



REGISTERED CHARITY No 276613



94th

Annual General Meeting

June 19th, 2024

WELCOME

*The President and District Officials cordially welcome
you to the*

**94th Annual General Meeting of
Loddon District Scout Council**

On

Wednesday June 19th, 2024

At

1st Twyford Scout HQ

*The agenda for the meeting, the minutes of the last AGM
and the various reports are set out in the following
pages.*

LODDON DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting

June 19th, 2024, at 8.15 pm
1st Twyford HQ, Loddon Hall Road, Twyford RG10 9JA

AGENDA

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. **Governance topics**
 - a. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st June 2022
 - b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules
 - c. Note the District's financial year.
 - d. Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council
 - e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
 - f. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)
4. **Review of the previous year**
 - a. The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in Loddon District
 - b. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board including the annual Statement of the Accounts
5. **Making appointments**
 - a. Appoint the District Chair
 - b. Appoint the District Treasurer
 - c. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
 - d. To re-appoint the District President.
 - e. To appoint the Scrutineer.
 - f. To nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council
6. Introduce County Commissioner to say a few words.
7. **Closing remarks**

Minutes of the 93rd Annual General Meeting of the Loddon District Scout Council held on Wednesday 21st June 2023 in 2nd Woodley Scout HQ & commencing at 8.00pm

1. Introduction and welcome

The District President, Mick Stocks, opened the meeting. He welcomed everyone especially Nigel Bevan the County Commissioner and Frank Cselik, County Training Manager.

He then said that he was most interested in the transformation process which is coming to Scouting in the near future. We, in Loddon, are part of the initial cohort for change which should take place in November this year. He said that he had seen a number of changes during his time in Scouting, some small and some more significant. There have been changes in training methods and in the uniform, and programme but the main purpose has always been to promote a way to better Scouting. We have dedicated volunteers who are providing excellent programmes for young people and who give up a huge amount of time for them.

He then thanked the District Team and the Executive committee, which will become the Trustee Board in November. He also thanked Donald for his work as Chair and for his unstinting work with the Paddicks Patch Project which has been at times very frustrating for him. He then passed the meeting over to Donald MacDonald our District Chair.

Donald replied by saying that looking around the room at the attendees he noted that between us all we have a huge number of years volunteering to Scouting. We now have an expansive family which includes the Squirrel section. We must ensure that we embrace the new changes and not cling on to the old ways.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from, Chris & Mary Fido, Tony Parker, Holly Buckell, Neil Jeffery, Ulla Swynford-Lain, Ken & Linda Peters, Joan Fahey, Malcolm Fillingham, Lynda Evans, Stuart Johnson, Pete Rogers and Paul Norris. Some 16 District members attended.

3. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 15th June 2022.

The District Chair, Donald MacDonald, then continued chairing the meeting by saying that the minutes from last year have been reviewed by the District Executive Committee at their first meeting after the AGM and so he proposed that the minutes are taken as read and asked the District Scout Council to agree that they are a true record of that meeting. Robin Phillips and Jane Moore seconded the proposal and there was a unanimous show of hands to approve.

4. **Governance topics**

Donald noted to the District Scout Council members present that this part of the meeting is a necessary part to make sure that the charity's foundations are in good order.

a. To adopt the model constitution from policy, Organisation and Rules

In line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters, I propose that we adopt the model constitution from Chapter 5 of the Policy, Organisation and Rules. A copy of this was sent to everyone for review and inspection prior to this meeting and copies are also available at the meeting. Jenny Lamprell seconded this proposal, and the show of hands was unanimous.

b. To note the District's financial year.

Members of the District Scout Council are asked to note that our charity's financial year is 1st April to 31st March.

c. To agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board

The District Scout Council must agree at its AGM the number of people that can be elected to the Trustee Board. The recommendation from the outgoing Trustee Board is that 6 people can be elected. The Chair proposes that the District Scout council approves that recommendation. Secunder was Linda Bowes, and the show of hands was unanimous.

d. To agree the quorum for each of the District Scout Council (including this AGM), meetings of the District Trustee Board, meetings of any sub-committees.

