

HITCHIN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales · Charity number 302546

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 1968-09-16

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 32 Kershaws Hill
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG4 9AQ

Phone 07943225484

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Website www.hitchinscouts.org

Activities

Objects: UNIT OF THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION

Activities: Overseeing 14 Scout groups in the Hitchin District. These groups cater for people from the age of 4 to 25 years of age. The activities are wide and all groups meet weekly. The opportunities include camping and various other activities.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** HITCHIN
- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£77,569	£80,286	-	-
2023-12-31	£118,915	£130,446	-	-
2022-12-31	£125,344	£82,071	-	-
2021-12-31	£42,726	£69,172	-	-
2020-12-31	£64,437	£26,696	-	-

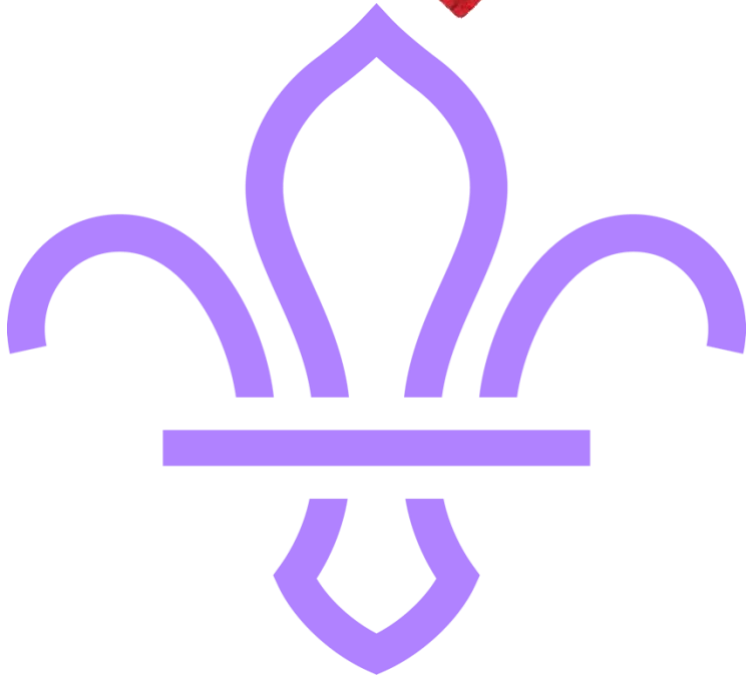
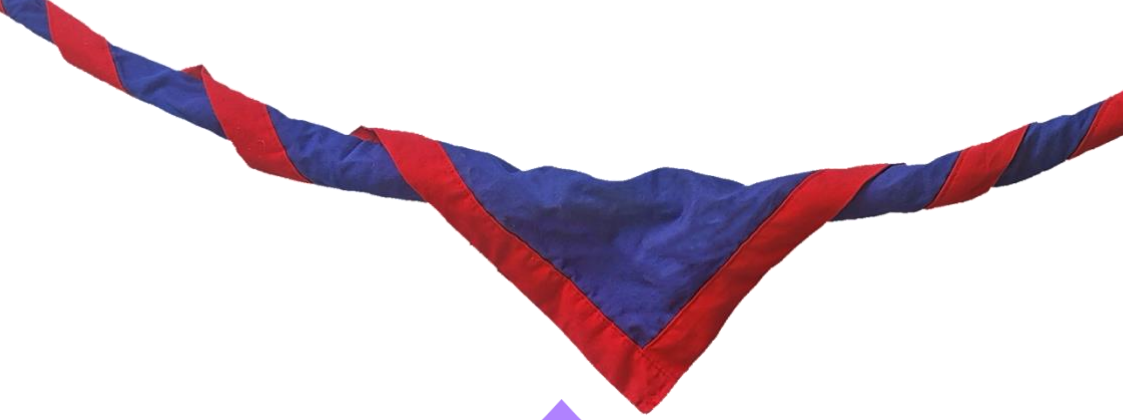
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Michael Wells	Chair	2020-04-29
Colin Wilson		2024-05-13
Craig Wilson		2019-06-13
Denise Wells		2019-06-13
Geraint Edwards		2015-01-01
Henry Harrison		2018-05-15
Kevin Hankin		2023-06-13
Max Pearson		2025-05-06
Tony Hankin		2015-05-12

HITCHIN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 302546

Accounts



Hitchin District Scouts

Annual Review to 5th May 2025

Hitchin District Scout Council

President & Vice Presidents

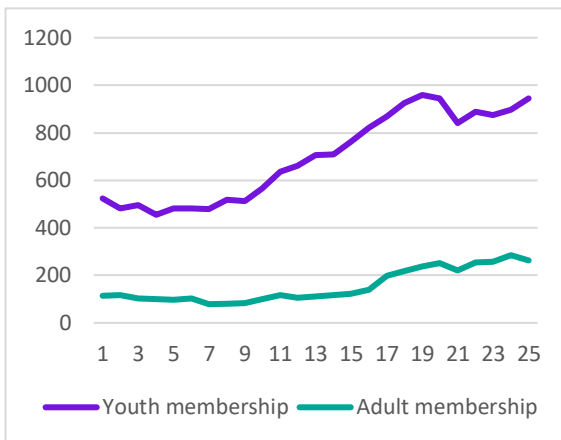
President	Graham Woolley
Vice Presidents	Rose De Roeck
	Tony Freeman
	Bernard Higgs
	Keith McEwen

District Board of Trustees

Chairman	Mike Wells
Secretary	Colin Wilson
Treasurer	Craig Wilson
District Lead Volunteer	Henry Harrison
District Youth Lead	Max Pearson
Trustees	Denise Wells
	Geraint Edwards
	Tony Hankin
	Tracey Higginbotham
	Kevin Hankin

District Membership

Squirrels	13
Beavers	254
Cubs	284
Scouts	294
Explorers	85
Network	15
Total Young People	945
Total Adults	264
Total Membership	1209



This year our youth membership increased by roughly 5%. This rise was only seen in the Scout section with drops in other









sections. The adult numbers also saw a drop in the number reported. While this may seem worrying, I am confident that the change in adult numbers is due to clean up efforts migrating to the new system. We actually saw a rise in 'leaders' and 'managers'. The drop was only in 'support' roles and I believe that many of the roles closed weren't active volunteers. The youth membership drop in lower sections is likely caused by the increase in membership fee. I believe that this will be corrected next year.



Hitchin Afloat- Blue Lagoon

Groups and Units in Hitchin District

Scout Groups

-  1st Hitchin (Boys' School)
-  2nd Hitchin (Air Scouts)
-  3rd Hitchin (Walsworth Road Baptist Church)
-  4th Hitchin (St. Ippolytts)
-  5th Hitchin (St. Mark's)
-  6th Hitchin (Priory)
-  7th Hitchin (Our Lady's)
-  8th Hitchin (Oughton)
-  9th Hitchin (1st Ickleford)
-  11th Hitchin (Christchurch)
-  12th Hitchin (St. Mary's and Holy Saviour)
-  15th Hitchin (Holwell and Pirton)
-  16th Hitchin (St. Faiths)
-  17th Hitchin (St. Michael's)

Explorer Scout Units

- 1st Hitchin ESU
- BEAR ESU
- DORA ESU
- HYDRUS Young Leaders

Network Scout Unit

- Hitchin District Network



District Awards and Achievements

Chief Scouts Award for Merit

Aida Wolley
Ashley Theakstone
Karen Theakstone
Gemma Pearson
Sandra Stokes
Spencer Polley
Tina Hay

Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service

Chris Blade
Craig Wilson
Ian Young
Michael Hamid

60 Years' Service

Jeff Phillips

25 Years' Service

Ian White

5 years' service

Alex Booth
Carl Watson
Judith Devey
Leah Davis
Lucie Goldsmith
Mark Nicholls
Matt Whiting
Odile Barclay
Peter Alsop
Philip Morrow

40 Years' Service

Denise Wells

15 Years' Service

Janette Innes

30 Years' Service

Graham Woolley

10 Years' Service

Rachel Drury
Sophie Rutschmann

*due to the new membership system, there has been a delay in receiving awards. Please bear with me if you see your name above but haven't yet been presented with a certificate.

District Chairman

Hello again and thank you for reading the annual review of Hitchin Scouting. I think I have now recovered from #DAW25 I can not remember if this was my fourth or fifth away weekend. I would especially like to thank Ian and his whole team for making this event a great success. For my part those of you that did not see me, I spent almost all my time in the kitchen of the main building Trying to keep your leadership team loaded up with coffee and carbs.

During this year, Hitchin Scouting was represented again at the 2nd Tilehouse Rotary Youth activities showcase event in the Market Place. I am very pleased to say that we were again successful in recruiting a number of new adult volunteers. It is very difficult to say no to Tina (Thankfully). I hope that we will repeat this again in September.

As always, I would sincerely like to thank all of the leaders and adult volunteers who have helped to deliver these "Skills for life", we simply could not do it without you. I look forward to welcoming you to our AGM at the Cricket club on 5th May.

Mike Wells
District Chairman



District Treasurer

The Financial Accounts for the calendar year 2024 are presented for consideration at this AGM. The accounts have been independently examined, and I would like to thank Philippa Morgan-Males for carrying out the examination. Both the accounts and the examiner's report were approved by the District Trustee Board at a meeting on 23rd April 2025.

As mentioned in last year's report, the District opened a 30-day notice savings account with Dudley Building Society to hold surplus funds. £40,000 was initially invested in this account at 4.1% interest per annum. The interest rate on the account has since reduced to 3.25%, but this remains competitive and there are no plans to seek alternatives. £10,000 was withdrawn from the account in early 2025 to subsidize the DAW 2025 event, and this will be reflected in the 2025 accounts.

Scout Association membership fees for 2024 increased by £2, and the County levy increased by 50p. However, Hitchin District subsidized the District levy by £2.50 which meant that the 2024 capitation fees for Hitchin Groups were the same as 2023, at £55 per head. The subsidy was funded from existing grants. Subscription costs charged by group to members increased from an average of £34 per term in 2023 to £35 per term in 2024.

Scout Shop income in 2024 was £12,900 in sales (2023: £13,750) and £9,600 in expenditure (2023: £11,400). All profits from the shop are re-invested into Hitchin Scouts. Thank you to Denise and the team for all their work.

Gift Aid in the amount of £1,490 was claimed in 2024.

Income generated from Scout HQ building increased by £400 in 2024 thanks to the building being made available as a polling station for local and national elections. Expenditure on DHQ, including insurance and facilities also increased compared to 2023 by £2,700.

Installations of new lighting with emergency backup, new heaters, and purchase and installation of a publicly available defibrillator account for the increase. These were all funded from existing grants.

Both income and expenditure in the Explorer units almost doubled compared to 2023, this was due to the running of several large events throughout the year, including multiple camps and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Additionally in 2024, income and expenditure for the Explorers trip to Yellowstone National Park has been recorded. This trip will take place later this year.

The District Trustees, together with Explorer leaders decided that Explorer subscriptions would increase from £30 to £33 per term beginning in the Spring Term of 2025. This is the first such increase for many years and was made in anticipation of substantially higher capitation fees in 2025 and increases in consumer prices.

Receipts were £77,568 in 2024 compared with £118,915 in 2023. The 2023 figures were higher because of grants received in that financial year.

Expenditure in 2024 was £80,285 compared to £130,446 in 2023. The significantly higher expenditure in 2023 was for the Lochearnhead trip.

Overall, at the end of 2024, District funds stood at £79,733 compared to £82,450, in 2023. The reduction is explained by the expenditure of grant funds as highlighted above.

Craig Wilson
District Treasurer

District Lead Volunteer

This year has been dominated for many in the district with the new membership system and changes to training and roles. A huge thank you for continuing to bear with the new system and its technical quirks. It hasn't been easy but hopefully we are starting to come out the other side. While the system itself is hugely flawed, some of the changes that went alongside it do make life easier for everybody. For example, anybody can now nominate a volunteer for an award easily, anybody can put in an application for a permit and online training doesn't need to be signed off manually.

It was great this year to appoint Max as the District Youth Lead. Max has already started to plan what he wants to achieve in the role and reach out to other members of the district. Thank you again to Tom for all his time and energy in the role previously.

This year, the district opened two new sections, significantly expanding our reach within the community. 16th Hitchin reopened its Scout troop, with Ross and Phil taking the lead at Highover School, offering vital opportunities for older youth to develop crucial life skills. Also, 15th Hitchin launched our second Squirrel Drey in the district. The Scout Association has set fairly challenging, yet vital, targets for counties like ours to open more Squirrel Dreys. This strategic push is driven by the clear benefits seen by communities where we establish new provision for these youngest members.

Squirrel Dreys, catering to 4 and 5 year olds, set the foundations for a lifelong love of adventure and learning. These early experiences not only lay the groundwork for their progression through Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, but also contribute to a stronger, more engaged community as these children grow into responsible citizens. Therefore, it's truly fantastic to have a second drey in Hitchin, and we will be actively looking for further opportunities to open more provision, ensuring that even more young people in our district can benefit from the unique and enriching experiences that Scouting offers right from the very start.

A huge thank you to the district team for everything this year. A special thanks to Ian for a fantastic DAW- his first in the activity lead role!

Next year we will be starting to plan for Lochearnhead in August 2027 and in the coming months, will be selecting young people to attend the Poland Jamboree in 2027.

Henry Harrison
District Lead



District Youth Lead

Firstly, a brief introduction to those who don't know me yet as I'm still relatively fresh in the role. Having been in Scouts since Beavers, I've been really pleased to join the District team and start to meet all the fantastic young people and their equally fantastic volunteers. My role is about amplifying those young people's voices across Scouting, whether it be through the YouShape Award, youth forums or our young leader programme. I've been enjoying visiting some groups already and hearing about what makes our young people enjoy Scouting so much (and it's not just dodgeball!)

DAW was only a few weeks ago, and I hope everyone who came along had a brilliant time. A huge thank you to Ian for his hard work in planning such a great weekend!

Having only recently started the role, hopefully you won't mind a shorter review from me. Over the coming months, I hope to visit and meet more of you at your groups so we can continue to promote and deliver youth-led Scouting.

Max Pearson
Youth Lead



District Activity Team Lead

Over the year the activity teams have been working hard to bring Skills for Life to the District.

June 2024

Beavers and Cubs participated in a day trip to the Duxford Air Museum. Early on a cold, windy morning, the coaches collected 140 Beavers and Cubs from Woodside car park. Throughout the day, we observed old planes taking off and landing and engaged in activities to earn our air badge.

Thank you to Caroline from 17th Hitchin for her hard work in arranging the trip.

July RIAT 2024 Farnborough Air Show

In July, a small group of older Scouts and Explorers attended the RIAT24 Air Show. Since it was one of the hottest days, they had a great time. Thank you, Tony, for driving and organising the minibus.

October 2024

Cubs participated in a district hike in Wymondley Wood. Approximately 70 Cubs took part, followed by a BBQ to conclude the event.

November 2024

More than 17 teams (150 participants) gathered at Boyd Field for the Scout and Explorer district night hike. This event took them across the fields of Henlow and Clifton, with nearly all participants finding their way back to Boyd Field for food and hot chocolate.

