

WATFORD SOUTH DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales · Charity number 302599

Details

Other names	WATFORD CENTRAL DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
Status	Registered
Legal form	Trust
Registered	1972-08-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	16 Reddings Avenue Bushey WD23 3PB
Phone	07973 119785
Email	sshepherd7989@gmail.com

Activities

Objects: UNIT OF THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION

Activities: Provides advice and support for the Scout groups within the area designated as Watford South by the Scout Association.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Amateur Sport
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WATFORD CENTRAL
- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£55,380	£53,245	-	-
2023-12-31	£49,647	£65,932	-	-
2022-12-31	£73,076	£62,587	-	-
2021-12-31	£8,563	£15,534	-	-
2020-12-31	£8,896	£7,313	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Samantha Shepherd	Chair	2023-07-06
Christine Turnbull		2023-10-02
Jack Jarman		2025-04-01
Toby James Hancock		2025-04-01

Accounts



Scouts

Watford South

Annual Report 2025

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AGM Agenda

1. Introduction and welcome

2. Apologies for absence

3. Governance topics

- a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in 2024
- b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules
- c. Note the District's financial year
- d. Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council
- e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
- f. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

4. Review of the previous year

- a. The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in Watford South
- b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts
- c. Apollo review
- d. Excalibur review

5. Making appointments

- a. Confirm the District Chair, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
- b. Confirm the District Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
- c. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
- d. Appoint the Scrutineer / Independent Examiner / Auditor
- f. Nominate 2 representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council
- g. Confirm the County Team Lead

6. Awards

7. Any Other Business and closing remarks

Overview of minutes at 2024's AGM

10th July 2024

Attendees:

District Trustees:

Sam Shepherd (District Chair Person)

Christine Turnbull (District Commissioner)

Barry Hulin (Treasurer)

Jack Jarman (Safeguarding)

Neo Moise (Youth Commissioner)

Brian Fox (District Secretary)

Meeting Started: 19:45

Meeting Ended: 21:05

Note: These minutes should be read in conjunction with the document titled "*Watford South Annual Report 2023*".

1. Introduction & Welcome

1.1 Sam Shepherd welcomed members of the District Scout Council and guests Ian Tyser – County Lead Volunteer and Councillor Parveen Rani – Deputy Mayor of Hertsmere.

1.2 Sam Shepherd thanked Lees Wood for use of 'Flight Oaks' for the meeting venue.

2. Apologies for Absence

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Cllr. Richard Butler – Mayor of Hertsmere Council

Cllr. Steven Scott – Mayor of Three Rivers Council

Tony Tickner

Jonathan Daly

Rachel Cannon

Cathy Stamp

Vicki James

3. Governance Topics

3.1 Minutes of Last A.G.M

3.1.1 Minutes of the last A.G.M which was held on 6th July 2023 have been reviewed and approved by the District Trustee Board at their board meeting held on 18th June 2024.

Acceptance of the minutes:

Proposed: W. Waite

Seconded: G. Farthing

Approved: Members of the District Scout Council present.

3.2 Adoption of District Constitution

3.2.1 In line with the recommendations from Scout Headquarters, the District Trustee Board proposed adoption of the model constitution from Chapter 5 of Policy, Organisation & Rules. A copy of this was made available for review and inspection prior to the A.G.M and copies were also available at the meeting. (See also Annual Report for 2023 attached).

Acceptance of the Model Constitution:

Proposed: Sam Shepherd

Seconded: Larry Hunt

Approved: Members of the District Scout Council present.

3.3 District's Financial Year

3.3.1 Sam Shepherd asked members of the District Scout Council to note that our District charity financial year is 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

3.4 Approval of appointed & community members of the District Scout Council

3.4.1 No appointments proposed.

3.5 Agreement to the number of members that may be appointed to the District Trustee Board

3.5.1 Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, P.O.R states that Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5 and no more than 12 members. The outgoing Trustee Board recommended that 7 people are appointed to the District Trustee Board.

Proposed: Sam Shepherd

Seconded: J. Wright

Agreed: Members of the District Scout Council present

3.6 Agreement of the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council

3.6.1 The outgoing District Trustee Board recommended that the quorum of District Scout Council members which must be present at District Scout Council meetings be set at 15 members.

Proposed: Sam Shepherd

Seconded: J. Wright

Agreed: Members of the District Scout Council present

4. Review of the previous year (2023)

4.1 District Lead Volunteer's Review

4.1.1 See *Annual Report 2023* attached for the DLV's Report.

4.1.2 Chris Turnbull presented her annual review highlighting the large number of vacant roles in the District Team, including the lack of a Deputy DLV, as a matter of concern. Consequently she is having to undertake many additional duties, greatly increasing her scouting workload.

