in the way that works for us. Xero is making tracking things easier but the reporting side is still a work in progress.

Melissa Urban ~ District Treasurer

Bexon Lane Campsite and District Headquarters 2022 - 2022



As always, the team have been busy with general maintenance and repair around the site, but bigger things have been happening this year too

The obstacle course is getting there albeit much slower than we had hoped. This has been mainly down to time and people's availability but also KIJ and the dry hot weather made any groundwork very difficult. We are planning another weekend in October to try and push on a little. We are still aiming to have something usable for the 2023 season.

The storm damaged roof has been replaced on the climbing barn thanks to a great effort by a team from EDF Energy who also did some paving, painting and electrical work. Thanks to Paul Austin and the EDF team. With the right equipment they achieved safely something we would have struggled with. We are aiming to get the walls back in place in October. Like the obstacle course we hope to have the bouldering walls back in operation for next season. Network are still working on their area in the woods and it's nice to see the Explorers using their barn more also.

A couple of new volunteers have been coming on Sundays which is great. There is space for more.

We have entered in to a new waste contract which for the first time allows us to recycle. So far this also seems to be saving some money. The cess pit is still an expensive cost though. With rapidly rising electricity costs we must be mindful of how we use it. We will be investing in LED lighting for the main building which will save money. But visitors leaving the hall heating on will cost us a fortune!

We are close to agreeing the supplier to update the CCTV and alarm systems both of which have become temperamental this year. Dean is working on this to give remote access and monitoring along with other 21st Century initiatives including QR codes for automatic issue reporting and duty warden contact details etc.

We have had a couple of issues with one of our neighbours this year. However, the issues seem to have been resolved.

Although KIJ22 is not a District event it took a lot of Crew time and effort to support the District in running another successful sub-camp.

The recently completed mandatory audit has shown up a few points we need to improve on and these are being worked through to bring us in line.

Thank you as always to the whole team for the effort put in every week. Duty wardens, crew days, putting up marquees etc A special thank you to Helen who has been doing a fantastic job with keeping everything clean and presentable.

Feedback from visitors continues to be positive.

Still lots to do projects wise, Maintenance jobs are always there and the grass NEVER stops growing.

Thanks again

Paul Dickens ~ Campsite Warden

Appointments Advisory Committee Annual Report 2021 - 2022

I'm pleased to report the Appointments Advisory Committee has been kept very busy since the last annual report. For the period of this report, we have carried out 37 appointments panel meetings, which is 20 more than recorded in the last report. Meetings have not only been held with new members but also existing members stepping up and taking on extra responsibilities.

It has been particularly pleasing to meet with some of the new District teams, these include team ADC Cubs, team Youth Commissioner and two groups that now have Team GSL's. It has also been a pleasure to meet our new DESC Sam Crook and her team too

As well as carrying out Appointments Panel meetings, the committee has also looked at 13 role reviews. We appreciate the time and effort that GSL's and the DC put into carrying out these reviews and writing them up; all part of the process of making the 'Red Flashy List' Green!

District compliance monitoring and reporting continues to be a large part of what the Appointments Advisory Committee does. We would like to thank everyone for their efforts, not only with the recruitment of new members but also for completing the necessary paperwork and training in a timely manner.

Appointments Secretary Kathryn Shires is working tirelessly from the Cumbria office on behalf of our District. Her dedication to the role plays a huge part in ensuring our District recruitment process is efficient and compliant. Thank you, Kathryn. I would also like to thank Paul Dickens, Graham Killick, Sam Crook and Tanya Curson, who are all members of the Appointments Advisory Committee - 37 Panel meetings is a lot. It is also a lot of time listening to me getting distracted; I spent more than 5 minutes talking about Mars bars with a new member a few weeks ago. Luckily, we still hold our meeting via Zoom and Kathryn is able to send private messages that pop up at the bottom of the screen telling me I need to wind the conversation up! ☺

I'm at the end of the page so I'll wind this report up!

Yours in Scouting

Helen Harlow ~ Appointments Chair

Our Awards events for the youngsters and the Explorers & adults was well received and great fun was had by all. It was so good getting together with every one and seeing you all face to face after such a dreary two years. It lifted every one's spirits. We have re-booked for the youngsters in January and for Explorers & Adults in February 2023.

The new system of checking, recommending and approving awards for adults seems to be working well but if you do think we have missed someone or you wish to recommend someone do let us know and email us on the address below.

Not so many Explorers have received D of E Awards but with the new leadership team settling in things will pick up next year and they will move forward. Having said that we have two people James English & Jack Noulton who just have to do their presentations for receiving the Queens / Kings Scout Award. A fantastic well done to both.