December 2024

Squirrels and Beavers Christingle service. This is the second year this event has taken place, and more Squirrels and Beavers gathered at St Mary's church than ever before. This is one of the most chaotic services around, but it works well. Approximately 160 Squirrels and Beavers participated, along with their younger and older siblings who were able to stay with their parents.

The service was led by Rev. Chris Bunce, who excelled at bringing it to life. Thanks to St. Mary's for their hospitality and assistance in making this event possible for the community.

The Priory School, Wednesday evenings

Archery:

Since last September, we have conducted 23 sessions, allowing the teams to introduce Archery to 400 Cubs and Scouts. We are pleased to welcome two new instructors to the team: Hazel White and Conor Buck. Obtaining permits from the County has been somewhat challenging. Nevertheless, with the assistance of some County team members, we hope to resolve this issue by the summer break, making life a little easier for everyone.

Climbing:

The climbing team has been busy running 26 sessions, with 468 Cubs and Scouts trying out the wall. We have a new team member joining us from Letchworth, welcome, Mark Brewis.

Over the term, we had a visit from the County Climbing Assessor, who was impressed with the setup and the passion our climbers showed. We are now working on getting some of our climbers certified on other walls.

Additionally, over time, we have had Letchworth District book the occasional Wednesday and open the activity to more young people for the first time. We organised an evening for adult leaders so they could come down and try it out, also following the Hermitage Road Day. We invited potential new leaders to come and see what it's all about.

Sailing:

The district sailing team has been offering more sailing experiences to groups booked throughout the summer months. Additionally, Andrew Henton Pusey and the sailing team have conducted a three-day sailing course, along with sailing taster days that fill up quickly. They are now preparing for the annual trip to Mersea. Thank you to all the team who keep sailing alive in Hitchin.



On Friday, 9th May 2025, all was calm at the Leslie Sell Scout Centre in Bromham. Until half of Hitchin appeared to show up.

On Saturday, the action began in Hitchin with two 100-seater coaches arriving at 7 am at The Priory School to collect the Beavers who had come for the day. Both coaches saved approximately 8500 miles of car travel and parking. This was a precision-timed event, as the coaches arrived in Bromham. Once they dismounted, the Scouts boarded to attend the Caldecott Centre, MK for their day out. For this DAW, we had to split the Scouts into two separate activity centers due to the number attending. Not long after the first two coaches arrived and departed, the second two arrived. One coach took the remaining 70 Scouts to Northampton Active, while the other coach transported the Explorers to Snowzone and the Hollywood Bowl in Milton Keynes. Thanks, Tony, for making this run as smoothly as it did.

This was the first DAW that I oversaw as part of the District team, and it represented a significant learning curve. However, the inflation that has occurred since 2022 made it all the more challenging. With many families struggling financially, facing issues with school trips and other life challenges, I aimed to keep the district's cost per person for the event as low as possible while still providing them with a memorable weekend. Through lengthy phone calls and considerable pleading, we managed to run the event. I have not yet received feedback while compiling this report, so based on what leaders and young participants shared with me, the ideas were practical and effective.

Throughout the weekend, representatives from every group in Hitchin participated, but three groups opted to send only their Beaver sections due to other camps scheduled to take place.

One minor issue was that the archery instructor scheduled for that day did not show up, so a massive thank you to Gavin and Hazel for running a day of archery for the Cubs.

Numbers

Squirrels, 14, also stayed over on Friday night, and watching them participate was great.

Beavers 190 attended; some stayed overnight on Friday evening, while the majority came for the day by coach.

Cubs 183, participate in activities all day, including shooting, climbing walls, and caving tunnels.

Scouts, 240, went off-site to two locations.

Explorers, 38

Overall, 665 young people were present on site on Saturday.

We also had visits from Alistair Strathern, MP, and Annette Payne from Hertfordshire Scouts.

Without the District team and the support they provided to me and others over the weekend, none of this would have been possible. Additionally, I would like to thank those who ran the campfires. I received excellent feedback about how much they enjoyed it, with activities divided into three campfires. The last one was particularly interesting (Gordon).

Thank you once again to everyone, from leaders to parents and the younger generation, for participating.

See you back in three years, DAW28

Ian Buck
Activities Lead

District Programme Team Lead

The Programme Team exists to help every section run a safe, enjoyable and quality programme. This is our first year of formal existence since Transformation so we are still finding our feet under the new structure and roles.

The Programme Team has co-hosted, with the activities team, termly meetings for Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorers leaders which provide opportunities for leaders to share best practice, successful programme ideas and give feedback directly to the District Team.

Our achievements this year include:

- 8 Scouts from across the District completed their Expedition Challenge Award through the District Programme
- DofE Bronze and Silver practice and qualifying Expeditions completed under the leadership of Michael Cranfield and Ben Pearson, Hitchin's Duke of Edinburgh Team.
- 5 DofE Silver Awards and 13 DofE Bronze Awards completed during the year.
- An OSM Training workshop to help groups get the most out of the tool.
- Safety Workshops to reinforce how to run safe scouting.
- The Programme Team conducts visits to engage with leaders during their section meetings.

Ben Pearson
Programme Lead

District Volunteer Development Team Lead

The Volunteer Development Team was introduced into Scout UK and the Hitchin District structure in November 24, and its purpose was to ensure all volunteers across the District have a positive and enjoyable volunteering experience.

The system has its challenges! The new ways of working meant many of us found ourselves having to learn a new way to meet the needs of what being a scout volunteer is.

Scout UK lost many 'unused' roles/titles and we all became part of a team, and some members part of many teams!

The new ways of learning became more personal and each member has ownership of their own progression, learning and development. VDT have been able to offer both training and support, plus one-on-one sessions to ensure confidence and understanding in the changes.

It has been encouraging to see many leaders have continued with their personal learning via 'Growing Roots' which now includes the introduction of a new Safety Module to be completed by every face-to-face scouting member by 14th July 2025.

Some members are looking to complete the traditional Wood Badge that has remained as an adult award for completion of the training since 1919. It is due to be replaced and details will follow in due course. However, should anyone still wish to complete the badge of recognition we will do all we can to support this. However, should anyone still wish to complete the badge of recognition we will do all we can to support this.

Every Hitchin team continues to attend meetings, arrange camps or recruit whilst still putting the young people at the heart of what we do, so doing they can continue to create inspiring teams and build brilliant programmes.

We are delighted to have welcomed a new Scout Section into Hitchin District which continues to grow from strength-to-strength, and wonderful to see the young people learn the activities Hitchin Scouting has to offer.

I'd like to thank everybody for their ongoing persistence with the changes and VDT will do all we can to continue to support all members to be the best scout members we can to offer #SkillsForLife to every young person.

Please do contact anyone in the VDT team for support from learning, additional needs, award recognition, skill accreditations, recruitment, Welcome Chats, sharing of team member skills, mentoring etc.

Tina Hay
Volunteer Development Lead

Vacancies

We are always looking for people to join the district team and help coordinate scouting across the district. If you are interested in any position, please get in touch with somebody in the district team. In particular, we are looking for people to help in the programme team with cubs and scouts. This isn't a huge role and could be done alongside another. At its core, you would chair the termly section meetings and help mention leaders on programme planning.

We are also looking for more people to volunteer with district activities. If you are interested in helping to plan events across the district, please get in touch.

Finally, we are looking for a District Quartermaster and somebody to help with PR and social media.



Registered Charity Number 302546

Hitchin District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01/01/2024	To	31/12/2024
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Receipts

	2024		2023
	£		£
Subscriptions			
Membership subscriptions	48,620.00		47,685.00
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on	- 46,410.00		- 43,350.00
Net membership subscriptions retained	2,210.00		4,335.00
District Operations			
Premises	702.96		298.99
Administration & PR	-		-
Adult support & training	485.18		80.00
Equipment	-		-
Sub total	1,188.14		378.99
District Activities & Groups			
District events & activities	15,121.00		11,382.64
Watersports	8,374.33		6,539.29
Jamboree	-		- 7,087.50
Explorers	26,792.83		13,435.71
DAW25	350.00		
Yellowstone	7,044.54		
Lochearnhead	-		19,738.17
Sub total	57,682.70		44,008.31
Donations, legacies and similar income			
Private donations and grants	1,231.54		50,332.00
Jamboree Donations and Grants	-		369.50
Lochearnhead Donations and Grants			2,550.00
Benevity and Amazon Smile	492.50		524.52
Sub total	1,724.04		53,776.02
Charitable income to pass on			
St Georges day - MACs	-		-
Corporate matched funding passed to specific groups	60.84		-
	60.84		-
Scout Shop			
Scout Shop Sales	12,898.67		13,754.02
	12,898.67		13,754.02
Investment income			
Bank interest	313.66		157.13
Gift Aid	1,490.52		2,505.76
Sub total	1,804.18		2,662.89
Total receipts	77,568.57		118,915.23

Payments

	2024	2023
	£	£
District Operations		
Premises	5,874.18	3,188.38
Administration & PR	953.03	1,650.71
Adult support & training	3,198.14	4,229.80
Watercraft Insurance	379.44	-
Equipment	2,795.02	10,176.36
Sub total	13,199.81	19,245.25
District Activities & Groups		
District events & activities	18,377.65	13,327.71
Watersports	4,312.40	4,137.04
Jamboree 2023	-	5,749.57
Explorers	27,464.49	15,465.68
Youth Forum, Young Leaders & Network	-	75.77
DAW25	3,657.56	
Yellowstone	3,409.00	
Lochearnhead	-	60,894.52
Sub total	57,221.10	99,650.29
Charitable income to pass on		
Hitchin Initiative	150.00	150.00
Corporate matched funding passed to specific groups	47.32	-
RBL Poppy Appeal	67.10	-
	264.42	150.00
Scout Shop		
Scout Shop Expenditure	9,600.31	11,400.81
	9,600.31	11,400.81
Total payments	80,285.64	130,446.35

Receipts and Payments Accounts Summary

	2024	2023
	£	£
Total Receipts	77,568.57	118,915.23
Total payments	80,285.64	130,446.35
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,717.07	- 11,531.12
Cash funds last year end	82,449.81	93,980.93
Cash funds carried forward	79,732.74	82,449.81

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash funds		
Bank current account	10,420.78	57,754.70
2nd 'Project' account	3,985.54	4,330.38
Savings Account	40,313.66	-
Paypal	299.93	325.48
Explorers	12,225.87	10,850.65
Equals Cards	0.59	0.59
Scout Shop current account	10,791.48	6,011.44
Scout shop Cash/Floats	22.86	25.00
Scout Shop Liabilities	-	-
Scout shop Debtors	1,961.23	3,151.57
Total cash funds	79,732.74	82,449.81

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustee Board on 23rd April 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Signature




Print Name

CRAIG WILSON	Treasurer
MIKE WELLS	Chair

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hitchin District Scout Council for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Signed:



Name:

P MORGAN-MALES

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

Address:

65 BENSLOW RISE HITCHIN SG4 9QY

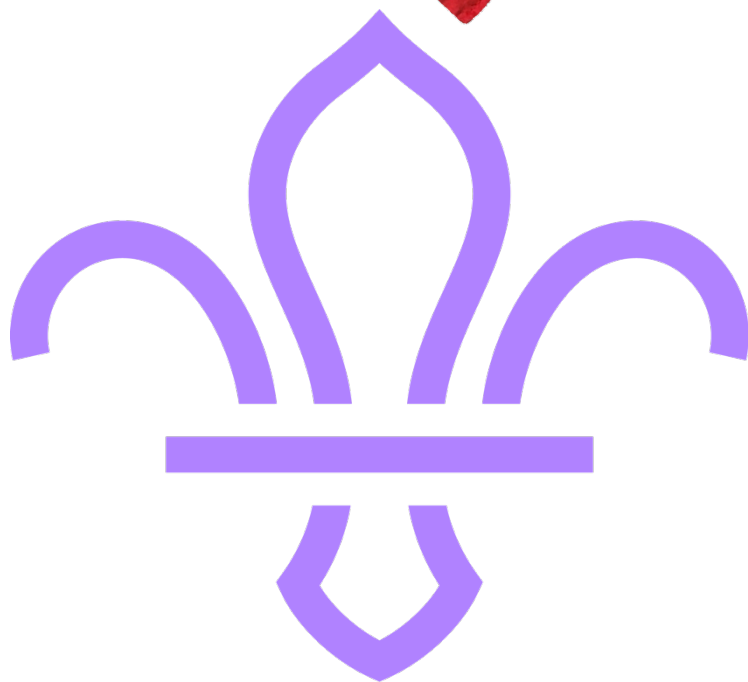
Date:

31/3/25

HITCHIN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 302546

Accounts



Hitchin District Scouts

Annual Review to 13th May 2024

Hitchin District Scout Council

President & Vice Presidents

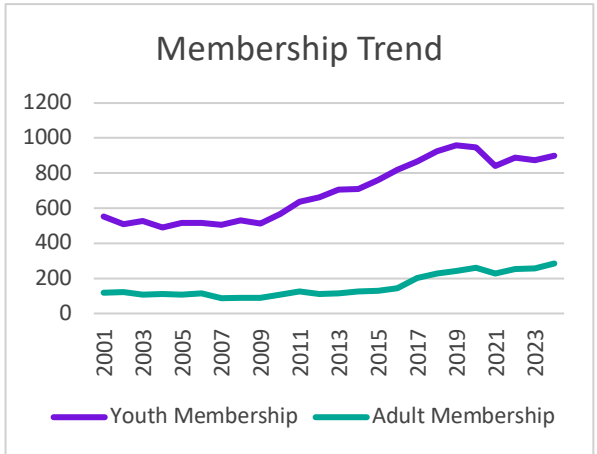
President	Graham Woolley
Vice Presidents	Rose De Roeck
	Tony Freeman
	Peter Hankin
	Bernard Higgs
	Keith McEwen
	Shirley Street

District Board of Trustees

Chairman	Mike Wells
Secretary	Colin Wilson
Treasurer	Craig Wilson
Assistant Treasurer	Anna Pargeter
District Lead Volunteer	Henry Harrison
District Youth Lead	Tom Hankin
Trustees	Denise Wells
	Geraint Edwards
	Alan Langley
	Tony Hankin
	Tracey Higginbotham
	Kevin Hankin

District Membership

Squirrels	9
Beavers	267
Cubs	298
Scouts	217
Explorers	93
Network	14
Total Young People	898
Total Adults	285
Total Membership	1183





This year our youth membership increased by 2.6%. Its brilliant to see our youth membership continuing to grow after the drop caused by the COVID pandemic. It's great to see more young people in Hitchin benefiting from scouting. We are really delighted that the volunteer membership grew by over 10%. This was largely due to a couple of successful recruitment events. Explorer membership also grew a huge amount, from 69 to 93 explorers. Finally, it was great to declare our first Squirrel Drey at 8th Hitchin.



