

# Hitchin District Scouts

## Annual Review to 31<sup>st</sup> 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

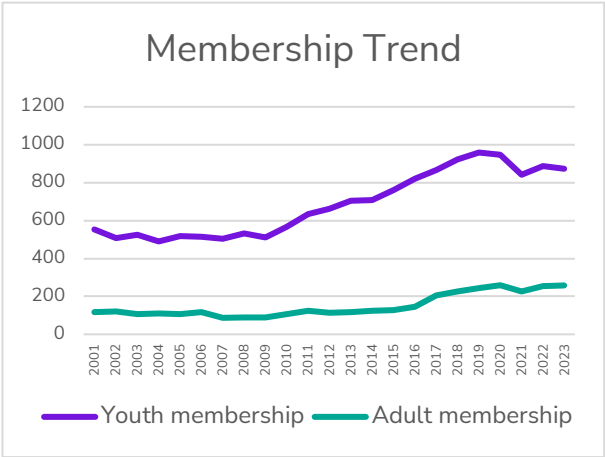
Tracey Higginbotham

Kevin Hankin

# District Membership










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

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 known 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:  
[hitchinscouts.org/calendar](http://hitchinscouts.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!



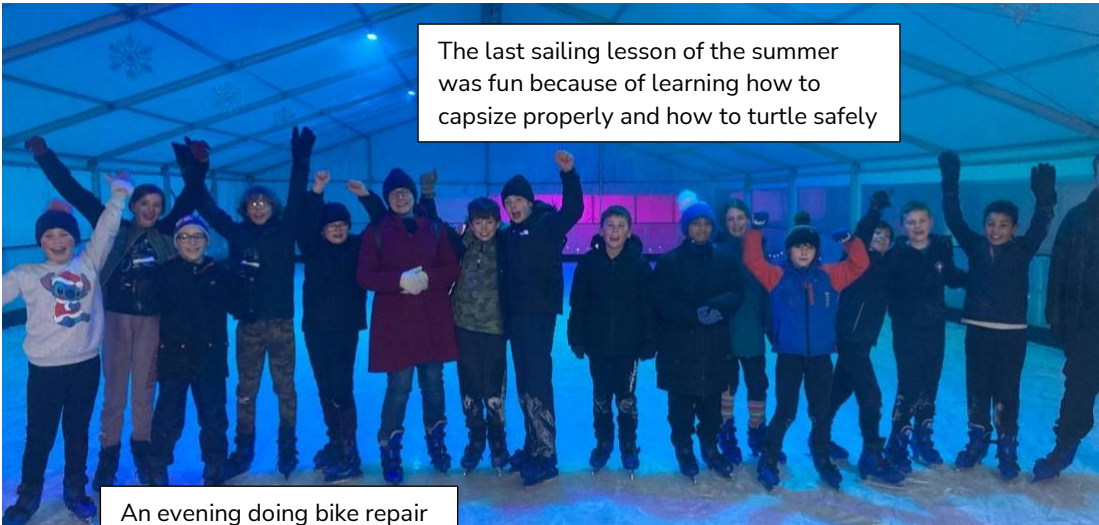
Piñatas don't dry if there is too much paint on them.