Without the leader's, support and group executive teams the youngsters would not achieve such high levels in their sections, a big thank you to you all.

We still have a huge amount to celebrate and looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Joan and Frank Pantony's tremendous achievement of receiving their Silver Acorns in September - a big thank you for all you have both done for scouting and all your time and efforts. Well deserved.

Don't forget to let us know when your youngsters achieve their awards so we can invite them to the celebrations. Just email us on the email.

Linda Curson, Joan Pantony & Frank Pantony ~ Local Awards Advisory Group
(email awards@sittingbournescouts.org.uk)

Explorer Scouts Annual Report 2021 - 2022

Since taking over as District Explorer Scout Commissioner in April and building a new team, together we have been working hard to re-establish an effective and fun programme for the Explorer unit.

Our average weekly turn out has been 30 Explorers. We have provided a diverse range of evening activities to the Explorers. We have also re-introduced a patrol system and have only recently begun making this a little competitive for the Explorers, as we found out they are all quite a competitive bunch.

14 Explorers attending KIJ in August and this was a successful camp. We had 30 Explorers attend Theme Park Camp at the beginning of September- this was a great event. We have then had 17 Explorers attend the cardboard sleep out more recently.

As of September, our programme is now inclusive of the Young Leaders' modules and we are also incorporating some basic DofE training as part of the programme.

Going forward- due to 1 leader at university, others with work commitments and I'm currently expecting a baby in January, we are encouraging a parent rota to ensure evenings can still go ahead. We are also always welcoming to anyone who wishes to become a section assistant with the Explorer section.

Badges:

Since April this year, a massive 390 badges have been completed and awarded to our Explorers.

DofE Bronze:

Since April this year, 2 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards have been Achieved. We have 14 Explorers who are currently taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in our Unit. We are hoping to be able to offer Expeditions for these Explorers next year, which will finish the Bronze Award off for a lot of Explorers

Young Leaders:

We are proud to say that we have 20 Explorers who are Young Leaders in younger sections across the District. They are all working hard towards their Young Leaders Belts, meaning they would've completed all training and missions in the scheme. We are very proud of the positive role models they are for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts across our District.

Chief Scout Awards:

We also have 3 Explorers who are very close to being awarded their Chief Scout Platinum Award.

Sam Crook ~ District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Scout Active Support (SAS) Annual Report 2021 - 2022

The Group still has 20 members of which a high percentage have other positions within the District and are also members of the campsite crew.

Unfortunately, another highly respected District Elder, Cliff Styles, has passed away. He was a Scout leader at 1st Murston & Bapchild and greatly admired by his Scouts. His funeral was attended by SAS members who remembered him.

Bryan & Rosemary Lukehurst have offered to continue making the Christmas & Birthday cards for next year, but require a nice Christmas photo and also Birthday card photos. Please go through your photos and send some good ones to them (no children faces please).

Happy Scouting

Stuart Turk ~ District SAS

Sittingbourne, Milton and District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from April 2021 to March 2022

Receipts and Payments

	2021-2022			2020-2021
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Receipts				
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Membership subscriptions	£37,620.00		£37,620.00	£20,977.00
Less: Membership subscriptions paid to HQ/County	£20,382.00		£20,382.00	£27,904.50
Net membership subscriptions retained.	£17,238.00		£17,238.00	-£6,927.50
Donations	£346.11		£346.11	£0.01
Legacies			£0.00	£0.00
Gift Aid			£0.00	£0.00
Section Activities	£100.00		£100.00	£0.00
Badges	£1,536.51		£1,536.51	£438.69
Other Income	£555.00			
WSJ 2023		£2,968.50	£2,968.50	£2,657.00
Sub total	£19,775.62	£2,968.50	£22,744.12	-£3,831.80
Grants			£0.00	
Maintenance Grant			£0.00	
Other Grants		£19,050.85	£19,050.85	£10,000.00
Sub total	£0.00	£19,050.85	£19,050.85	£10,000.00
Fundraising (gross)			£0.00	
Detail 1			£0.00	
Detail 2			£0.00	
Detail 3			£0.00	
MISC Income				£0.00
Other fundraising activities	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Sub total	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Headquarters			£0.00	
Property rent (Camp fees/Hall hire)	£1,773.50		£1,773.50	£37.50
Activities hire	£280.00		£280.00	£0.00
MISC Income		£700.00		£120.00
Sub total	£2,053.50	£700.00	£2,753.50	£157.50
Investment income			£0.00	
Bank interest			£0.00	
Other investment income			£0.00	
Sub total			£0.00	
Total Receipts	£21,829.12	£22,719.35	£44,548.47	£6,325.70