Lochearnhead Group

Groups and Units in Hitchin District

Scout Groups

-  1st Hitchin (Boys' School)
-  2nd Hitchin (Air Scouts)
-  3rd Hitchin (Walsworth Road Baptist Church)
-  4th Hitchin (St. Ippolytts)
-  5th Hitchin (St. Mark's)
-  6th Hitchin (Priory)
-  7th Hitchin (Our Lady's)
-  8th Hitchin (Oughton)
-  9th Hitchin (1st Ickleford)
-  11th Hitchin (Christchurch)
-  12th Hitchin (St. Mary's and Holy Saviour)
-  15th Hitchin (Holwell and Pirton)
-  16th Hitchin (St. Faiths)
-  17th Hitchin (St. Michael's)

Explorer Scout Units

- 1st Hitchin ESU
- BEAR ESU
- DORA ESU
- HYDRUS Young Leaders

Network Scout Unit

- Hitchin District Network



District Awards and Achievements

Silver Wolf

Tony Hankin

Bar to the Award for Merit

Wendy Hawkes

Chief Scouts Award for Merit

Andrew Murray Moore

Dennis Richard Alder

Janette Alexandra Innes

Peter Watson

Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service

Anna Wilson

Victoria Hellyer

30 Years' Service

Sandra Stokes

20 Years' Service

Julie Hobbs

Robert Annett

Patricia Reiser

15 Years' Service

Gavin Love

Raymond Shakespear

Tim Stroud

10 Years' Service

Claire Slater

Henry Harrison

Geoffrey Eyles

Tomasz Pernak

Tina Hay

Rebecca Roberts

5 years' service

Tom Hankin

Esta Norton

Amy Parker

Helen Matthews

James Cole

Michelle Stafford

Roger Powell

Suzanne Anderson

David Bevan

Richard Burgess

Mark Drury

Daniel Ellis

Emma Faulkner

Helen Neeves

Holly Pomfret

Richard Proctor

Alex Woolston

District Chairman

Hello again and thank you for reading the annual review of Hitchin Scouting. It was very sad earlier on in this Scouting year that we lost Richard Cox who had been our District president for many years. He was a great supporter of Hitchin Scouting and after he stood down from his role, I presented him with a gift of appropriately named rose bushes and an engraved oak plaque. There is good news on the presidential front but I will leave this to Henry to tell everyone.

It has been another very busy year with activities for our young people and I would sincerely like to thank all of the leaders and adult volunteers who have helped to deliver these "Skills for life", we simply could not do it without you. During this year, Hitchin Scouting was represented at the Tilehouse Rotary Youth activities showcase event in the Market Place. This was very successful and I am very pleased to say that a number of new adult volunteers came forward following this event.

I also attended the District Awards Evening at The Priory School to see so many of our young people gain awards and recognition. As I write this, I look forward to the leader information evening at The Highlander and St Georges day parade later this month, and I look forward to welcoming you to our AGM at the Cricket club in May.

Mike Wells
District Chairman

District Treasurer

The Financial Accounts for the calendar year 2023 have been presented for consideration at this AGM. The accounts have been independently examined, and I would like to thank Philippa Morgan-Males for carrying out the examination. Both the accounts and the examiner's report were approved by the District Trustee Board at a meeting on 15th April.

Hitchin Scouts were very fortunate to receive substantial grants and donations in 2023. The attendees of the World Scout Jamboree were instrumental in the success of the District's application for a £40,000 grant from the LIV Foundation. This grant enabled the District to fully subsidise the Jamboree fees for all five of our attendees. In addition, this grant was used to subsidise the cost of the Lochearnhead 2023 trip, and to buy new equipment (bell tents and expedition tents). At the end of 2023, approximately £14,700 of this grant remained. The District Trustee Board agreed at their last meeting that funds from this grant will be used to support volunteer training (£2,000) and to subsidise the 2025 district-wide DAW event (£5,000). A £10,000 donation was also received from the Revere Trust, a local charitable trust. The District Trustee Board has agreed that £5,000 of this donation should be used to further subsidise DAW in 2025.

In 2023, the Scout Association closed its Short-Term Investment Service. This was an investment account available to Scout Groups, Districts and Counties for the purposes of generating a return on invested funds. Hitchin District had just under £12,000 of reserves in this account, and this money was returned into the District bank account. At a meeting of the Trustee Board in September 2023, it was agreed that the District should open a savings account for the purpose of earning interest on cash reserves. The board voted to invest reserves of £40,000 in a 30-day notice account from Dudley Building Society earning 4.1% interest per annum. This account is now open.

Scout Association membership fees for 2023 increased by £2 per young person per year compared to 2022. The District was able to hold their portion of the

membership fee at the same level as the previous year. Furthermore, the District Trustee Board has agreed that the previously awarded Covid grant will be used in 2024 to subsidise the district membership fee for groups, to help offset further increases at the national and county level. Subscription costs charged by groups increased from an average of £32.50 per young person per term in 2022 to an average of £34 in 2023.

Scout Shop income in 2023 was very similar to 2022 at just over £13,750 of sales and £11,400 expenditure. All profits from the shop are re-invested into Hitchin Scouts. Thank you to Denise and the team for all their work.

Gift Aid in the amount of £2,500 was received in 2023 – this consists of £1,200 from the 2022 claim and £1,300 from the 2023 claim.

Expenditure on the Scout HQ building, including insurance and facilities was down by £1,000 compared to 2022. Moving to a cheaper electricity tariff contributed to this, as did the stepping back of the person who did regular tidying up, weeding etc. The Trustee Board is seeking a replacement.

Expenditure on Admin/PR increased by £1,100 compared to 2022. This was largely due to a PR and recruitment campaign designed to promote Hitchin Scouts and attract new volunteers to the District through a series of events held throughout the year.

Expenditure on training increased by £1,700 compared to 2022. This increase was largely due to the mental health training course which was provided for District volunteers and paid for from a grant received from Bedford and Luton Community Fund.

Expenditure on equipment increased ten-fold from around £1,000 in 2022 to £10,000 in 2023. The purchases of tents from grants and donation noted above, along with purchase and refurbishment of second-hand boats (from ringfenced water sports funds) were the main contributors to this increase. Given that all major purchases came from grants or ringfenced funds, there is no concern on the

impact to District finances from this increased expenditure.

Explorer Unit finances are healthy and there are no concerns with the ability to pay the national membership fees for any of the units. Explorer subscriptions will remain at the current level of £30 per term for 2024.

Receipts were £118,915 in 2023 compared with £124,343 in 2022. Both of these figures are substantially higher than typical, because of the awards of the grants and donations mentioned above, and because of the receipts of fees for major events such as Lochearnhead 2023.

Expenditure in 2023 was substantially higher at £130,446 compared to £82,070 in 2022. Almost £61,000 of this expenditure was for the Lochearnhead trip, for which fees and grants were received across 2022 and 2023.

Overall, at the end of 2023, District funds stood at £82,450 compared to £93,980, in 2022. The lower figure is explained by the collection of funds for major events such as Lochearnhead in 2022 which were spent in 2023.

Craig Wilson

District Lead Volunteer

I'd like to give a huge thank you to all our volunteers for their continued commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm. Every week, 900 young people learn skills for life, develop into better citizens and have a great time. This couldn't happen without a huge amount of volunteer time. It was brilliant to see an increase in leadership this year with 27 new leaders, 8 of these coming from the town centre Youth Showcase event. This was followed up with an adult climbing taster session that we will be running again this year.

For many of our Scouts, Explorers and leaders, last year was dominated by our district trip to Lochearnhead in Scotland to stay at an old train station owned by Hertfordshire Scouts. Organising a trip on this scale is a mammoth logistical challenge. Sam and Tony Hankin did a fantastic job making sure that the 66 young people and 50 leaders had an amazing trip. Over the 2 weeks, young people experienced: walking, bouldering, sailing, kayaking, mountain biking and high ropes alongside day trips to Stirling, Highland games and an overnight expedition. For many of the Young People, this is the longest they have been away from home, especially since the pandemic. It is so important for our young people to have these opportunities that they wouldn't get elsewhere.

Last year was also a Jamboree year. Hitchin sent 5 young people to South Korea for the 25th World Scout Jamboree. Although it didn't go totally as planned, I was very pleased to hear that our scouts still managed to have a great time and get a once in a lifetime experience out of the Jamboree. They were able to meet with scouts from every corner of the world and learn about other cultures and customs. The next Jamboree will be in Poland in 2027 and we expect to be looking for participants next year. For those aged between 14 and 18 in August 2027, please keep an eye open for communications next year.

There has been a big focus on safety this year following a couple of incidents and near misses. As we look after 900 children weekly, safety and safeguarding must be a top priority for all of us. Leader training compliance is one element of this. Leaders who have out of date mandatory training will now be automatically suspended. Thankfully, Hitchin has always been relatively good at adult training

compliance. Thank you to leaders for making this as easy as possible! We must also continue to have a risk assessment for every activity that we run. This is something that the district will be improving with and asking groups to look at as well. This year, we are running risk assessment sessions aimed at leaders and committee members. We want to help provide training for skills that our leaders require. Last year we also ran extra training for Mental Health Awareness, this year we ran some Autism Awareness training. If anybody has suggestions for extra sessions that would be helpful, please get in touch.

As ever, there is loads to look forward to coming up in the calendar. Following on from a hugely successful Cub Camp last year, we have a Space themed Cub Camp this summer. We also have a Beaver Activity day and Scout Night Hike towards the end of the summer. In 2025, we will have the return of the District Activity Weekend, a weekend open to every young person in the district. Next year, we also have an Explorer trip to Yellowstone National Park for 8 young people aged 16+.

As part of the wider Scouts Transformation project, the district team will be rebranding to use the new role titles following this AGM. Please see the new roles below.

Henry Harrison



People Team



Programme Team





Vacancies

We are always looking for people to join the district team and help coordinate scouting across the district. If you are interested in any position, please get in touch with somebody in the district team. In particular, we are looking for a People Team Member and somebody to help with the Activities Team.

We need somebody to support the 18-25 age range in the district. This could be young adults who volunteer with us or members who want to stay in touch with the district after explorers. It involves keeping in semi-regular contact with the group, supporting events and acting as a go-between for the network and the district team.

We are also looking for somebody who is good with organisation, IT and planning to help support the Activity Team with organising District Activities.

Finally, we are starting to look for somebody aged 18-25 to support the Youth Lead. As Tom is getting older, we will be looking for the next Youth Lead! Ideally, we would have a longer handover period to make this more effective.

Upcoming events

May	Beaver Activity Day
May	Safety Workshop
June	Duxford Visit
July	Farnborough Air show trip
August	Hermitage Road Day (Hitchin Scouts have climbing wall)
September	Youth Showcase event in the town square
October	District Cub Hike
November	Scout Night Hike
December	Cub Christmas Challenge
January	Beaver Sleepover
February	Celebration Evening
May	DAW

For up to date district and county event dates please see the district calendar:
hitchinscouts.org/calendar

Photos from around the district











Registered Charity Number 302546

Hitchin District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01/01/2023	To	31/12/2023
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Receipts

	2023		2022
	£		£
Subscriptions			
Membership subscriptions	47,685.00		46,746.00
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	- 43,350.00		- 42,336.00
Net membership subscriptions retained	4,335.00		4,410.00
District Operations			
Premises	298.99		44.99
Administration & PR	-		-
Adult support & training	80.00		-
Equipment	-		-
Sub total	378.99		44.99
District Activities & Groups			
District events & activities	11,382.64		24,776.35
Watersports	6,539.29		7,023.56
Jamboree	- 7,087.50		7,087.50
Explorers	13,435.71		11,365.14
Youth Forum, Young Leaders & Network	-		-
Lochearnhead	19,738.17		32,063.28
Sub total	44,008.31		82,315.83
Donations, legacies and similar income			
Private donations and grants	50,332.00		7,275.00
DHQ Roof	-		10,000.00
Charities Trust	-		500.00
Jamboree Donations and Grants	369.50		6,805.45
Lochearnhead Donations and Grants	2,550.00		-
Benevity and Amazon Smile	524.52		60.35
Sub total	53,776.02		24,640.80
Charitable income to pass on			
Corporate matched funding passed to specific groups	-		82.16
	-		82.16
Scout Shop			
Scout Shop Sales	13,754.02		13,836.27
	13,754.02		13,836.27
Investment income			
Bank interest	157.13		13.86
Gift Aid	2,505.76		-
Sub total	2,662.89		13.86
Total receipts	118,915.23		125,343.91

Payments

	2023		2022
	£		£
District Operations			
Premises	3,188.38		4,213.58
Administration & PR	1,650.71		510.87
Adult support & training	4,229.80		2,545.53
Equipment	10,176.36		928.72
Sub total	19,245.25		8,198.70
District Activities & Groups			
District events & activities	13,327.71		30,806.32
Watersports	4,137.04		5,591.57
Jamboree 2023	5,749.57		12,767.50
Explorers	15,465.68		11,876.36
Youth Forum, Young Leaders & Network	75.77		344.48
Lochearnhead	60,894.52		1,081.18
Sub total	99,650.29		62,467.41
Charitable income to pass on			
Hitchin Initiative	150.00		150.00
Corporate matched funding passed to specific groups	-		68.51
RBL Poppy Appeal	-		30.00
Sub total	150.00		248.51
Scout Shop			
Scout Shop Expenditure	11,400.81		11,156.24
Sub total	11,400.81		11,156.24
Total payments	130,446.35		82,070.86

Receipts and Payments Accounts Summary

	2023		2022
	£		£
Total Receipts	118,915.23		125,343.91
Total payments	130,446.35		82,070.86
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 11,531.12		43,273.05
Cash funds last year end	93,980.93		50,707.88
Cash funds carried forward	82,449.81		93,980.93

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash funds		
Bank current account	57,754.70	28,618.96
2nd 'Project' account	4,330.38	33,757.10
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	11,589.88
Paypal	325.48	299.57
Explorers	10,850.65	12,880.62
Equals Cards	0.59	-
Scout Shop current account	6,011.44	4,632.23
Scout Shop Liability	-	-
Scout shop Cash/Floats	25.00	25.00
Scout shop Debtors	3,151.57	2,177.57
Total cash funds	82,449.81	93,980.93

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

Signature

Print Name

CRAIG WILSON	Treasurer
MIKE WELLS	Chair

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hitchin District Scout Council for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Signed:



Name:

PHILIPPA MORGAN-MATLOCK

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

Address:

65 BENSLOW RISE HITCHIN

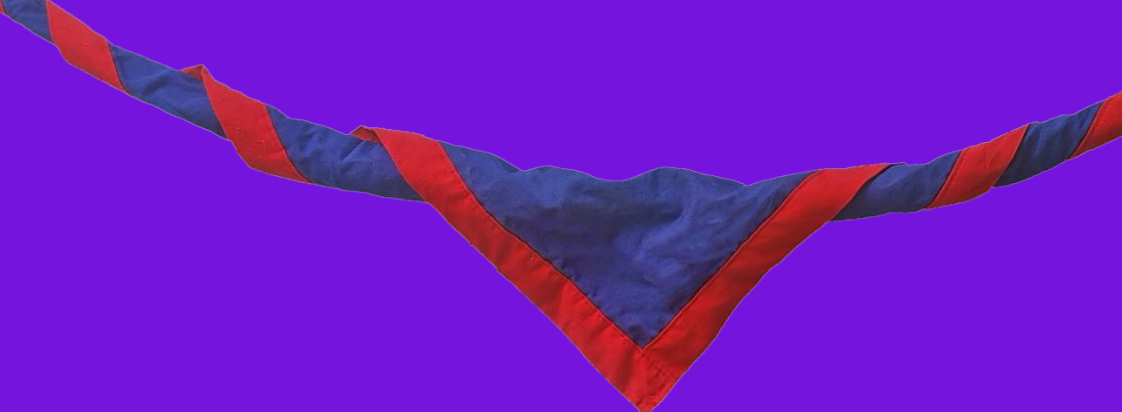
Date:

14/4/24

HITCHIN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 302546

Accounts



Hitchin District Scouts

Annual Review to 31st March 2023

Hitchin District Scout Council

President & Vice Presidents

President	Richard Cox
Vice Presidents	Rose De Roeck
	Tony Freeman
	Peter Hankin
	Bernard Higgs
	Keith McEwen
	Shirley Street

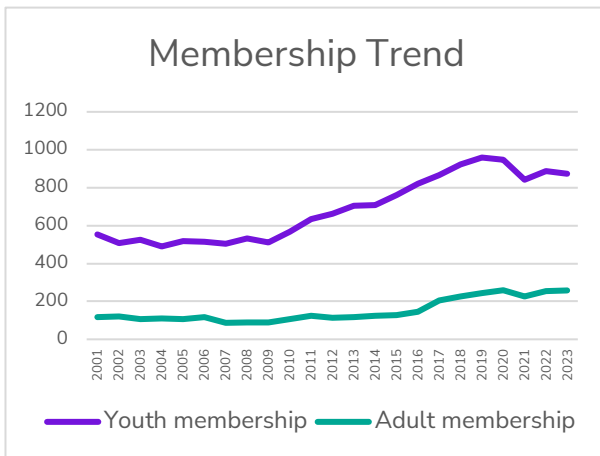
District Board of Trustees

Chairman	Mike Wells
Secretary	Fiona Barrett
Treasurer	Craig Wilson
Assistant Treasurer	Anna Pargeter
District Commissioner	Henry Harrison
District Youth Commissioner	Tom Hankin
Trustees	Denise Wells
	Geraint Edwards
	Alan Langley
	Tony Hankin
	Tracey Higginbotham
	Kevin Hankin

District Membership












Beavers	263
Cubs	299
Scouts	236
Explorers	69
Network	8
Total Young People	875
Total Adults	258
Total Membership	1133

This year our youth membership dropped slightly from 888 to 875(-1.5%). We believe this is due to a number of factors. Partly, we are still feeling the effects of the pandemic, groups feel that they need to work with smaller numbers to support the young people. Also, Cubs is effectively full, this puts a limit on Beaver places. We are looking at options to increase Cub capacity and trying to increase the number of young leaders.



Groups and Units in Hitchin District

Scout Groups

-  1st Hitchin (Boys' School)
-  2nd Hitchin (Air Scouts)
-  3rd Hitchin (Walsworth Road Baptist Church)
-  4th Hitchin (St. Ippolytts)
-  5th Hitchin (St. Mark's)
-  6th Hitchin (Priory)
-  7th Hitchin (Our Lady's)
-  8th Hitchin (Oughton)
-  9th Hitchin (1st Ickleford)
-  11th Hitchin (Christchurch)
-  12th Hitchin (St. Mary's and Holy Saviour)
-  15th Hitchin (Holwell and Pirton)
-  16th Hitchin (St. Faiths)
-  17th Hitchin (St. Michael's)

Explorer Scout Units

- 1st Hitchin ESU
- BEAR ESU
- DORA ESU
- HYDRUS Young Leaders

Network Scout Unit

- Hitchin District Network



District Awards and Achievements

Kings Scout Award

Ashley Clinch

Commissioner's Commendation

Zach Le Coze

Chief Scouts Award for Merit

Michael Wells
Andrew Henton Pusey

Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service

David Brister
Stephen Cook
Janet Roberts
Anne West

50 Years' Service

Michael Cranfield

25 Years' Service

Hazel Beadle
Wendy Hawkes

20 Years' Service

Garry Brandon
Andrew Henton Pusey

15 Years' Service

Elizabeth Cranfield
Christian Frisch
Nicola Gilbert
Michael Hamid
Dany Hawkess
Mark Lally
Gemma Pearson
Michael Wells
Thomas White
Peter Woolston

10 Years' Service

Raymond Blake
Elizabeth Deeks
Christine Evans
Kay Miller
Andrew Moore
Nicholas Senechal
Jane Veasey
Peter Watson

5 years' service

Fiona Barratt
Joanne Berry-Norman
Gillian Bhumbra
Sabine Bullmore
Joanna Clinch
Mascha Collier
Sara Cranfield
Andrew Fraser
Victoria Hellyer
Jasmine Livings
Edward Manson
Lowell Metcalfe
Helen Neeves
Rachel Nelson
Katherine Prince
Richard Randall
Dionne Thompson
Mark Waples
Simon Wightman
Craig Wilson

District Chairman

Hello again and thank you for reading the annual review of Hitchin scouting. I was very pleased to welcome Henry as our new District Commissioner a year ago, it has been great getting to know him and I think you will all agree he has taken to the role like a duck to water.

It has been another very busy year with activities for our young people and I would sincerely like to thank all of the leaders and adult volunteers who have helped to deliver these "Skills for life" we simply could not do it without you. I would also like to thank the members of the District executive, or trustee board as we shall be know as hence forth, for their support to me again this year, you all do an amazing job behind the scenes.

I have attended the district training day at Whitehill School this year and enjoyed the interactive discussions, the fellowship at lunch time and of course the freshly made Pizza, thank you to Craig our treasurer for funding this. I also attended the district awards evening at Priory School to see so many of our young people gain awards and recognition, I was especially proud to be awarded a 15 year service badge and the Medal of merit, I wore them both with pride at the St. Georges day parade.

I look forward to welcoming you to our AGM at the Cricket club again this year.

Mike Wells
District Chairman

District Treasurer

The Financial Accounts for the calendar year 2022 have been presented for approval at the AGM. The accounts have been approved by the Trustee Committee, and independently examined. I would like to thank Philippa Morgan-Males for carrying out the examination.

Hitchin Scouts was very fortunate to receive several grants and donations in 2022. These include Leslie Sell Trust (£2,400), Norman Hyde Trust (£6,500), The Revere Trust (£10,000) and Beds & Luton Community Foundation (£3,500). The grants and donations have helped us to fund repairs to the District HQ roof, purchase equipment, provide training to volunteers, and reduce participation costs for young people attending major events such as DAW 2022, Lochearnhead 2023 and the Scout Jamboree. Part of the Beds & Luton grant will be used in 2023 to provide in-person training courses for leaders across the district and groups to support our young people with their mental health. £4,000 from the previously awarded Covid Grant was used to subsidise the DAW 2022 District Camp.

Scout Association membership fees were increased by £1 at both a national and county level. Fortunately, the financial position at Hitchin District meant that we did not need to increase the District portion of the overall membership fee. Comparing the subscription costs charged by each group across the District to the previous year, average subscriptions per term for each young person increased from £31 in 2021 to £32.50 in 2022. This reflects the increased costs of running the groups not only from increased national membership fees, but also from the general increase in prices across the economy.

Scout shop sales increased by approximately 40% compared to 2021. Profits from the shop are re-invested into Scouting in Hitchin. Thank you to Denise and the team.

Expenditure on the Scout HQ building, including insurance, was broadly in line with 2021 (once the one-off roof repairs are deducted), but an increase in electricity costs has been noted owing to prices rising, and lack of availability of

cheaper tariffs. Expenditure on equipment and training increased compared to 2021, but as noted above, these additional expenses have been met through grants and donations.

Gift Aid was claimed in 2022 but owing to a delay in receiving the money from HMRC, the amount of £1,192 will be recorded in the 2023 accounts.

Explorer Unit finances are healthy and there are no concerns with the ability to pay the national membership fees for any of the units. Explorer subscriptions will remain at the current level of £30 per term for 2023.

Receipts were £125,343 compared to £42,725 in 2021 and Expenditure was £82,070 compared to £69,171 in 2021. The higher receipts are due to the awards of the grants and donations mentioned above, plus collection of fees for major events such as Lochearnhead 2023 (£32,000) and DAW 2022 (£26,000). DAW also contributed to the higher expenditure compared to 2021.

Overall, at the end of 2022, District funds stood at £93,980, which is £43,273 higher than at the end of 2021.

Craig Wilson
District Treasurer

District Commissioner

I'd like to start by thanking all our adult volunteers for their continued work this year. Our volunteer numbers have continued to grow to 258 and we couldn't offer scouting in Hitchin without everybody's commitment and enthusiasm.

After I started as District Commissioner in June last year, we started to look at the organisation of the district team. I wanted a team that supported working together in smaller groups and not overburdening individuals as much as possible. We therefore tried to move to a greater number of roles formed into the areas of programme, activities and people. We also created new roles to better mentor volunteers, increase the flow from scouts to explorers and support top awards in the district. You can see the new team structure on the next page.

At the end of this year, Kevin will be leaving the district team after 10 years of supporting the district with activities. As everybody in the district knows, Kevin does a huge amount: supporting booking the climbing wall, nights away permits, equipment booking, St Georges day parades, district activity weekends and loads more. He will be irreplaceable in the team. He has agreed to join the Board of Trustees so will be around to help guide us going forwards.

We are also very sad to be losing Richard Cox as our District President. Richard has been supporting Hitchin Scouting as President since 2000 with his time and influence. He has kindly let us use his home for various events over the years and has been hugely supportive finding grants, for example when the HQ roof needed replacing.

Thank you also to Chris, who is standing down as Network Commissioner and Fiona who is standing down as District Secretary. Finally, thank you to everybody on the district team for your support in my first year as District Commissioner.

This year saw the return of many favourite events: the beaver sleepover and St Georges Day Parade in the town square. We had a record attendance of over 120 award holders at the annual celebration evening. We also had a successful District

Volunteers Day at Whitehill School with sessions on Youth Shaped Scouting, Inclusivity, Growth, Adventurous Activities and a social Pizza lunch.

We have loads to look forward to in the coming year, including Lochearnhead in August. I am looking forward to another strong year for Hitchin Scouts.

Henry Harrison



Programme Team



People Team



Vacancies

We are always looking for people to join the district team and help coordinate scouting across the district. If you are interested in any position, please get in touch with somebody in the DC team. In particular, we are looking for a District Explorer Scout Commissioner, Network Commissioner, ADC Volunteers.

The District Explorer Scout Commissioner (DESC) is similar to a GSL role. As explorer units are part of the district rather than a group, the DESC helps to coordinate them and support the leaders. This would involve organising/ supporting joint events, working with the 'want to join coordinator' to support new explorers joining, working with the 'top awards coordinator' to support top explorer awards, running termly explorer leader meetings and generally supporting the 4 units.

The Network Commissioner supports the 18-25 age range in the district. This could be young adults who volunteer with us or members who want to stay in touch with the district after explorers. It involves keeping in semi-regular contact with the group, supporting events and acting as a go-between for the network and the district team.

As Kevin is leaving the district team, we are also looking for somebody to take on parts of his role. In particular, we will need somebody to help manage bookings for the district facilities, including the climbing wall and Hitch Wood. This process is mostly automated but does require some coordination.

The ADC volunteers would support Tina, supporting adults in the district. This involves mentoring adults, supporting new volunteers and publicising what we do in Hitchin.

Upcoming events

June/ July	Mental Health First Aid Training
June	Sailing Taster Days
July	Lochearnhead
September	Youth Showcase event in the town square
September	District Scout Expedition
November	Green Beret
January	Fire and Ice
January	Beaver Sleepover
March	Explorer Walking weekend
April	St Georges Day

For up to date district and county event dates please see the district calendar:
hitchinsscouts.org/calendar

What's the best thing you did in scouting this year?

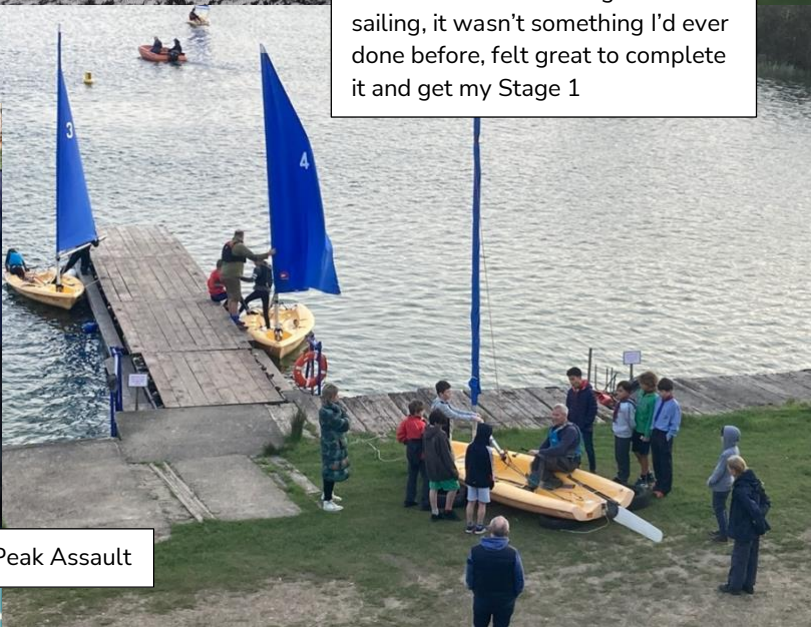
reeeeeally enjoyed ITTH this year



I loved the new challenge of sailing, it wasn't something I'd ever done before, felt great to complete it and get my Stage 1



Peak Assault






I loved making coconut jewellery because we got to use sand paper!




Piñatas don't dry if there is too much paint on them.




360s whilst ice skating was fun until fell over




The last sailing lesson of the summer was fun because of learning how to capsizе properly and how to turtle safely



An evening doing bike repair distracted by Just Dance



The Chinese lantern's were cool when they burnt on the water. The structure of the lantern was important.



Enjoy the show!



love sailing with 7th as always - staying upright and going in the water are both fun!



One of my favourite things was doing the chip-shop challenge. I also loved the night hike, as walking in the dark is something I find very enjoyable, but my favourite thing we did was definitely he Christmas Party.