The District Scout council must agree at its AGM the quorum – the minimum number of District Scout Council members that must be present at a meeting of the District Scout Council. The recommendation from the outgoing Trustee Board is that the quorum should be set at 4 persons. The District Scout Council is asked to approve that recommendation. The seconder was Chas Randle and the show of hands unanimous.

The District Scout Council must agree at its AGM the quorum for Trustee Board meetings, and any sub-committee meetings. The Charity Commission statement of good practice is that the Trustee Board quorum should be set at one third of Trustee Board members plus one and that the sub-committee quorum should be set at one third of Trustee Board members plus one. The recommendation from the outgoing Trustee Board is that the quorum should be set at the Charity Commission good practice statement. The District Scout Council is asked to approve that recommendation. The seconder was Linda Bowes and the show of hands unanimous.

5. **Review of the previous year**

The chair noted to the District Scout Council members present that this part of the meeting was the opportunity to reflect of the activities of the past year.

a. **The District Commissioner's review of Scouting in Loddon District**

In addition to his written report Geoff said that he wanted to highlight the new Squirrel section. Loddon now has three Squirrel Dreys, and all are going very well. It helps us to expand and gives younger children the opportunity to start off in Scouting. He said he knew that some leaders are unsure about starting up the Squirrel section and recommended that they visited some of the new Dreys to see what goes on. 3rd Woodley has some Squirrels who are moving up into Beavers so will have space for new Squirrels to join. One of the Beaver sections at Wargrave, which has been dormant for a while, has recently reopened and 5th Woodley has recently reopened their 2nd Beaver Colony. There is a 2nd Scout Troop at 1st Woodley and the new Muslim Cub Pack at 1st Lower Earley is very successful with a new Muslim Scout Troop opening in September. The Wednesday Explorer Unit at Aldryngton School has had to close due to the ill health of the leader.

Looking towards the transformation changes and we are trialling a welcome package for new leaders.

He then thanked everyone in the District for all their hard work. He said that all had bounced back with enthusiasm. There has been a steady stream of activity and nights away notifications. He also thanked the Trustee Board for all their support and asked if there were any questions.

Linda Bowes asked if we could look at a way of following up on children who leave scouting at an early age to see if they would like to rejoin at a later date?

Geoff noted that we would need to keep their details for future reference in a safe way, he suggested bringing it up at the next GSL meeting.

The Chair then thanked The DC for his report

b. **To receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board including the annual statement of the Accounts.**

The Chairman said that the District Trustee Board had approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, and the Accounts, and the report on the accounts had been received from the Scrutineer. He then asked the District Treasurer to give his explanation of the Statement of Accounts.

The treasurer added to his report by saying that there was a surplus of £10,800, almost all of which comes from the Explorer's fundraising efforts. It is offset by the cost of running Paddick Patch which cost £4000 to run last year. It is becoming a drain on the District. There was obviously no Covid Grant this year but we did gain £1000 interest on the monies invested which goes towards the new building at Paddicks Patch.

He then asked if there were any questions.

Jane Moore asked him why Cubs and Beavers monies are lumped together and asked if they could be produced separately next year, which Simon agreed to.

The Chair then thanked Simon for all his hard work on the accounts and for sorting out the Gift Aid reclamation.

6. **Making Appointments**

The Chair noted to the District Scout Council member present that this part of the meeting sets the charity up to be well-led during the period until the next AGM. Particularly, the District Scout Council appoints a Trustee Board to ensure good governance for the charity over the next year.

a. **To re-appoint the District President**

The Chair noted that appointments as District President is made by the District Scout Council. He advised that Mick Stocks had been proposed as President and asked for a show of hands to reapprove. This was unanimous. He then thanked Mick for his support throughout the year.

b. **The Chair then noted that there were no other persons to be admitted to the membership of the Scout Council at present.**

c. **To approve the District Commissioner's nomination of the District Chair**

The Chair then handed chairmanship of the meeting to the DC who nominated Donald MacDonald as District Chair and asked for a show of hands as approval which was unanimous.