Sittingbourne, Milton and District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

For the Year from April 2021 to March 2022

Receipts and Payments

	2021-2022			2020-2021
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Payments				
Charitable Payments				
Youth Programme and activities	£598.69		£598.69	£525.60
Adult support and training	£1,831.38		£1,831.38	£803.49
Recruitment/Retention			£0.00	£310.88
Badge expenses	£2,351.16		£2,351.16	£0.00
Admin costs	£1,883.02		£1,883.02	£1,956.06
Donations			£0.00	£0.00
Bank charges	£275.27		£275.27	£198.46
Hospitality	£166.36		£166.36	£0.00
Postage	£322.72		£322.72	
Cards	£680.20		£680.20	
Stationary	£275.00		£275.00	
Jamboree/Eurojam		£2,085.00	£2,085.00	£600.00
WSJ 2023		£1,600.00	£1,600.00	
Sub total	£8,383.80	£3,685.00	£12,068.80	£4,394.49
Headquarters				
Sewage	£1,792.00		£1,792.00	£152.00
Utilities	£2,197.69		£2,197.69	£1,659.44
Telephone	£313.14		£313.14	£401.60
Insurance	£1,439.92		£1,439.92	£1,587.49
Licences	£666.63		£666.63	£287.82
Equipment purchase/maintenance			£0.00	£0.00
Tractor Maintenance	£1,413.99		£1,413.99	£1,042.26
Building/Grounds Maintenance	£4,791.69		£4,791.69	£6,156.06
Refuse	£3,026.93		£3,026.93	£2,213.80
Cleaning	£88.56		£88.56	£100.00
Activity Maintenance	£46.96		£46.96	
COVID Recovery		£252.49	£252.49	£0.00
COVID Costs			£0.00	£244.73
Project 20X		£1,840.93	£1,840.93	
Sub total	£15,777.51	£2,093.42	£17,870.93	£13,845.20
Fundraising expenses				
Event 1				£0.00
Event 2				£0.00
Event 3				£0.00
Other Fundraising Costs				£0.00
Sub total				
Total Expenditure	£24,161.31	£5,778.42	£29,939.73	£18,239.69
Net of receipts(payments)	-£2,332.19	£16,940.93	£14,608.74	-£11,913.99
Transfers between funds	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0

Cash funds last year end	£48,957.71	£8,724.70	£57,682.41	£69,596.40
Cash funds this year end	£46,625.52	£25,665.63	£72,291.15	£57,682.41

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Cash Funds

Bank current account (Unity)	£70,880.33		
Cash/floats	£1,410.82		
Less unrepresented cheques	£0.00		
Income not on the statement	£0.00		
Total Cash Funds	£72,291.15	check	£0.00

Other monetary assets

Tax Claim	
Debts due from the County	
Insurance Claim outstanding	
Sub total	£0.00

Investment assets

Investment property - detail	
Quoted investments	
Other investments - detail	
Sub total	£0.00

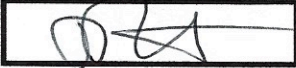
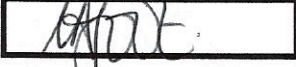
Non monetary assets for charity's own use

Badge stock	
Shop stock	
Other stock	
Land and Buildings	£255,000.00
Motor Vehicles	£15,000.00
Scouting equipment/furniture etc	£78,372.00
Other	
Sub total	£348,372.00

Liabilities

Accounts not yet paid	
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	
Subscriptions not yet paid	
Loan -detail	
Other Liabilities	
Sub total	£0.00

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on xxth ***** 2020 and signed on their behalf by...

Signature	Print Name	
	S. FOOT	Chair
	N. FOOT	Chair

	Treasurer
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Scrutineer's Report to the Trustees of the Sittingbourne, Milton and District Scout Council

I report on the accounts of the District Scout Council for the year ended **31st March 2022**

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Scrutineer

As the District's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that neither the audit nor independent examination requirements of the Charities Act 2011 apply. It is my responsibility without carrying out an audit or independent examination to scrutinise the accounts and to report to you.

Basis of Scrutineer's Statement

In accordance with the directions given in the District's constitution, I have scrutinised the records and the accounts set out in the financial reports.

Scrutineer's Statement

In my opinion the accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me and comply with the constitution.



Name: Kevin Funnell F.M.A.A.T.

Address: 10 Nutberry Close
Teynham
Sittingbourne
Kent ME9 9SP

Date: 2 November 2022