Hide and seek in the dark at the church



Registered Charity Number 302546

Hitchin District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01/01/2022	To	31/12/2022
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Receipts

	2022 £		2021 £
Subscriptions			
Membership subscriptions	46,746.00		44,363.00
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	- 42,336.00		- 42,328.00
Net membership subscriptions retained	4,410.00		2,035.00
District Operations			
Premises	44.99		-
Administration	-		-
Adult support & training	-		80.00
Equipment	-		-
Sub total	44.99		80.00
District Activities & Groups			
District events & activities	31,799.91		2,614.77
Jamboree	7,087.50		500.00
Explorers	11,365.14		12,456.51
Youth Forum, Young Leaders & Network	-		-
Lochearnhead	32,063.28		9,257.64
Sub total	82,315.83		24,828.92
Donations, legacies and similar income			
Private donations and grants	7,275.00		-
DHQ Roof	10,000.00		4,300.00
Charities Trust	500.00		500.00
Jamboree Donation	6,805.45		-
Other	60.35		131.90
Sub total	24,640.80		4,931.90
Charitable income to pass on			
St Georges day - MACs	-		-
Corporate matched funding passed to specific groups	82.16		-
	82.16		-
Scout Shop			
Scout Shop Sales	13,836.27		9,735.57
	13,836.27		9,735.57
Investment income			
Bank interest	13.86		94.37
Paypal	-		-
Gift Aid	-		1,020.00
Sub total	13.86		1,114.37
Total receipts	125,343.91		42,725.76

Payments

	2022	2021
	£	£
District Operations		
Premises	4,213.58	17,316.13
Administration	510.87	178.68
Adult support & training	2,545.53	1,268.10
Equipment	928.72	431.30
Sub total	8,198.70	19,194.21
District Activities & Groups		
District events & activities	36,397.89	3,273.37
Jamboree 2023	12,767.50	234.28
Explorers	11,876.36	10,353.95
Youth Forum, Young Leaders & Network	344.48	107.96
Lochearnhead	1,081.18	27,673.00
Sub total	62,467.41	41,642.56
Charitable income to pass on		
Hitchin Initiative	150.00	150.00
Corporate matched funding passed to specific groups	68.51	119.34
RBL Poppy Appeal	30.00	
	248.51	269.34
Scout Shop		
Scout Shop Expenditure	11,156.24	8,065.71
	11,156.24	8,065.71
Total payments	82,070.86	69,171.82

Receipts and Payments Accounts Summary

	2022	2021
	£	£
Total Receipts	125,343.91	42,725.76
Total payments	82,070.86	69,171.82
Net of receipts/(payments)	43,273.05	- 26,446.06
Cash funds last year end	50,707.88	77,153.94
Cash funds carried forward	93,980.93	50,707.88

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash funds		
Bank current account	28,618.96	21,353.19
2nd 'Project' account	33,757.10	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	11,589.88	11,576.02
Paypal	299.57	232.06
Explorers	12,880.62	13,391.84

Scout Shop current account	4,632.23		2,659.98
Scout Shop Liability	-		- 97.85
Scout shop Cash/Floats	25.00		25.00
Scout shop Debtors	2,177.57		1,567.64
Total cash funds	93,980.93		50,707.88

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 15th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Signature

<i>Craig Wilson</i>

Print Name

CRAIG WILSON	Treasurer
MIKE WELLS	Chair

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hitchin District Scout Council for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Signed:



Name:

PHILIPPA MORGAN-MALES

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

Address:

65 BENDLOW RISE, HITCHIN SG4 9QY

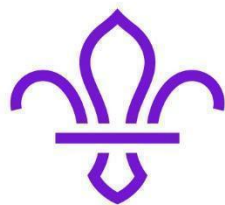
Date:

08/05/23

HITCHIN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 302546

Accounts



Scouts

Hitchin



Hitchin District Scouts

Review to 31 March 2022

BEAVERS

cubs

SCOUTS

EXPLORERS

network

Hitchin District Scout Council

Registered Charity Number 302546

President & Vice Presidents

President

Richard Cox

Vice Presidents

Rose De Roeck

Tony Freeman

Peter Hankin

Bernard Higgs

Keith McEwen

Shirley Street

John Walton

District Executive Committee and Scout Council 2021/22

Chairman

Mike Wells

Secretary

Fiona Barrett

Treasurer

Craig Wilson

Assistant Treasurer

Anna Pargeter

District Commissioner

Tony Hankin

District Youth Commissioner

Tom Hankin

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Henry Harrison

District Network Scout Commissioner

Chris Speed

Trustees

Denise Wells

Geraint Edwards

Derek Gilfillan (to 31/12/21)

Alan Langley



District Membership as of 31 January 2022

Beavers	292
Cubs	284
Scouts	221
Explorers & Young Leaders	85
Network	6
Total Young People	888
Adult Leadership	159
Adult Support	95
Total District membership	1142



Groups and Units in Hitchin District

Scout Groups

- 1st Hitchin (Boys' School)
- 2nd Hitchin (Air Scouts)
- 3rd Hitchin (Walsworth Road Baptist)
- 4th Hitchin (St. Ippolytts)
- 5th Hitchin (St. Mark's)
- 6th Hitchin (Priory)
- 7th Hitchin (Our Lady's)
- 8th Hitchin (Oughton)
- 9th Hitchin (1st Ickleford)
- 11th Hitchin (Christchurch)
- 12th Hitchin (St. Mary's and Holy Saviour)
- 15th Hitchin (Holwell and Pirton)
- 16th Hitchin (St. Faiths)
- 17th Hitchin (St. Michael's)

Explorer Scout Units

- 1st Hitchin ESU
- BEAR ESU
- DORA ESU
- HYDRUS Young Leader ESU

Network Scout Unit

- Hitchin District Network



Hitchin District Scouts

District Support Team

District Commissioner	Tony Hankin
Deputy District Commissioner	Derek Gilfillan (to 31/12/21)
District Youth Commissioner	Tom Hankin
District Explorer Scout Commissioner	Henry Harrison
District Network Scout Commissioner	Chris Speed
ADC Beavers	Alison Rickels
ADC Cubs	Janette Innes
ADC Scouts	Ben Pearson (from August 2021)
ADC Activities, Nights Away Advisor	Kevin Hankin
ADC Development	Sam Hankin
ADC Volunteers	Tina Hay
District Beaver Leader	Nikee Edwards
District Scout Leader	Lowell Metcalf

District Scout Shop

Manager	Denise Wells
Treasurer	Jen Clarke

Other Appointments

Appointments Advisory Committee Chair	Jeff Hann
Appointments Secretary	Anna Wilson
District Website Manager	Geoff Eyles
Sailing contact	Andrew Henton Pusey
Kayaking contact	Julie Henton Pusey



Awards and Achievements 2021/22

Young People

Queen's Scout Award

Kate Galliford

Explorer, Bear ESU

Oliver Riddle

Explorer, 1st ESU

Chief Scout's Award & Belts

7 Young Leader Belts

7 Platinum Chief Scout's Awards

6 Gold Chief Scout's Awards

26 Silver Chief Scout's Awards

55 Bronze Chief Scout's Awards

Adult volunteers

Award for Merit

Kate Gilfillan

Beaver Leader, 8th Hitchin

Gavin Love

Cub Leader, 7th Hitchin

Gordon White

Explorer Leader, Bear ESU

Chief Scout's 40 Years' Service Award

Tony Hankin

District Commissioner, Hitchin

David Rossall

Scout Leader, 11th Hitchin

Chief Scout's 30 Years' Service Award

Bernard Higgs

Vice President

Robin Kent

Cub Scout Leader, 11th Hitchin

Alan Langley

District Executive Committee member

Andrew Russell

Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 4th Hitchin

Chief Scout's 25 Years' Service Award

Andrew Clinch

Assistant Scout Leader, 9th Hitchin

Barry Dickinson

Cub Scout Leader, 9th Hitchin

Nikee Edwards

District Beaver Scout Leader

Sandra Stokes

Assistant Scout Leader, 5th Hitchin

Chief Scout's 20 Years' Service Award

Kate Kinnear	Assistant Cub Scout Leader. 4 th Hitchin
Colin Knowles	Group Chair, 9 th Hitchin
Gillian Knowles	Group Scout leader, 9 th Hitchin

Chief Scout's 15 Years' Service Award

Caroline Catherell	Beaver Scout Leader, 17 th Hitchin
John Turney	Group Chair, 2 nd Hitchin
Elizabeth White	Appointments Advisory Committee member
Gordon White	Explorer Scout Leader, Bear ESU

Chief Scout's 10 Years' Service Award

James Bainbridge	Assistant Scout Leader, 11 th Hitchin
Ian Buck	Group Scout leader, 7 th Hitchin
Stephen Cook	Beaver Scout Leader, 4 th Hitchin
Jeremy Foyle	Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 3 rd Hitchin
Sam Hankin	Assistant District Commissioner, Development
Spencer Polley	Assistant Explorer Scout leader, 1 st ESU
Janet Roberts	Beaver Scout Leader, 16 th Hitchin
Deborah Stokes	Assistant Scout Leader, 5 th Hitchin
Anne West	Assistant Beaver Leader, 2 nd Hitchin
Ian Wilson	Training Advisor, 12 th Hitchin

Chief Scout's 5 Years' Service Award

Matthew Brett	Cub Scout leader, 5 th Hitchin
Jennifer Clarke	District Scout Shop Treasurer
Nicola Cross	Group Treasurer, 8 th Hitchin
Lindsey Goldsmith	Group Scout leader, 15 th Hitchin
Kate Hankin	District Waiting List Coordinator
Mike Harvey	Assistant Explorer Scout leader, Bear ESU
Julie Henton Pusey	Skills Instructor, Kayaking team
Peter Hibbs	Assistant Beaver Scout Leader, 3 rd Hitchin
Vivienne Kent	Beaver Section Assistant, 11 th Hitchin
Matthew Lacey	Skills Instructor, Archery team
Steven Miller	Appointments Advisory Committee member
Joan Pinkstone	Group Secretary, 4 th Hitchin
Sarah Taylor	Group Executive Committee, 11 th Hitchin
Kim Spicer	Beaver Scout Leader, 2 nd Hitchin

District President

Dear All,

What a year of challenges!

Tony, our hardworking D.C. has decided to take on new challenges after 8 years as our D.C. We wish him well in his next Scouting role.

Mike Wells, our chairman, has once again led his team of able District Executive Committee and Scout Council members – well done!

Derek Gilfillan assisted Tony until December 2021 but he has moved to pastures new and we thank him and his wife Kate for their wise and valued input.

Many thanks to you all for your leadership in the largest youth movement in the world.

Richard.

R A Cox.
President,
Hitchin District Scouts.

District Chairman

Well, here we are once again at annual review time. I don't know about you but I think last year has gone so quickly. It is great to be back to normal, well as normal as we will ever be. I am especially pleased that we have just got back from #DAW22, this was a brilliant weekend organised by Sam and Kevin and assisted by the whole district team. For my part I swapped my Chairmans hat (actually there is not a hat), for an apron and spent the weekend in the kitchen keeping our team fed and watered. It was also very nice to meet some of you at the leaders social on the Friday night.

As you all know we will be saying goodbye to our District Commissioner Tony, I am happy to say that he is not leaving Scouting just changing his role. I would like to say on record that it has been a pleasure working with you Tony and as Chair of the District, would like to acknowledge what a great contribution you have made to Hitchin Scouting as DC in the last 8 years. We have been busy searching for someone to take over the role and I hope that we can make an announcement soon.

Our District headquarters in Grove Road required a new roof this year due to it leaking badly and being rotten in places. Thankfully due to the generosity of a handful of local people the £14,000 required was donated and fully covered the cost. I firmly believe that the reason these generous donors chose Hitchin Scouting to give their money too, is that they also understand the amazing work delivered by all our volunteers and the "Fun" and "Skills for life" that are enjoyed by the hundreds and hundreds of young people in our District.

Thank you all for your continued support of Scouting

Mike Wells
District Chair

District Treasurer

2021 End of Year Treasurer's Report

The day-to-day spending in 2021 started to move back towards normal levels. Areas to note are:

- Repairs to the DHQ Roof. This was an unbudgeted item, but thanks to Tony and Mike's efforts, and the generosity of local people and organisations, sufficient grants and donations were obtained to completely offset the £14,000 cost. However, since the main donation was not received until January 2022, the 2021 end-of-year accounts show a £9,313 deficit for this item.
- Adult training was approximately £500 over budget mainly as a result of supporting instructors with training and permit recertifications. We are fortunate that is met by a ringfenced grant from Hitchin Youth Trust for training.
- £2,035 of the Covid grant was spent to subsidise the District element of the annual membership fee by £2.50 per young person. At end of year 2021, after this expenditure, there was approximately £7,500 of this grant remaining which is being used this year to help support DAW.
- Sales at the Scout Shop picked up sufficiently so that the shop was able to resume making its annual contribution to District funds, and £3,000 was contributed for 2021.
- The main District event for 2021, Lochearnhead, was unfortunately cancelled because of Covid. Refunds were issued to all those who had paid.
- Thanks go to Philippa Morgan-Males who has been our Independent Examiner for this year.

April 2022 Update

- The first quarter of this year has been very active. The main donation for the DHQ Roof repairs was received in January.
- Funds are being collected (and spent) in preparation for both DAW 2022, and the upcoming Scout Jamboree.
- Capitation fees were collected and passed on to County in advance of the deadline. District received the expected level of income from this.

Craig Wilson
District Treasurer

Volunteers and Appointments

Scouting relies on new volunteers coming forward to help, working with young people or in administrative and Trustee roles. We are grateful to all new volunteers and to those that have taken on new roles over the past year. In September 2021 we were able to hold our latest Town Centre Activity Day in the Market Square, and despite some wet and windy weather were able to promote scouting and the benefits of volunteering to the local community.

The Appointments Committee has continued to meet monthly, with sessions held online to meet with new volunteers and discuss their involvement with Scouting. Thanks to the members of the committee for this important work.



District Commissioner

The 12 months covered by this review has seen a real mix of Scouting events and opportunities, with the impact of Covid affecting what we have been able to do. But there are now definite signs that we are gradually returning to many of the activities and programmes we have missed over the past two years. I'd like to start by thanking all our adult volunteers for the time, commitment and support they have given Scouting and Hitchin Scouts in particular. Without you, there would be no Hitchin Scouts.

In this review you will read about some of the events and activities that have taken place, but this only touches the surface. Behind the District events are the programmes, activities and opportunities provided by our 14 Groups, 4 Explorer Scout Units and the Network Scout Unit, between them offering over 50 hours of scouting every week. Plus, of course, activities such as sailing, kayaking, climbing and archery, and the many other activities, camps and expeditions that take place at weekends and during holidays. And it's the opportunities, challenges, skills and fun that attracts young people (and their parents) to Scouting. You will see on page 2 that the number of young people in Hitchin Scouts has increased and we are almost back at pre-covid levels. However, we also still have a large waiting list of young people waiting to join Beavers.

At the end of December, we said farewell to Derek Gilfillan, Deputy District Commissioner, and his Beaver Leader wife Kate, as they moved to Cumbria. Derek has been a key member of the District for over 12 years and I thank him for all he has done to help develop, support and grow Hitchin Scouts.

In January we were able to hold our annual Awards Celebration evening, celebrating the achievements of over 100 top award recipients. Congratulations to everyone, but especially to Kate and Oliver who gained the Queen's Scout Award. Not easy at any time, but even harder during a pandemic! During the evening, we also celebrated the fact that the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers between them gained over 4,000 activity and challenge badges during the year.



As I said at the start, we are now able to bring back things we have missed. In April, I was delighted that we could hold our St. George's Day event in the Market Square again, and show the town of Hitchin that Scouting and Guiding are alive and well and are an important part of our local community. And as I write this, we are looking forward to DAW22, our District Activity Weekend when we will have 670 young people (70% of the District) together for a great weekend of camping, activities and fun. And there are camps and expeditions planned for the summer too. All great news.