d. **Election of the District Secretary**

The District Secretary is an elected appointment and, as required, Helen Price has been formally proposed and seconded. Since there were no other nominations by the closing date a show of hands is required to approve Helen's election. This was unanimous. The Chair then thanked Helen for her support throughout the year.

e. **Election of the District Treasurer**

The District Treasurer is an elected appointment and, as required, Simon Roberts has been formally proposed and seconded. Since there were no other nominations by the closing date a show of hands is required to approve Simon's election. This was unanimous. The Chair then thanked Simon for his support throughout the year.

f. **Elections of members to the District Trustee Board**

The secretary then said that the following had been formally proposed and seconded in writing by the due date: -

Jenny Lamprell as DDC

Robin Phillips as District Safety Adviser

g. **To approve the District Commissioner's nominations to the District Trustee Board**

No nominations at present.

h. **To appoint the Scrutineer.**

The Treasurer then proposed Mike Waddelove as scrutineer for the next year. The Chair then said that Mike Waddelove had been proposed and seconded and is qualified for the role. He asked for a show of hands to approve Mike Waddelove's nomination. This was unanimous.

- i. To nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council

We are required to nominate at least 1 person as District Representatives to the County Scout Council. Tom Toy has been proposed and seconded. He asked for a show of hands to approve the nomination. This was unanimous. He then thanked Tom for standing once again.

7. The Chair then introduced Nigel Bevan the County Commissioner who gave his review.

He began by picking up on Linda Bowes' question earlier and said that we shouldn't expect people to stay throughout every Scouting section and that they should know that they would be welcome to rejoin at a later date if they chose to, but agreeing a method to follow up those that leave scouting is worth considering.

He said that Squirrels were sprouting up all over and opening Dreys seems to be easier than opening other sections. Parents are keen to help so the hope is that many will progress through to help with other sections as their children progress.

Loddon has seen a large increase in leaders and in membership, we still have huge waiting lists.

He said that he had been to a growth and development forum and had been pleased to see that the 1st Lower Earley Muslim Section was being promoted as a successful development.

There are lots of activities planned, including the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea, this year, which Loddon has 15 people attending; there are 70 people ready to go to Project Africa; and the next WINGS Camp will be in 2026.

We are in the early stages of the transformation and part of it will be the new technology, with more information available in September. The new ideas should make it easier to volunteer and the teams should spread the workload more evenly. Training now becomes "learning", and the wood badges will become optional. By March next year there will be a lead volunteer meeting and in April there will be a team leader meeting. We start our early adoption of the process in November.

Many thanks to everyone for their contributions to Scouting especially to Geoff, Jenny, and Donald for all their hard work.

The Chair then thanked Nigel for his strong leadership and for the support of the County team. He closed the meeting at 8.48 and thanked Chas for his hospitality and for hosting the AGM.

8. The next AGM is due to take place on 19th June 2024.

District Lead Volunteer Report

Loddon District and its constituent Groups has enjoyed another the good year of Scouting with all sorts of activities being organised by the various sections including lots of what I call adventurous activities – Water and Land based including Archery, Rifle Shooting, Canoeing, Paddle Boarding, Climbing and Abseiling as well as Hikes of various distances. There have also been a lot of Nights Away events organised for all sections from Beavers to Network including some aboard in Belgium. We have one Explorer Scout going to Roverway in Norway and at least two Leaders taking part in this year's County Expedition to Malawi.

The District continues the grow; Our three Squirrel Dreys are going from strength to Strength with two Dreys at 5th Woodley and one at 3rd Woodley I hope in the coming year we will see more Squirrel Dreys opening around d the District. 1st Woodley have opened a second Beaver Colony in recent months.

Welcome to Loddon to all the new Squirrels and Beavers and thank you to all those Adults who have joined us as Leaders and Helpers.

Explorer Scouts remain strong with three meeting nights through the week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in both Woodley (all based at Paddicks Patch). Thank you to Stuart Johnson and the Explorer Leaders for all your work with the Section.