4.1.3 Recent District events held include:

- District Sports Day
- Athletics Badge
- The Gauntlet Trophy
- Beaver Challenge

New volunteers are required to run District events.

4.1.4 A District expedition to Lochernhead for Scouts and Explorers is planned for 2025. An encouraging number of younger leaders have volunteered to help run the event.

4.1.5 Chris Turnbull thanked all attendees for everything they do to support the District and deliver a good time in scouting for the young people.

4.2 Annual Report of the District Trustee Board

4.2.1 See *Annual Report 2023* attached for the District Financial Review for 2023.

4.2.2 The District Trustee Board have reviewed and approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. The accounts have been independently reviewed by Valerie Collins and will be 'signed off' by her.

4.2.3 Barry Hulin outlined main items from the District accounts for 2023. There were no questions from attendees on the accounts.

4.3 Apollo Explorer Unit Annual Review

4.3.1 Members of Apollo Explorer Unit made a presentation on activities carried out during 2023.

4.4 Excalibur Explorer Unit Annual Review

4.4.1 Chris Turnbull read out the Excalibur Explorer Annual Review prepared by Dave Fayer, the Unit Leader. (Copy attached).

4.5 Jamboree Review

4.5.1 A presentation was made on the 2023 Jamboree in South Korea by two Explorers who had attended.

4.6 District Youth Commissioner's Review

4.6.1 See *Annual Report 2023* attached for the District Youth Commissioner's Report.

4.7 District Chair's Report

4.7.1 See *Annual Report 2023* attached for the District Chair's Report.

4.7.2 Sam Shepherd presented her report, highlighting the work she is doing to conduct safety risk assessments on individual Groups HQ buildings and other property.

5. Appointments

5.1 Appointment of District Chair

5.1.1 Appointment of Sam Shepherd as District Chair for 2024.

Proposed: C. Turnbull

Seconded: J. Wright

Approved by members of the District Scout Council present.

5.1.2 Chris Turnbull asked the meeting to note that two trustees currently hold other roles within the District. Sam Shepherd is Secretary for the 64th and Barry Hulin is Chair at the 29th. No conflict of interest is perceived in these individuals holding dual roles.

5.1.3 The role of Secretary no longer exists on the Trustee Board. Brian Fox will undertake the role of Administrator for the Board in the future.

5.1.4 One nomination has been received for the Property Portfolio Manager role on the District Trustee Board. (Kira Wilkinson. Not present at the A.G.M). The District Chair is to discuss requirements of this role with the individual concerned prior to their appointment to the Board.

5.2 Appointment of District Treasurer

5.2.1 Appointment of Barry Hulin as District Treasurer for 2024.

Proposed: S. Shepherd

Approved by members of the District Scout Council present.

5.2.2 Sam Shepherd thanked Barry Hulin for the good work done by him in managing the District accounts during 2023.

5.3 Appointment of Safeguarding Lead

5.3.1 Appointment of Jack Jarman as District Safeguarding Lead for 2024.

Proposed: S. Shepherd

Approved by members of the District Scout Council present.

5.4 Appointment of Scrutineer for 2024

5.4.1 Appointment of Valerie Collins as Scrutineer for 2024.

Proposed: S. Shepherd

Approved by members of the District Scout Council present.

5.5 Nomination of two representatives from the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council

5.5.1 Sam Wright & Bruce Scott (as per last year).

Proposed: S. Shepherd

Approved by members of the District Scout Council present.

5.6 Nomination of two Lees Wood representatives

5.6.1 Jenny Wright & Dave Fayer.

Proposed: S. Shepherd

Approved by members of the District Scout Council present.

6. Awards

6.1 The following awards were presented by Ian Tycer:

- 15 Year Long Service Awards: Dave King & Kerry Waite
 - Wood Badge: Jenny Wright
-

7. Any Other Business and Closing Remarks

7.1 Ian Tycer commented on the good standard of presentations made by the Explorers. He noted that some Groups in the District had full sections and that some had Squirrel Dreys.

7.2 There was no other business.

7.3 Sam Shepherd closed the meeting thanking everyone for attending.

End of minutes

Policy, Organisation and Rules Constitution

5c.2 Constitution for a District (except Scotland)

5c.2.1 Preamble

5c.2.1.1

This constitution describes the role, membership and operation of the District Scout Council, and the District Trustee Board.