This is my last report as District Commissioner as I am standing down after almost eight years in the role. It's been a privilege to lead the District, as well as a lot of fun, and I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over this time. But Hitchin Scouting is only successful because of all its volunteers, so a huge thank you from me to all volunteers past, present and future. Thank you for the time you give, the opportunities you provide and the skills you help our young people to learn.

Tony

Tony Hankin

District Commissioner

[@DCHitchinScouts](#)

District Youth Commissioner

Having taken over the reins from Henry in the summer of 2021, the first challenge was to juggle the DYC role as well as CSL at 6th Hitchin! Getting the young people back to face-to-face Scouting was a top priority. Since Scouting had to go virtual, there was a decrease in the number of young people attending the weekly meetings across the District. With the return of face-to-face Scouting, getting those young people back to the various sections and back to attending regularly was a top priority. As the census data showed, the number of young people in the District increased from previous years, demonstrating that those who dropped off during virtual Scouting either returned, or new young people joined the District's sections to increase those numbers.

Our two 'Youth Forums' took place in October 2021 and March 2022 at DHQ and were both well received as 14 Scouts from 7 Groups attended the pizza and Xbox evening in October, and 17 Scouts from 9 Groups attended the McDonald's and Wii night in March. The October evening saw discussion about what activities the Scouts would like to do at DAW22 with some suggestions being more realistic than others, but every idea was considered for future discussion with the District Team. The March forum saw a more sociable side with St. George's Day and DAW22 just around the corner. Discussion was had about a trip out/event for the attendees of the forums with multiple suggestions being put forward.

September sees the start of another academic year and more forums with new Scouts attending. DAW22 will be a hot topic of discussion in the coming months to get the thoughts of the young people about the weekend and what they'd like to see done differently, but also their highlights of the weekend.

Having decided to step down as CSL at 6th Hitchin at the end of the summer term, the DYC role will take centre stage and I'm sure you're all eagerly anticipating seeing the DYC role more prominently in the District, as am I!

Tom Hankin
District Youth Commissioner



Beavers

After a very difficult couple of years, we have thankfully got back to some face-to-face meetings, and being able to get out and about again, which is so good to see.

Activities are now almost back to normal and it was amazing to see so many Beavers at the celebration evening in recognition of achieving their bronze awards, especially with a lot of it having to be completed on zoom! Well done to all the Beavers for getting so many badges and well done to all the leaders and helpers for their amazing ideas.

We were planning to hold the district sleepover as a face-to-face event, but were scuppered at the last minute and had to swap to zoom. We did manage to get packs to all the Beavers for their space themed event, and it was great to see so many young people take part and see their amazing creations – even if I am still waiting for someone to bring me rock cakes!



There are some events planned for the coming year, beginning of course with DAW22 and it will be so good to see so many of the groups together and having the best time.

I will step down from my role at the end of July knowing that we gave the Beavers some great events over the course of my nine years as ADC, and look forward to hearing about all the new adventures they have.

Finally, a massive thank you, to all the adults who make it possible for the young people to achieve so much – you are all amazing people!

Alison Rickels, ADC Beavers

[@ADCB_Hitchin](#)

Cubs

Wow! What an amazing year. Even though Covid was still present, Leaders surged forth and offered the most amazing opportunities to their Cubs, with Silver Challenge Awards in abundance.

To gain the Chief Scout Silver Challenge Award, Cubs need to have achieved three nights away. So, with residential Scouting opening up again, many of our Cub Packs in Hitchin District, grasped this opportunity with both hands and took their Cubs away. This was a big deal for some young people as this was their first camp. Restrictions had meant that canvas and indoor camps had not been able to take place for nearly two years.



17th Hitchin recently held a 'Spy Camp'. I love a themed camp myself. Many of you may remember, Star Wars Camp, Super Hero Camp with my Loki wig never to be forgotten. So, messages had to be decoded by the spies, challenges were set and the young people loved it.



8th Hitchin recently held a tea party for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee and 3rd Hitchin have been very busy indeed wandering through the bluebells and night-hiking.

Although it was not possible to hold any large District events for Cubs over the pandemic period, we are obviously very much looking forward to DAW22. As I write this report, I am already mentally packing my weekend bag as I can hardly contain my excitement.

Cub Leaders and Assistants, you have been amazing these past twenty-four months. You were amazing before with opportunities you offered nearly three hundred young people in Hitchin, but now you are the Super Heroes of Hitchin. No obstacle was too great for you (on screen worked really well for lots of activities), no challenge unattainable. You have lit fires, camped, kayaked, hiked, walked, tea partied, built, cooked, planned and more.

You are wonderful. I am in awe and so proud to be your ADC Cubs.

Janette Innes, ADC Cubs
[@ADCC_Hitchin](#)

Scouts



This year is a definite year of two halves, with the first six months a continuation of online scouting and restrictions on activities, and the second a return to more normal Scouting. The 1st Virtual Facebook group and other online resources continued to be hugely helpful in assisting our leaders to deliver a different kind of Scouting. We had a fantastic District Night Hike in September with over 100 Scouts walking a circular route from Shillington late into the night. The Super Ultra 6th came away winners and celebrated with their fitting trophy.

Regular meetings have taken place with the Scout Leaders and it's been very positive to hear about the return back to regular activities and planning for future camps. The climbing and archery at The Priory School have been in regular use and this is a great community facility to have.

As this report goes to print, record numbers of Scouts will be taking part in DAW22 and my thanks go out to the leaders making this possible. My thanks to Christian Frisch and Lowell Metcalfe for their efforts during the year.

Ben Pearson, ADC Scouts
[@ADCS_Hitchin](#)



Explorer Scouts

Hitchin District Explorers has had another fantastic year coming out the other side from the pandemic with 4 healthy units: BEAR, DORA, 1st and HYDRUS. This year we had a huge success with higher awards and everybody involved in explorers should be very proud.

At the district awards evening, 4 young people were awarded the Platinum Chief Scout Award, 6 Young Leader Belt Awards and 2 Queen Scout Awards. The Queen Scout Award is the top Scout award that young people can earn and is a real achievement. To complete it, young people must volunteer for a period of time, take up a skill, a physical activity, undertake a self-led expedition, complete a five-day residential experience, complete 18 nights away, complete 6 International, community and value activities and give a presentation on the award. Oliver and Kate both spoke about their experience at the award evening and really showed how much they have both developed. They are both a real credit to themselves and their units.



In February, 1st Hitchin Explorers took 2 teams of explorers and 1 team of adults to the 49th Cotswolds Marathon. This is an overnight hike starting at Gloucester. Our Explorers walked 20 miles in 9 hours 26 minutes and the adults walked 30 miles in 14 hours and 8 minutes. It was an incredible effort from everybody and Spencer has the Explorers in training for an improvement next year. The 1st still regularly meets on Wednesday nights at Hitchin Boys

School.

DORA have continued to meet monthly on a Saturday and on one Thursday monthly - usually the 1st Saturday and 3rd Thursday of the month. They have done a huge range of activities including a Highland Games day at Boyd Field and a day of lifeguard training. The Highland games included a blindfolded obstacle course, tossing the caber and a bucket of water carrying race which ended with surprisingly dry explorers.

BEAR have continued to meet on Thursdays with evenings including a parachute drop, backwards cooking and how many Beaver badges can you complete in a night. They have also been out climbing, hiking, kayaking and sailing throughout the year.

Members for all units came together for a trip to the Peak District in February. Everybody went out on 2 hikes in Edale and Stanage Edge. The weather was amazing considering the time of year and probably gave Explorers an unrealistic expectation of the peaks. We also got the units together in September for a joint wide game around Hitchin. Explorers had to work in teams to get a zombie antidote (glow sticks) without being hit by zombie slime balls (leaders throwing tennis balls). It was a hugely successful evening with 38 Explorers and 8 older scouts.



All 4 units have continued to have healthy membership after COVID. We currently have 47 Young Leaders, 14 young people in DORA, 33 young people in BEAR and 19 young people in 1st.

Henry Harrison
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Network

Towards the end of 2021 and into this year we have pushed to relaunch a Network presence in the District. Our members are sent a monthly newsletter keeping them up to date and making them aware of any events either local or national that they can get involved with. In addition to these events, we have been organising a monthly event at District level for our members, some of which are online to allow those members away at university the opportunity to remain involved.

We have set up links with the District's Explorer Units to aid transition between the sections with a view to grow our Network over the coming months and years and will be looking to run some joint events together throughout the year.

So far this year our members have waded through the mud back in January on a hike around Hitchin and the surrounding villages, and joined the Explorers over the Easter holidays for a bike ride followed by campfire, cooking and catch up with old friends and leaders. There is also a yearlong Taskmaster challenge running, with a new challenge sent out each month.

Chris Speed
District Network Scout Commissioner

Activities

Back in April and despite the restrictions in place we still managed to have our St George's Day though for the second time it was 'virtual!'. It was well supported online and we teamed up with the Hitchin Priory Rotary Club to support Shelterbox. Over the weeks leading up to St George's Day we ran a competition for our young people linked to Shelterbox. Beavers and Cubs were invited to build a den and record themselves making their promise, with a prize for the best den. Great to see so many of our young people take part. You can rewatch it on the Hitchin Scouts YouTube channel.



It was fantastic to get the young people back to being active with the return of the climbing wall and archery in September. It was obviously very much missed as every week has been booked up since September.

I'm sure 2022 will be a very 'active' year with so many opportunities for all our young people and back to camping too once again.

Kevin Hankin
ADC Activities

Water Activities

Sailing

The team responded with imagination and energy to the ongoing restrictions, which put paid to the planned Lochearnhead 2021 expedition. We were able to take part in a down-sized County Sailing Week at the start of June where the sailing was offered at three inland locations to young people attending from their homes on a daily basis. Hitchin's team ran RYA Stages 1,2 & 3, at the Blue Lagoon in Arlesey for the biggest group of young sailors around the County (17 young people, with most of these from our own District), with thanks for a little extra support from across the County team.



We were also able to run our own RYA Stage 1/2 course in July with County's approval, meaning that another ten young people gained an RYA qualification, some of whom had waited since the original District Sailing course we booked for April 2020! We were able to offer a further session for these sailors in the autumn on what started as a very foggy day(!), in the expectation of them applying for the County Sailing Week in 2022.



7th Hitchin Scouts, the Sea Scouts, were able to sail fairly regularly during the season, although this was in smaller groups than previously enjoyed. There were however only a few opportunities for Sections to arrange a sailing session with us, where numbers attending together were also reduced; even so, it was encouraging to have more than 40 Cubs and Scouts getting on the water, most for the first time. We also added two more qualified RYA Dinghy Instructors to our team in Chris and Megan Blade, and are so thankful for the team that we have developed over the past decade or so, and indeed for the programme that we are able to offer moving forwards we hope into less restricted times.

@HitchScoutSail
sailing@hitchinouts.org

Kayaking

Things have been rather quiet for the kayaking team in 21/22. The instructors first aid certificates had all expired during lockdown but by the end of January 22 we had all managed to successfully complete our 16 hours Rec 2 certificate. Dennis Alder and Sam Hankin have obtained further qualifications (Paddlesport Instructor and Coach Award respectively) - congratulations to them both! - and the whole team has been able to brush up on paddling skills and rescue techniques during some indoor pool training sessions - really welcome after the long period of lockdown. It's been a challenge to find venues with appropriate equipment available to hire on the evenings when the team is available ... we are very envious of the Sailing Team having access to the Blue Lagoon! However, we are now looking forward to running some sessions at Boyd Field in Henlow on Friday evenings for Groups to book. If you have any queries regarding kayaking, please email kayaking@hitchinouts.org

World Scout Jamboree

In August 2023, more than 40,000 Scouts from all over the world will gather in Korea for the 25th World Scout Jamboree. Following a selection process in November, Aaron, Cameron, Elise, Elodie and Lily have been selected to represent Hitchin as members of the Hertfordshire Jamboree Units. They will be joined in Korea by Ashley who is attending as a member of the International Service Team (IST). They are all now preparing and fundraising for what will be an amazing experience.



Lily says 'So far in Unit 24, we have done things such as coming up with the unit's name (Altair) and are in the process of creating a logo. We have done a few hikes and many team building games as well as trying to make some sushi. Our next camp is planning to be our first outdoors camp which will be fun. Some of us from Hitchin did a bake sale at the cricket club at the end of March and made about £200! I also joined up with a friend from Letchworth and Baldock and we held a bake sale at school where we made about £100.'

Hi, my name is Cameron and I will be representing Hitchin, Hertfordshire and the UK at the World Scout Jamboree 2023 in South Korea. There are 90 units going from the UK contingent and I am in Unit 24 and during our 4 meetups we have decided that Unit 24 will be named Altair. Altair is a star which means an owl which we thought represented Hertfordshire very well. The first meet up we did was to get to know each other, and we stayed over 1 night. 4 out of 25 slept outside and one of those people was me even though it was January. Over the next 3 meets we have done one hike, made and tried some Korean food and done lots of other fun activities. There are 5 Scouts/Explorers representing Hitchin and after a few meetups we have many fundraising events planned like a quiz and car washing. I am very excited for the Jamboree because I believe it is a great experience and will be very fun. I also believe it will be a great opportunity to meet new people and find out about other cultures. I think you should try to do it because you will never be disappointed if you go but if you miss out you may be a bit annoyed for not trying it.

Aaron says 'At the moment, on my jamboree journey, I have loved going to my unit meetings. My unit (22) is very active and we have already had 2 camps, a fundraiser and 2 day meetings! Our unit name is the Quackers and we hope to do lots of duck related activities including our upcoming duck race in August. Personally, I have fundraised around £500 for my journey and I have many fundraising events with the other Hitchin participants coming up such as car wash, food stall at the Hitchin half marathon and quiz night.'