Loddon is one of the few Districts in Berkshire to have an active Scout Network thanks Malcolm Fillingham Network Commissioner and his team.

Supporting the groups are Section District teams (ADC's/District Leaders, Activities ADC) the District Board of Trustees, Adult Training Support, Scout Shop and Badges, and the Paddicks Patch team. All of whom have continued to support at both Group and District level.

In the last year I have had the privilege and honour to present various Long Service Awards including Chief Scouts Commendations and Awards for Merit and Wood Badges across the District.

We are now moving ahead with the transition to more teams based working and also replacing the appointments committee (AAC) with Welcome Conversations organised in the Groups and supported by the District the aim is to streamline the process for new adult volunteers and to make it a more welcoming experience. We will also see teams introduced including a Programme Team led by Sarah Barrow (from 3rd Woodley) Development Team led by Jenny Lamprell and 14-25 Team led by Stuart Johnson. We have a vacancy for a Support Team Lead so have a chat with me if you would like to get involved and find out more about this role.

New digital membership management and adult training tools are being introduced and a new way of Adult Learning including Growing Roots and the New Wood Badge.

Thank you to our District President Mick Stocks and to the County team lead by Nigel Bevan County Lead Volunteer for your support to both Loddon District and Berkshire County.

Finally, I would like to thank Jenny Miller who has recently stepped up to be joint District Lead Volunteer with myself, Donald Macdonald District Chair, Helen Price District Secretary, Ulla Swynford Lain Appointments Secretary, Simon Roberts District Treasurer, Jane More Local Training Administrator and Robin Phillips District Safety Manager for all your work and support for Loddon District during this last year

Geoff Barnes
District Lead Volunteer Loddon District

District Chairman's Report

Another year flies by and Scouting continues to flourish around these parts. We are providing excellent opportunities for young people and adults alike to develop skills and enjoy the company and friendship of others.

We are fortunate to have strong leadership at all levels within our number and this means we can deliver fulfilling and exciting programmes.

Whatever your role in Loddon District, on behalf of the District Trustee Board, thank you so much for everything that you do.

Donald MacDonald
District Chair of Trustees

**LODDON DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
DISTRICT TREASURER'S REPORT Y/E 31/03/2024**

The district accounts for 2023/24 have been prepared as required by the Charities Act 2011.

Total Assets stood at £128,331 as at 31st March 2024 (£120,565 31/3/23).

The bank balance includes restricted funds totalling £64,290 which are used for specific purposes. Details of individual funds can be found in the Notes to the Accounts statement.

A surplus of Income over Expenditure of £7,766 was generated.

The Scout Shop generated a surplus of £2,118 compared to £3,770 previously and Explorers generated a surplus of £5,193 (22/23 £7,774). The Scout group has reduced its account balance during the year by subsidising and prepaying events. The District continues to subsidise the use of Paddicks Patch for the benefit of local groups to the extent of £2,164 this year.

The District Executive Committee considers that the district should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs in reserve and we continue to meet this requirement.

The Paddicks Patch Project continues, and some minor expenditure (£3,598) has been incurred to ensure planning permission is maintained.

The Receipts and Payment account and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities for Loddon District Scout Council can be viewed in the attachments to this report.

We thank all the Group Treasurers, Group Scout Leaders and Trustees for their continued support.

**Simon Roberts
District Treasurer**

LODDON DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Receipts and Payments Account Summary for the year ended 31st March 2024

Charity No. 276613

	2023/24 Unrestricted Funds	2023/24 Restricted Funds	2023/24 Total Funds	2022/23 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Total receipts for year	55,269	1,893	57,162	50,007
Total payments for year end	44,404	4,992	49,396	39,214
Net of receipts/(payments) for year	10,865	(3,099)	7,766	10,793
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
	10,865	(3,099)	7,766	10,793
Cash, bank & other net assets b/fwd	53,176	67,389	120,565	109,772
Cash, bank & other net assets c/fwd	64,041	64,290	128,331	120,565