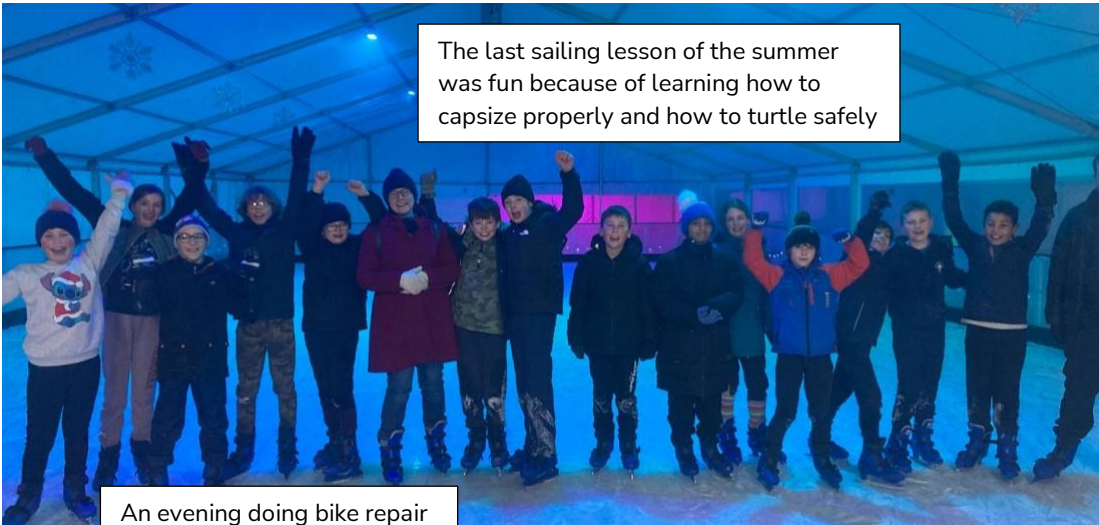
360s whilst ice skating was fun until fell over






A group of approximately 15 children are standing on an ice skating rink. They are all wearing winter clothing, including jackets, hats, and gloves. Many of them have their arms raised in the air, suggesting they are celebrating or having fun. The background shows the structure of the rink and some lights.


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

A group of approximately 15 children are standing on an ice skating rink. They are all wearing winter clothing, including jackets, hats, and gloves. Many of them have their arms raised in the air, suggesting they are celebrating or having fun. The background shows the structure of the rink and some lights.

An evening doing bike repair distracted by Just Dance

A group of children in green scout uniforms are standing inside a red and white striped circus tent. They are holding bows and arrows, suggesting they are participating in an archery activity. The tent has a sign that says "Enjoy the show!" at the entrance.

Enjoy the show!

A group of children in green scout uniforms are standing inside a red and white striped circus tent. They are holding bows and arrows, suggesting they are participating in an archery activity. The tent has a sign that says "Enjoy the show!" at the entrance.

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





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 £
<b>Subscriptions</b>			
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
<b>District Operations</b>			
Premises	44.99		-
Administration	-		-
Adult support & training	-		80.00
Equipment	-		-
Sub total	44.99		80.00
<b>District Activities &amp; Groups</b>			
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
<b>Donations, legacies and similar income</b>			
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
<b>Charitable income to pass on</b>			
St Georges day - MACs	-		-
Corporate matched funding passed to specific groups	82.16		-
	82.16		-
<b>Scout Shop</b>			
Scout Shop Sales	13,836.27		9,735.57
	13,836.27		9,735.57
<b>Investment income</b>			
Bank interest	13.86		94.37
Paypal	-		-
Gift Aid	-		1,020.00
Sub total	13.86		1,114.37
<b>Total receipts</b>	125,343.91		42,725.76

## Payments

	2022		2021
	£		£
<b>District Operations</b>			
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
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>8,198.70</b>		<b>19,194.21</b>
<b>District Activities &amp; Groups</b>			
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
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>62,467.41</b>		<b>41,642.56</b>
<b>Charitable income to pass on</b>			
Hitchin Initiative	150.00		150.00
Corporate matched funding passed to specific groups	68.51		119.34
RBL Poppy Appeal	30.00		
	<b>248.51</b>		<b>269.34</b>
<b>Scout Shop</b>			
Scout Shop Expenditure	11,156.24		8,065.71
	<b>11,156.24</b>		<b>8,065.71</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>82,070.86</b>		<b>69,171.82</b>

## Receipts and Payments Accounts Summary

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

## Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	2022		2021
	£		£
<b>Cash funds</b>			
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
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>93,980.93</b>		<b>50,707.88</b>

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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