#SkillsforLife

Hitchin District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01/01/2021	To	12/31/2021
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Receipts

	2021 £	2020 £
Subscriptions		
Membership subscriptions	44,363.00	43,193.00
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	- 42,328.00	- 38,640.00
Net membership subscriptions retained	2,035.00	4,553.00
District Operations		
Premises	-	42.00
Administration	-	-
Adult support & training	80.00	-
Equipment	-	-
Sub total	80.00	42.00
District Activities & Groups		
District events & activities	2,614.77	9,910.49
Euro Jamboree	500.00	-
Explorers	12,456.51	6,421.11
Youth Forum, Young Leaders & Network	-	-
Lochearnhead	9,257.64	18,174.67
Sub total	24,828.92	34,506.27
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Private donations	-	150.00
DHQ Roof	4,300.00	-
Charities Trust	500.00	4,970.00
Small Business COVID Grant	-	9,999.99
Other	131.90	158.09
Sub total	4,931.90	15,278.08
Charitable income to pass on		
St Georges day - MACs	-	-
Corporate matched funding passed to specific groups	-	1,064.00
Sub total	-	1,064.00
Scout Shop		
Scout Shop Sales	9,735.57	6,633.50
Sub total	9,735.57	6,633.50
Investment income		
Bank interest	94.37	-
Paypal	-	-
Gift Aid	1,020.00	2,360.48
Sub total	1,114.37	2,360.48
Total receipts	42,725.76	64,437.33

Payments

	2021 £	2020 £
District Operations		
Premises	17,316.13	2,274.94
Administration	178.68	139.63
Adult support & training	1,268.10	925.40
Equipment	431.30	1,389.62
Sub total	19,194.21	4,729.59
District Activities & Groups		
District events & activities	3,273.37	8,159.85
Jamboree 2023	234.28	-
Explorers	10,353.95	6,374.06
Youth Forum, Young Leaders & Network	107.96	-
Lochearnhead	27,673.00	180.00
Sub total	41,642.56	14,713.91
Charitable income to pass on		

Hitchin Initiative	150.00	-
Corporate matched funding passed to specific groups	119.34	1,064.00
	269.34	1,064.00
Scout Shop		
Scout Shop Expenditure	8,065.71	6,188.34
	8,065.71	6,188.34
Total payments	69,171.82	26,695.84

Receipts and Payments Accounts Summary

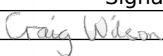
	2021 £	2020 £
Total Receipts	42,725.76	64,437.33
Total payments	69,171.82	26,695.84
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 26,446.06	37,741.49
Cash funds last year end	77,153.94	39,412.45
Cash funds carried forward	50,707.88	77,153.94

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash funds		
Bank current account	21,353.19	31,603.37
2nd 'Project' account	-	17,994.67
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	11,576.02	11,481.65
Paypal	232.06	320.06
Explorers	13,391.84	10,269.28
Scout Shop current account	2,659.98	3,809.44
Scout Shop Liability	- 97.85	
Scout shop Cash/Floats	25.00	25.00
Scout shop Debtors	1,567.64	1,650.47
Total cash funds	50,707.88	77,153.94

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 15th June 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Signature



Print Name

CRAIG WILSON
MIKE WELLS

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

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hitchin District Scout Council for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Signed:



Name:

P MORGAN-MAILES

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

Address:

65 JENLOW ROAD, HITCHIN SG4 9QY

Date:

3 / 6 / 22

HITCHIN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 302546

Accounts



Scouts

Hitchin



Hitchin District Scouts

Review to 31 March 2021

BEAVERS

cubs

SCOUTS

Registered Charity Number 302546

President & Vice Presidents

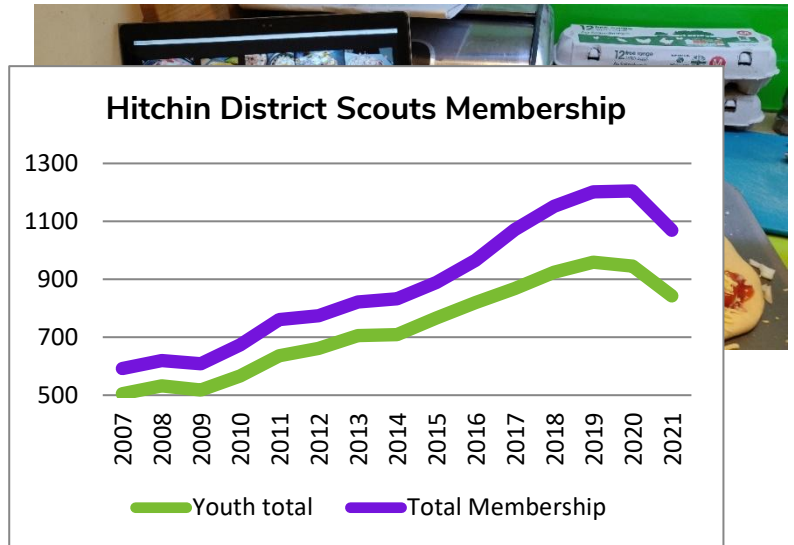
President	Richard Cox
Vice Presidents	Rose De Roeck
	Tony Freeman
	Peter Hankin
	Keith McEwen
	Shirley Street
	John Walton

District Executive Committee and Scout Council 2020/21

Chairman	Mike Wells
Secretary	Fiona Barrett
Treasurer	Anna Pargeter
Assistant Treasurer	Craig Wilson
District Commissioner	Tony Hankin
District Youth Commissioner	Henry Harrison
District Explorer Scout Commissioner	Matt Smith (to 17/01/2021)
	Henry Harrison (from 18/01/2021)
District Network Scout Commissioner	Vacant
Trustees	Kerina Bradburn
	Denise Wells
	Geraint Edwards
	Derek Gilfillan (Deputy DC)

Bernard Higgs (Vice-Chairman)

Alan Langley



District Membership as of 31 January 2021

Beavers	241
Cubs	277
Scouts	220
Explorers & Young Leaders	76
Network	29
Total Young People	843
Adult Leadership	139
Adult Support	87
Total District membership	1069

Groups and Units in Hitchin District

Scout Groups

- 2nd Hitchin (Air Scouts)
- 3rd Hitchin (Walsworth Road Baptist)
- 4th Hitchin (St. Ippolytts)
- 5th Hitchin (St. Mark's)
- 6th Hitchin (Priory)
- 7th Hitchin (Our Lady's)

Explorer Scout Units (ESUs)

- 1st Hitchin (Boys' School) ESU
- BEAR ESU
- DORA ESU
- HYDRUS Young Leader ESU

Network Scout Unit

8th Hitchin (Oughton)

9th Hitchin (1st Ickleford)

11th Hitchin (Christchurch)

12th Hitchin (St. Mary's and Holy Saviour)

15th Hitchin (Holwell and Pirton)

16th Hitchin (St. Faiths)

17th Hitchin (St. Michael's)

Hitchin District Network

Active Support Unit

Hitchin ASU



Hitchin District Scouts

District Support Team

District Commissioner	Tony Hankin
Deputy District Commissioner	Derek Gilfillan
District Youth Commissioner	Henry Harrison
District Explorer Scout Commissioner	Matt Smith (to 17/01/2021)
	Henry Harrison (from 18/01/2021)
District Network Scout Commissioner	Vacant
ADC Beavers	Alison Rickels
ADC Cubs	Janette Innes
ADC Scouts	Christian Frisch
ADC Activities, Nights Away Advisor	Kevin Hankin
ADC International	Sam Hankin
ADC Volunteers	Tina Hay
District Beaver Leader	Nikee Edwards
District Scout Leader	Lowell Metcalf
Active Support Unit Manager	Gill Matthews

District Scout Shop

Manager	Denise Wells
Treasurer	Jen Clarke

Other Appointments

Appointments Advisory Committee Chair	Jeff Hann
Appointments Secretary	Anna Wilson
District Website Manager	Geoff Eyles
Social Media Manager	Vacant
PR Advisor	Vacant
Sailing contact	Andrew Henton Pusey
Kayaking contact	Julie Henton Pusey

Awards and Achievements 2020/21

Chief Scout's Award & Belts

2 Platinum CSA

13 Gold CSA

57 Silver CSA

74 Bronze CSA

Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct

Sam Hankin



Assistant District Commissioner, International

Bar to the Award for Merit

Hazel Beadle



Group Scout Leader, 8th Hitchin & Beaver Leader,
11th Hitchin

Award for Merit

Richard Cox



District President

Derek Gilfillan

Deputy District Commissioner

Alison Rickels

Assistant District Commissioner, Beavers

Peter Woolston

Group Scout Leader, 17th Hitchin

Chief Scout's Commendation

Ian Buck

Group Scout Leader, 7th Hitchin

County Commissioner's Commendation

Anna Pargeter

District Treasurer

Anna Wilson

District Appointments Secretary

Chief Scout's 30 Years' Service Award

Kevin Hankin

Assistant District Commissioner, Activities

Chief Scout's 20 Years' Service Award

Richard Cox

District President

Paul Pinkstone

Cub Scout Leader, 4th Hitchin

Ian White

Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 11th Hitchin

Chief Scout's 10 Years' Service Award

Catherine Condon

Assistant Scout Leader, 11th Hitchin

Hayley Cross

Section Assistant, 11th Hitchin

Kate Gilfillan

Beaver Scout Leader, 8th Hitchin

Janette Innes

Assistant District Commissioner, Cubs

Keith McEwen

District Vice President

Chief Scout's 5 Years' Service Award

Lee Baxter

Kirsty Duffy

Matt Dormer

Geraint Edwards

Richard Holloway

Kate Parker

Rebecca Smith

Chris Speed

Kamal Uddin

Anna Wilson

Assistant Scout Leader, 12th Hitchin

Cub Scout Leader, 8th Hitchin

Cub Scout Leader, 3rd Hitchin

District Executive Committee Member

Group Chair, 5th Hitchin

Group Treasurer, 11th Hitchin

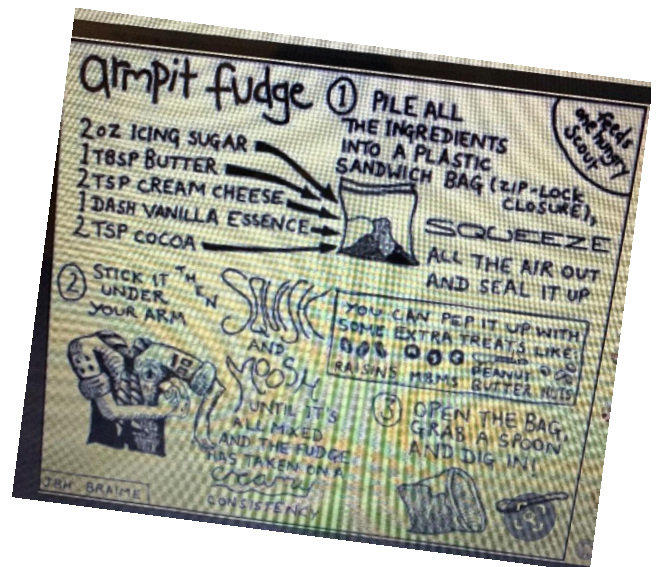
Section Assistant, 11th Hitchin

Assistant Scout Leader, 12^h Hitchin

Group Treasurer, 6th Hitchin

Group Scout Leader, 12th Hitchin & District

Appointments Secretary



District President

What an amazing year it's been. This time last year I wasn't aware as to what ZOOM was! Now we are dab hands at using it and enjoying the benefits it brings.

It's been a difficult year for you all and I offer my hearty congratulations for the way you have taken on-board all the technical changes.

Thanks to your hard endeavours, our numbers are still remarkably good. Hopefully, we can now see a



glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel and you'll be able to soon resume normal activities. The youngsters I have spoken to have really missed contact with their peers.

Please pass on our appreciation to their parents for their support and maybe suggest they continue to help!

Many thanks indeed to our most able D.C., Tony, and all his team who have guided us through these difficult times.

Onwards and upwards!

Richard.

R A Cox.
President,
Hitchin District Scouts.

District Chairman

This is my first report as District Chairman however those of you with long memories will know that this is my second time in this role. A little over 12 months ago I learnt some new phrases :- Furlough, Zoom, Go to meetings and Teams. In my occupation it has never been necessary to use any virtual

platform. Now we are using them most weeks. In fact, there are several members of the executive committee that I am yet to meet in person. However, I hope that will not be for much longer.

It is a testament to Scouting and the commitment of our Volunteers that we have all adopted this technology so quickly. We can see from the other reports in this newsletter how inventive our groups and young leaders have been in adapting their programmes to run virtually and make them interesting at the same time. I think this is clearly reflected in the number of badges my wife Denise has been giving out from the Scout Shop.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers, you are all AMAZING.

Mike Wells
District Chair

District Treasurer

2020 End of Year Treasurer's Report

The District has had a quiet year financially due to the pandemic, our rate of spending has been lower than in normal years due to the lack of events and scouting activity.

As our costs for the year were already budgeted for, we have not been badly impacted by the pandemic in our 2020 finances. It is the year ahead that we expect to be more challenging due to the following:

- Reduced income from Scout shop
- Reduced income from Annual Membership Fees
- Possible lower membership numbers
- Groups requiring additional financial support.

To help us counter these expected challenges we applied for and received a small business Covid Grant which will help support the District's Covid related costs. This grant has enabled us to lower the cost of the District subscriptions for all groups this year and support them and parents at this difficult time.

Other points of note from the accounts:

- Training and Activities Grant – We were grateful to receive a £4,970 grant from the Hitchin Youth Trust at the beginning of the year to support Adult Training, permits and adventurous activities. Unfortunately the training has not yet been able to take place, but the money is set aside ready to be used as soon the planned courses can recommence.
- Gift Aid - Payment of 2 gift aid claims fell into this financial year, totalling £2,360 mainly for the benefit of the Explorers.
- Lochearnhead – A significant amount of money was collected for the planned Lochearnhead expedition. This money has now all been refunded, thank you to Craig Wilson for managing this process so smoothly.
- Scout Shop – our thanks go to Denise Wells and Treasurer Jen Clarke for adapting and continuing to run the shop as much as possible through click and collect orders. The Scout Shop was unable to make its usual donation to District funds this year due to the extended closure, but funds from the Covid grant have helped us cover the overhead costs.

Our thanks go to Rachael Lerner, our Independent Examiner who has once again examined and approved the accounts in accordance with the Charities Commission guidelines.

Anna Pargeter
District Treasurer



District Commissioner

I started my report in last year's review by referring to the previous 12 months as 'amazing'. This year, I think I can only refer to the past 12 months of scouting in Hitchin as 'very unusual'. This annual review is slightly shorter than usual, but still gives a great overview of all that has happened.

We have all been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic in different ways, and I'd like to start by expressing my sympathies to anyone who has lost a loved one during this time and to those who have been ill with Covid-19. I would also like to thank all those who have been working on the front line and especially those who have still found time to continue volunteering and supporting Scouting.

Looking back, although the year has been different to usual, Hitchin Scouting has still been very active. Things have changed, we have had to run meetings in different ways – online or sometimes in small groups outdoors. The creativity of leaders, parents and young people in coming up with ideas for online activities and then joining in and making them work has been amazing. We haven't been able to camp together but have held a virtual Beaver sleepover, a virtual Harry Potter themed Cub camp as well as lots of camping in back gardens. Awards and badges have been worked on, individually at home or online together with a wide variety achieved over the past 12 months. The willingness of our volunteers and young people to adapt to different ways of Scouting has been tremendous, thank you to everyone.

Our census numbers were, not surprisingly, down this year with 10% fewer young people, but this is still a much better position than many other Districts and Counties. We continue to receive a large number of enquiries each month from parents who want their children to join Beavers and, unfortunately, still cannot accommodate everyone who wants to join. With so many young people wanting to join Hitchin Scouting, I am sure our numbers will start to rise again as we move out of lockdown.

The impact of the past year has had an effect on the number of people who volunteer their time and our volunteer numbers have reduced. I'd like to thank everyone who has stood down from a role. Your support and the time you have given to Scouting whether for just a few years or many is much appreciated. This does mean we need to intensify our effort to find new volunteers, with parents the most obvious source. I hope that many parents will appreciate what Scouting has offered their children during the past year and will be willing to become more involved. They may be reluctant to come forward and a direct request to get involved with a specific task or activity often works best. If you are reading this and not already involved with Scouting but want to know more, please do ask.

Finally, a huge thank you from me to all volunteers in Hitchin Scouting. Thank you for the time you give, the opportunities you provide and the skills you help our young people to learn.