Summary of Assets and Liabilities at 31st March 2024

	2023/24 Unrestricted Funds	2023/24 Restricted Funds	2023/24 Total Funds	2022/23 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
MONETARY ASSETS				
Bank Balances	70,397	64,290	134,687	137,365
Cash In Hand	98	-	98	98
	70,495	64,290	134,785	137,463
OTHER MONETARY ASSETS				
Debts due from Group	-	-	-	-
NON-MONETARY ASSETS				
Scout Shop Stock	11,239	-	11,239	10,352
	81,734	64,290	146,024	147,815
LIABILITIES -prepaid subs & other adv pymts	17,693	-	17,693	27,250
Net Assets	64,041	64,290	128,331	120,565

The above Receipts and Payment Account and Summary of Asset and Liabilities were approved
by the Trustees on _____ and signed on their behalf

Donald MacDonald

District Chair

Helen Price

District Secretary

Simon Roberts

District Treasurer

LODDON DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts for the year ended 31st March 2024

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2023/24 Restricted funds £	2023/24 Total funds £	2022/23 Total funds £
RECEIPTS				
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Membership subscriptions	62,998	-	62,998	56,842
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	(56,589)	-	(56,589)	(52,685)
Net membership subscriptions retained	6,409	-	6,409	4,157
Donations	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-
Other similar income/Legacy	-	500	500	500
Sub total	6,409	500	6,909	4,657
Grants				
Paddicks Patch Project	-	-	-	-
International Fund	-	1,105	1,105	-
Berkshire Scouts Jamboree	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	1,105	1,105	-
Fundraising (gross)				
Cubs/Beavers	-	288	288	984
Scouts	2,967	-	2,967	4,373
Explorer	38,446	-	38,446	33,489
Scout Active Support Unit	-	-	-	-
Paddicks Patch	2,162	-	2,162	1,599
Other District fundraising events	-	-	-	-
Sub total	43,575	288	43,863	40,445
Investment income				
Bank interest(COIF)	3,167	-	3,167	1,135
Scout Shop	2,118	-	2,118	3,770
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
Sub total	5,285	-	5,285	4,905
Total Gross Income	55,269	1,893	57,162	50,007
To COIF a/c	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	55,269	1,893	57,162	50,007

LODDON DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Receipts and Payments Account

Payments for the year ended 31st March 2024

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2023/24 Restricted funds £	2023/24 Total funds £	2022/23 Total funds £
PAYMENTS				
Charitable Payments				
Premises - Paddicks Patch	3,315	1,011	4,326	5,696
Premises - Scout Shop	385	-	385	386
Section Expenses	-	-	-	-
International Fund	-	-	-	-
AGM and trustee expenses	1,191	-	1,191	1,188
Insurance	261	-	261	248
Independent Examiners Fees	27	-	27	35
Adult support and training	-	-	-	-
General Expenses	355	-	355	-
WSJ23 Grants	-	-	-	-
Fundraising Fees	-	-	-	-
Paddicks Patch Project	-	3,598	3,598	-
Berkshire Scouts Jamboree	-	-	-	-
Sub total	5,534	4,609	10,143	7,553
Section Activities				
Cubs/Beavers	-	383	383	884
Scouts	5,617	-	5,617	3,968
Explorer Scouts	33,253	-	33,253	25,715
Scout Active Support Unit	-	-	-	770
Other fundraising costs- District Events	-	-	-	324
Sub total	38,870	383	39,253	31,661
Total Gross Expenditure	44,404	4,992	49,396	39,214
To COIF a/c	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	44,404	4,992	49,396	39,214
Net of receipts/(payments)	10,865	- 3,099	7,766	10,793
Transfers between funds				
Net assets last year end	53,176	67,389	120,565	109,772
Net assets this year end	64,041	64,290	128,331	120,565

LODDON DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31st March 2024

	2023/24 Unrestricted funds £	2023/24 Restricted funds £	2023/24 Total funds £	2022/23 Total funds £
Cash funds				
Bank-Loddon District Scout Council	38,497	4,701	43,198	50,318
Bank- COIF Deposit Fund	8,728	59,589	68,317	65,150
Bank- Scout Shop Account	3,427	-	3,427	4,695
Bank- District Scout Account	183	-	183	2,833
Bank- Explorer Scout Account	17,299	-	17,299	12,106
Bank-Loddon Scout Active Support	2,263	-	2,263	2,263
Cash/Floats	98	-	98	98
Total cash funds	70,495	64,290	134,785	137,463
Other monetary assets				
Tax claim	-	-	-	-
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	-	-	-	-
Insurance claim	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Investment assets				
Other investments - detail	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Non monetary assets for charity's own use				
Shop items & Badges stock	11,239	-	11,239	10,352
Other	-	-	-	-
Sub total	11,239	-	11,239	10,352
Liabilities				
Accounts not yet paid	-	-	-	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions paid in advance	17,693	-	17,693	21,774
Loan - detail	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	-	-	-	5,476
Sub total	17,693	-	17,693	27,250
Net assets	64,041	64,290	128,331	120,565

NON-MONETARY ASSETS

(based on insurance values)	<u>Explorer Scouts</u>	<u>Loddon District - Paddicks&Shop</u>
Buildings	20,000	77,823
Contents&Equipment	46,520	29,286
Trailers	8,254	-

LODDON DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Notes to accompany the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities 2005 (SORP 2005), the Charities Act 1996 and applicable accounting standards.

2. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The gross figure includes subscriptions due to Headquarters and County.

3. DONATIONS / GRANT / SIMILAR INCOME

The amount of £500 was received as a donation towards the PP Project.

4. INTERNATIONAL FUND

The funds remain unchanged, and no requests have been received.

5. FUNDS

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of this Council that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the Council are deemed as restricted funds and are summarised below. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which this Council is responsible in law.

The total Restricted Funds for the year are £64,290.

<u>Restricted Fund</u>	International Fund	Beavers a/c	Paddicks Patch Fund
Balances as at 31st March 2024	£3,821	£557	£59,911

6. PADDICKS PATCH

This wooded area of land in Waingels Road was donated to Loddon District Scouts in 1982 by Sidney Paddick for use as a camp site. In September 1990, a prefabricated building was donated by Barclays Bank and erected on the site. This is now the Loddon District Headquarters. The building will be reconstructed, and detailed planning work is currently being undertaken following receipt of full planning permission.

7. SECTIONS

The District Scout Explorers, Scout Active Support Unit and District Scouts maintain separate accounts. The District Cub and Beaver funds are included as restricted funds within the main account.

8. LODDON DISTRICT SCOUT SHOP

Scout shop items have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The Scout Shop maintains a separate account. The shop made a contribution of £2,118 to District funds in the year.

9. TRUSTEE EXPENSES

Trustees received expenses totalling £1,191 in the year to 31/3/24.

10. PUBLIC INTEREST

The District Council meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings. The Trustees have had regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission when deciding upon the activities for the year.

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of LODDON DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act

to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (S)(b) 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.

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent Examiner's statement

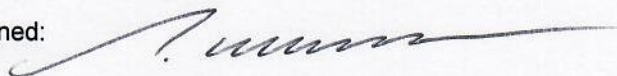
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust 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.

Name: MICHAEL WADDELOWE

Signed:



Address

6 SEVENOAKS DRIVE
SPENCERS LODGE

Date:

12th MAY

10th JUNE 2024

Section Reports

Squirrels

We have 3 squirrel dreys in Loddon at present. 2 at 5th Woodley and 1 at 3rd Woodley. This year 8 Squirrels achieved the acorn award which is the top award for Squirrels. They have been active doing a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. Several other groups are looking at opening squirrel dreys in the near future.

Beavers

Beavers continue to run successfully, also covering a wide variety of activities. The Christmas party is a District event and was very successful. 65 Chief Scout Bronze awards were earned this year.