Tony

Tony Hankin
District Commissioner
[@DCHitchinScouts](#)

Deputy District Commissioner

Awards

As Scouts, we pride ourselves on 'Being Prepared' and dealing unfazed with things as they crop up. The ways leaders and young people quickly continued to find novel ways to achieve badges and top Scouting awards was awe-inspiring. A phenomenal 148 top awards was achieved by the end of January 2021, that's nearly 40% more than the whole of 2015 - what an achievement! We are patiently waiting to see how Government restrictions relax and whether an alternative Celebration Event will be possible. A big thank you to leaders for continuing to support young people reach their top awards. We still need to ensure that all young people in the District get the opportunity to achieve a top award especially in these trying times. Support to deliver top awards is available from the District Team, specifically the sectional ADCs, the section Facebook groups or from peer leaders.

Programme and Section Support

The peer support between groups and leaders over the last year has been humbling. Programme ideas and activity details and visitor contacts have been freely and openly shared to make the programme as exciting and engaging as possible in the circumstances. The section meetings have and continue to be a safe space to ask for support, share programme ideas that have been a hit, ask that 'coming out of lockdown' question and give feedback to District. The ADCs share section meeting feedback at each District Team meeting to see where the District can be of support, run an event and fill a gap.

Derek Gilfillan

Deputy District Commissioner

[@DeputyDCHitchin](#)

District Youth Commissioner

Young Leaders in Hitchin have proved to be just as valuable virtually as during regular times. Hearing about them continuing to log in weekly, running games, competitions and activities, really shows how committed our Young Leaders are to giving back their time. This year, we delivered all of the Young Leader training modules via zoom including an escape room social evening. I believe that this was successful and, in some ways, increased the interactivity of the modules for the Young Leaders attending. We now have 44 active Young Leaders in Hitchin who have all attended the module A training. 42 of them have also attended at least 1 additional training module. As well as moving the training online, Young Leaders can now tick off their training missions online using google forms. This has allowed 2 Young Leaders to earn their Young Leader Belt award this year. The award demonstrates a huge commitment and is even more difficult to earn virtually. The final requirement, running an activity over multiple nights, is difficult enough at the best of times. It is great that 2 of our young people have managed to do this via zoom.

Back in the summer, the HYPE youth forum organised, ran and judged our first virtual district cooking competition. We had entries from scout groups and explorer units and were impressed with the overall high standard of entries. In the end, we awarded 17th 1st place and Bear and 5th joint 2nd place. Hopefully we will be able to hold a cooking competition where we can taste the results in the near future, although it is nice to be socially distant from the scout washing up process!

Sadly, I am now coming up to 26 years old, meaning that the Scout Association no longer class me as a young person. However, I am pleased to pass on the role of Youth Commissioner to Tom Hankin. It will be very exciting to see how he develops the role of DYC. It is still quite a new role within Hitchin and I know that he has plenty of ideas for getting young people of all ages involved in making decisions.

Henry Harrison
District Youth Commissioner

Beavers

This years' report has been based on a summary of comments made by some of the Beaver Leaders in the District, as their comments and activities are echoed by many of the Colonies.

Although it is no substitute for meeting face to face, we had a really active group joining our Zoom calls every week. The Beavers took control, telling us what they wanted to do, which badges they thought we should work towards and even setting and running their own quizzes. It was great to get back together in the autumn even though it wasn't for long. It gave us a chance to catch up with our members who understandably weren't that keen on Zoom and it was surprising how 'normal' scouting was given that everybody had to stay 2 metres apart.

The leaders have adapted to what activities were allowed during the year. When restrictions allowed St. Ippolyts organised a photo treasure hunt around the village, which encouraged everyone to get out for a nice walk and introduced some parents to footpaths and places they didn't know were there! 6th spent an evening on our local nature reserve racing paper boats, doing a scavenger hunt and learning how to use a bat detector and trail camera. One of the funniest activities was when St Ippolyts carried out their version of BGT (Beavers' Got Talent). The Beavers got to show off their various skills and talents. There was some amazing singing and dancing, however the image of the Beaver who belched the entire alphabet will live with Steve (BSL) forever.



In January, we embarked on our first virtual sleepover. With over 80 Young People signed up we delivered a full afternoon and evening of Pirate themed activities, and were delighted with 60+ people getting up early on Sunday morning to rejoin on Zoom with the CC and DC. It's been so good to hear that Beaver Scouting has continued either via zoom, or a mixture of blended meetings, and a massive thanks goes out to all the Leaders who have put so much time and effort into bringing these activities to the Young People.



Now, with restrictions easing, we are looking to bring numbers back up within the Beaver Colonies as we have so many Young People on the waiting list still very eager to join the Scout movement.

Alison Rickels, ADC Beavers
& Nikee Edwards, District Beaver Leader
[@ADCB_Hitchin](https://twitter.com/ADCB_Hitchin)

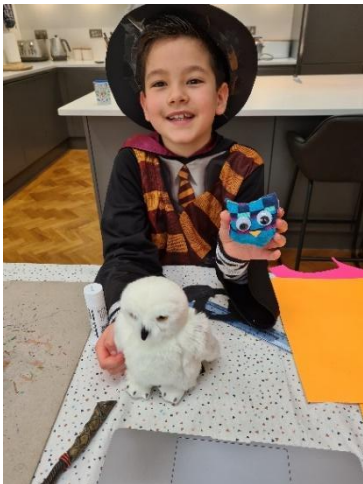
Cubs

The past twelve months have been extraordinary. Challenging, but extraordinary. Much of Cub-scouting has been executed online, but what an amazing array of opportunities have been offered. From scavenger hunts to escape rooms, online bingo to surprise guests, and it has all been provided by leaders who have been home schooling their own young people and working from home. And the engagement from Cubs has been fantastic.

No Cub will have missed out on their badge opportunities, as they have participated in a diverse virtual programme. Let's face it we have all had the opportunity of upgrading our tech skills and Zoom screen sharing, video chats and creating breakout rooms are now second nature to most of us.

Harry Potter Cub Camp

Under the direction of 'Bagrid' (Barry Dickinson) and Professor 'Janetterus' Snape, we were able to welcome nearly 100 Cubs to our amazing weekend of witchcraft and wizardry at 'Hitchwarts'. Our young people were supported by their leaders in breakout rooms online and made hats, a marauder's map with moving footsteps, decorated biscuits with Harry Potter characters, built their own wizarding den, were able to virtually meet real owls, listen to a bed time story and more. Their overnight stay will count toward one of their three nights away and their Silver Chief Scout Award. Fantastically well



done everyone.



As with everyone else, I have found this year particularly challenging, but it has been Scouting which has kept me going. I have been involved for around 16 years now and began in a role as a parent helper. This support network has played an important role in maintaining my usual positivity and enthusiasm. I have made many friends in the movement and would recommend volunteering to everyone. The results are so rewarding.

With the resumption of face-to-face Scouting once more, Hitchin Cubs have so many events in the pipeline and we look forward to seeing everyone at one of these in the future, including an interactive session with visiting owls and outdoor cinema. So watch this space.

Janette Innes
ADC Cubs
[@ADCC_Hitchin](https://twitter.com/ADCC_Hitchin)

Scouts

Scouts have enjoyed the opportunity over the last year to explore some of the different aspects of scouting and learn skills that are quite difficult to learn in the usual meeting venue. They have enjoyed activities ranging from cooking competitions in their own kitchens and Personal Trainer sessions in the garden, all the way to guest speakers and international socialising with Scout troops in the USA. Kahoot quizzes, Crystal Maze challenges, Escape Rooms, online badgework, virtual hikes, debates and games are just some of the other activities that scouts have engaged in. And when outdoor meetings have been possible, there have been hikes,



tent pitching, firelighting, pioneering, first aid, cycle maintenance and wide games. Scouts and leaders have very much appreciated the times that they have been able to get back together and are looking forward to getting outdoors and doing some camping and other adventurous activities. Some of the sessions already planned are various watersports activities, rocket/satellite building and plenty of games



nights. I have been very proud of the Scouts continued engagement with the varying programmes throughout the year and their leader's willingness to adapt to changes.

Christian Frisch, ADC Scouts
& Lowell Metcalf, District Scout Leader
[@ADCS_Hitchin](#)

Explorer Scouts

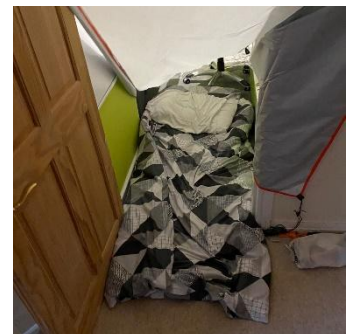
This year Hitchin has maintained its fantastic Explorer offerings. We still have 4 healthy units offering Explorers Scouting for all in slightly different and complementary ways. It was also nice to see new Explorers joining every Unit virtually and we have also been able to us advertise what each Unit has to offer during a virtual information evening. This year we have awarded 2 Platinum Chief Scout Awards, 2 Gold D of E awards and 2 Young Leader Belt awards.



This year DORA had its first anniversary. To celebrate, they held a virtual winter camp, incorporating homelessness as the underlying theme. Explorers slept in tents outside or in dens, trying to put themselves in the mindset of others less fortunate during a global pandemic. County Commissioner, Liz Walker popped along to say hello to everyone.

Some Explorers participated in camp@home and managed the whole 30 days with others joining them on the final night to be part of the biggest camp in the world.

BEAR and 1st have continued to meet virtually, holding competitions, BINGO and other games via zoom. All units are now returning to face-to-face activities.



Henry Harrison
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Network

Many of the Network members in the District are involved with Groups and Sections and have been supporting these over the past year. Unfortunately, there have not been any District Network activities but we hope that this will change over the coming months. If anyone is interested in helping to coordinate these, please get in touch. [@hitchinnetwork](#)

Activities

Activities can adapt so April 2020 saw our first 'virtual' district event, St George's Day. This was held over Zoom and we had young people and leaders renewing their promises. You can rewatch it on the Hitchin Scouts Youtube channel.



We have been 'on hold' for most of 2020 for our Climbing Wall, Archery, Water Activities and use of Hitchwood. A sailing taster session was squeezed in during October and we are ready to return to all our activities as soon as we can and get our young people being 'adventurous' once again.



Kevin Hankin
ADC Activities

Community Involvement

Many groups and sections have links with organisations in our community and these have continued and even been enhanced during lockdown. Last summer District President, Richard Cox announced a challenge for our members. The challenge was for a section or group to communicate with a care home or individuals in the community, especially those that may be isolated or vulnerable, and show concern and support for them.



The completion coincided with the Scout Association's Care for Care Homes campaign. The winners were the 17th Hitchin Scout Group where the Cubs and Scouts established contact with a local Care Home, sending them pictures and writing letters. They continued their contact with the Home during the year which included Cubs and Scouts making cards for the home for Christmas.





At Christmas, we supported the Town Centre Christmas Tree in the Market Square with five Scouting



baubles on display. Some Groups also participated in the Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival Trail. 3rd Hitchin decorated their tree using Race around the World as the theme. 7th Hitchin's tree had a Scouting Skills for Christmas theme.

Well done to both groups for two great trees.

6th Hitchin Scout Group have been busy fundraising for the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and raised an amazing £1020. Well done to all involved.



Public Relations & Media

A number of our groups use Twitter to promote and celebrate their activities and this has helped to keep Hitchin Scouting visible in the local community. The District website has had a small refresh for 2021. It remains a main reference point for Parents looking for information about Hitchin Scouting and groups and sections and includes the online joining form for those seeking a place or to add a name to waiting lists.

Maintaining a strong social media presence helps with awareness of Scouting and the promotion of volunteering opportunities. We are looking to find one or more volunteers to help us with this, building on what is in place and looking for opportunities to advertise and celebrate all we do. If you are able to help with this, or know someone that can help, please get in touch.

Volunteers and Appointments

Scouting relies on new volunteers coming forward to help, working with young people or in administrative and Trustee roles. We are grateful to all new volunteers and to those that have taken on new roles over the past year. The Appointments Committee has continued to meet monthly, with sessions held online.



#SkillsforLife

Hitchin District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

	For the year from	01/01/2020	To	31/12/2020
Receipts				
		2020		2019
		£		£
Subscriptions				
Membership subscriptions		43,193		43,194
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)		38,640		38,540
Net membership subscriptions retained		4,553		4,654
District Operations				
Premises		42		460
Administration				-
Adult support & training				-
Equipment				-
Sub total		42		460
District Activities & Groups				
District events & activities		9,910		31,572
Jamboree 2019				3,409
Explorers		6,421		2,984
Youth Forum, Young Leaders & Network				1,472
Locheanhead		18,175		
Sub total		34,506		39,436
Donations, legacies and similar income				
Private donations		150		2,000
Scout grant for training				1,452
HYT - Donation for training and activities		4,970		
Small Business COVID Grant		10,000		
Other		158		
Sub total		15,278		3,452
Charitable income to pass on				
St Georges day - MACs				471
Corporate matched funding passed to specific groups		1,064		2,127
		1,064		2,598
Scout Shop				
Scout Shop Sales		6,634		17,896
		6,633.55		17,896
Investment income				
Bank interest				70
Paypal				15
Gift Aid		2,360		
Sub total		2,360		85
Total receipts		64,437		68,580

Payments

	2020 £	2019 £
District Operations		
Premises	2,275	4,464
Administration	140	824
Adult support & training	925	2,354
Equipment	1,390	1,348
Sub total	4,730	8,990
District Activities & Groups		
District events & activities	8,160	41,086
Jamboree 2019	-	8,739
Explorers	£6,374	1,035
Youth Forum, Young Leaders & Network	-	991
Lochearnhead	180	
Sub total	14,714	51,851
Charitable income to pass on		
St Georges day - MACs		471
Corporate matched funding passed to specific groups	1,064	2,127
	1,064	2,598
Scout Shop		
Scout Shop Expenditure	6,188	14,009
	6,188	14,009
Total payments	26,696	77,448.33

Receipts and Payments Accounts Summary

	2020 £	2019 £
Total Receipts	64,437	68,580
Total payments	26,696	77,448
Net of receipts/(payments)	37,742	- 8,868
Cash funds last year end	39,412	48,280
Cash funds carried forward	77,154	39,412

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash funds		
Bank current account	31,603	14,386
2nd 'Project' account	17,995	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	11,482	11,482
Paypal	320	15
Explorers	10,269	8,491
Scout Shop current account	3,809	4,604
Scout Shop Liability		
Scout shop Cash/Floats	25	25
Scout shop Debtors	1,650	410
Total cash funds	77,154	39,412

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on

Name & Position	Date	Signature
Mike Wells - District Chairman	22/03/2021	Approved virtually in Exec meeting
Anna Pargeter - District Treasurer	22/03/2021	Approved virtually in Exec meeting

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

HITCHIN DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

I report on the Accounts of Hitchin District for the year ended 31st December 2020.

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 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

- examine the Accounts (under Section 43 (3) (a) of the 1993 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43 (7) (b) of the 1993 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Examiner's Report: -

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement: -

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name: Rachael Larner

Address: 1 Hawthorn Close, Hitchin, Hertfordshire

Date: 17th March 2021