Cubs

Cubs are also very busy with both indoor and outdoor activities. A number of summer camps took place, and all were very successful. 56 Silver awards were achieved this year.

Scouts

We did STUFF!

Around the District, and alongside the usual 'Scouty' things, the SEVENTEEN Scout Troops in 12 Scout Groups did Air Rifle Shooting, Archery, Bell Ringing, Birdbox making, Climbing, Coral Reef visit, Crazy Golf, Cycling, Dragon boating, Expedition training, Fireworks, Geocaching, Orienteering, Paddle boarding, Pinewood Raceway visit, Pontoon building, Rafting, Sailing, Swimming, Ten-Pin Bowling, Thorpe Park visit AND a few Three Towers Hikes!

The Troops also offered 88 nights away on 34 camps to 632 Scouts! (well, that's what you quoted on your Nights Away Notifications you submitted!!!)

So, stick in a couple of District Murray Plate events, which included a 'small?' (I lie, biggest ever!) Great Breakfast Chase, and shoehorn in a District Raft race, by any measure, it definitely felt like it was a busy year!

MURRAY PLATE

This year the Plate is shared by 5th Woodley and 1st Lower Earley. Congratulations to you both.

Last year's District Raft race didn't happen due to a lack of permit holders. The reliance on external qualified instructors would have made the event too expensive, so it's great that enough Leaders from around the District recently completed a course, and we now have more rafting permit holders. So, this year's event which is on June 15 (after the writing of this report)

GREAT BREAKFAST CHASE (GBC)



GBC at Rushall Farm – This is what 186 Scouts and Explorers looks like!

If you thought that last year's GBC was big, this year's one was even bigger! 186 Scouts and Explorers descended (more like invaded) Rushall Farm near Bradfield College just off the M4 Jct 12.

The route was best described as 'challenging' with the greatest number of retirees or lost teams. Fortunately, they all had trackers, which did provide some much-needed light relief for the organisers at 2am watching some of the teams go round in circles, before being put back on the right track.

Congratulations to RED Mike (5th Woodley) for winning the Scout event, and BLUE November (1st Twyford) for winning the Time Trial in 2:49 hours, which was nearly 2 hours quicker than the average!

Our friendly Explorers only entered 4 Teams this year, with BLUE Papa winning their event and BLUE Oscar the Time trial with an impressive time of 2:17 hours! I look forward to seeing what you've done to 'customise' your new 2 trophies this year!!!



Our greatest challenge is finding venues big enough to house nearly 250 Scouts, Explorers and Leaders, it was clear that Rushall Farm was struggling a bit, and I would like to thank the neighbours for their patience and the small amount of locally collected wood!!!

It's probably just as well that County had also organised a Jamboree get together for their units that weekend, or we could have had over 200 young people! (eek!)

Surely this year's one can't be bigger? And as always, my grateful thanks to ALL of you that helped to make it an amazing event.

Cooking Competition

With a theme of Coronation (couldn't be anything else, could it?), 7 teams from 4 Troops took up the challenge at Paddicks Patch (just before the condemning of the building, but that wasn't our fault, even if I did try to burn the building down!)



As always, the standard and quality of all the food produced was exceptional! – The (professional) chef / judges were all impressed how it was produced on a simple 2-burner gas-hob.

Congratulations to the winning Patrol from 1st Lower Earley.



Other News

We held another District master at arms course at Twyford with 4 Troops (and 2 Cubs) taking part. And yet again went to the National Scout Archery Competition (NSAC) this time our secret weapon (the Cubs), as well as the Scouts and Explorers, winning yet more trophies and medals (I even won one, finally, and so did one of the Cubs!).



Loddon Cubs, Scouts & Explorers at NSAC

Final Comments

The Chief Scout Award prizes (now called 'Head Socks!') are continuing to spread around the District, for the Scouts who gain the award. 25 gold awards were presented this year which is no mean achievement. CONGRATULATIONS to all who have worked so hard to achieve this.

Finally, without you Leaders, Helpers, Team Members (or whatever you are called) none of this could be possible, so a MASSIVE THANK YOU to EVERYONE who has helped this past year. Always too many to mention, but you are VERY MUCH appreciated. 😊

Pete Rogers Scouts

Explorers

There were 0 top awards at Explorer level although we have 3 successful units who are all busy with various different projects.

Network

At the start of the year some Network members joined the Explorers on the summer expedition to Scotland walking on Skye and dancing in Edinburgh.

Throughout the year a few small events have occurred including socials and walking in the Brecon Beacons. In May this year Network Leaders and members again joined the Explorers in their first International trip to Belgium to take part in the Ypres 100km festival of walking.

During the year, Josh McBain, Stephen Adams, Amiee Wallace and Lizzie Davies attending the garden party at Buckingham Palace to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Patrick Fillingham attended the annual St Georges Day at Windsor Castle to receive his Queens Scouts Award.

Malcolm Fillingham
Network

Active Support

Our District Active Support Unit will be discontinued after the transition so we have decided that we will continue to meet up for lunch on the third Thursday of alternate months so that we don't lose touch with each other.

We have been meeting in the Wee Waif, but a few people couldn't make a Thursday, so we are meeting at the Good Companions pub in Woodley on the third Tuesday of the intervening alternate month.

Anyone who would like to join us would be very welcome. The next lunch is booked for Thursday 18th July at the Wee Waif.

Helen Price

Safety Report

Premises safety audits have been carried out at the Scout Shop, 2nd Woodley and 1st Woodley during the past year.

Only minor physical issues were found at each of the premises. In the Scout Shop these related to ease of egress through the fire exit and the placement of some fire extinguishers. Following on from the inspection concerns have been raised about the external lighting of the access ramp during dark winter evenings. Externally there is a bulkhead fitting light. This should be replaced with a modern LED spotlight provided sufficient height can be found to prevent undue glare.

2nd Woodley has had considerable work done to the internal wall cladding, the flat roof and the electrical installation. Issues found related to the use and installation of extension socket wiring through the kitchen wall into the “leaders’ room” and in the “computer area”. The 1st Woodley building is in good condition benefiting from the installation of a new kitchen (some sink drainage pipes still to be connected at time of inspection). Some wiring needs tidying by the main hall fire exit door and PAT testing has not been carried out as required. Records were not available at the time of the visit to confirm gas safety, fire alarm tests, evacuation drills and accident recording. Relocation of cleaning chemicals to a secure area that does not require ladder access would be a sensible improvement. A return visit will be arranged to check paper records.

Currently within the District there is no member of the County PAT Testing team. If there is a volunteer with some basic electrical knowledge who feels able to undertake this role, I will be happy to provide the necessary training.

There is a County Safety Team meeting on the 18th June to discuss the future of the organisation of safety responsibilities within the County. Currently safety has a very high priority at National level in the aftermath of the “Great Orme” tragedy. We can expect changes in safety requirements continue to be introduced this year.

Robin Phillips
Safety Co-ordinator

LODDON DISTRICT SCOUT SHOP

Total sales for the year were £26,978 of which £17,990 (67%) was for Loddon District, £8,196 (30%) was Wokingham and £792 (3%) was other. This was about 4% down on last year. As the Bracknell Scout Shop has now closed, and we have noticed that a few more customers are coming to us from their area.

Badge sales of £12,753 represented 46% of the turnover, of which Loddon groups purchased £7,858 Wokingham £4,652 and others £243.

Several groups pay for badges by direct bank transfer, which saves us paying any bank charges. General purchases are predominantly paid by card for which we incurred £262 in transaction fees.

The sale of uniform continues to be steady, mostly at the start of term, but it is obvious that some parents are preferring the convenience of purchasing online direct from Scout store. We were able to return £1,366 to groups in the form of rebates and transferred £2,500 surplus funds to the District.

As in previous years we would appreciate more help with serving at the shop, particularly on Saturday mornings. We do not allocate more than 3 sessions per term to our already busy helpers, so we are having to cover the rest.

Barbara and Ian Loring