In the previous versions of POR, it was section 5.5.

5c.2.2 Charitable objects

5c.2.2.1

[Rule 1.1 of POR]

Our purpose is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

5c.2.3 The District Scout Council

5c.2.3.1

The District Scout Council has a governance role for the charity and makes District Trustee Board appointments other than ex officio and co-opted Trustee appointments.

5c.2.3.2

The District Scout Council has no Trustee responsibilities.

5c.2.3.3

The members of the District Scout Council are

a) The ex officio members of the District Scout Council are detailed in Rule

5b.3.2.5

b) The District Scout Council may appoint some members as detailed in Rule 5b.3.2.8.

c) The District Scout Council may appoint some community members. See Rule 5b.3.2.9

d) The maximum number of appointed and community members of a District Scout Council is detailed in Rule 5b.3.2.10.

5c.2.3.4

District Trustee Board administration must ensure that appointed District Scout Council Members are recorded locally in the minutes of the District Scout Council meeting which appoints them (normally the AGM). District Scout Council members (whether ex officio or appointed or community) must not be recorded as such on the membership system.

5c.2.4 The District Trustee Board

5c.2.4.1

The District Trustee Board is responsible for the governance of the charity. Although the District Trustee Board is responsible for the charity, it is accountable to the District Scout Council.

5c.2.4.2

District Trustee Board membership

The members of the District Trustee Board are:

a) Ex officio

The ex officio roles are defined in Rule 5b.3.3.5(a).

b) Appointed District Trustees (including Chair and Treasurer) are persons appointed by

the District Scout Council as described in Rule 5b.3.3.5(b).

c) The selection process for appointed District Trustees must follow Rules 5b.3.3.5(b)

and 5b.3.3.6.

d) Co-opted Trustees are persons co-opted by the District Trustee Board, see Rule

5b.3.3.5(c). Their term of appointment is a maximum of 12 months (though re- appointment is permitted).

The number of co-opted members must not exceed the actual number of appointed Trustees, excluding Chair and Treasurer. If a co-option is

required mid-year because of a vacancy arising, then this rule may be broken, provided that the total number of Trustees remains no greater than the total number of Trustees permitted by District Scout Council resolution at the AGM.

The selection process for co-opted Trustees must follow Rules 5b.3.3.5(c) and 5b.3.3.6.

5c.2.5 District Scout Council – Annual General Meeting

5c.2.5.1

To support the planning and delivery of a District AGM there is a downloadable ‘script’ (including agenda and script templates and a suggested planning timetable).

5c.2.5.2

Each District Scout Council must hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) within six months of the end of the District’s financial year. The District should give four weeks’ notice of the date of the AGM.

5c.2.5.3

The AGM must:

- a) Undertake governance oversight by
 - approving the minutes of the previous District AGM
 - adopting (or re-adopting) the constitution of the charity (see Rule 5b.3)
 - noting the dates of charity’s financial year
 - approving appointed and community members of the District Scout Council
 - agreeing the maximum total number of members of the District Trustee Board (this is one number representing the total of ex officio, appointed and co-opted members)
 - agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council
- b) Review the previous financial year by
 - receiving from the District Lead Volunteer an overview of the past 12 months of activity in the District
 - receiving and considering the District Trustees’ Annual Report and the

annual statement of accounts which have been approved by the District Trustee Board.

c) Make appointments

- appoint a Chair of the District Trustee Board, following recommendation from the selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board.
- appoint a Treasurer of the District Trustee Board, following recommendation from the selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board.
- appoint other members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendation from the selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board.
- approve the appointment of any District Presidents or District Vice Presidents and note current appointees (if any).
- appoint (or re-appoint) an auditor, independent examiner or scrutineer (see 5a.1.7)
- nominate two representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council.

5c.2.6 District Trustee Board – purpose

5c.2.6.1

The District Trustee Board is a team of volunteers who work together, as charity Trustees, to make sure Scouts is run safely and legally. At the heart of their role is a focus on strategy, performance and assurance, working to ensure that the District is meeting The Scout Association's overall aims and strategic goals. Effective Trustee support helps other volunteers run the Scout programme that gives young people skills for life.

5c.2.6.2

Members of the District Trustee Board must act collectively as charity trustees of the District, and in the best interests of the District's members.

5c.2.6.3

The District Trustee Board must act in the charity's best interests, acting

with reasonable care and skill and take steps to be confident that:

a) the charity is:

- well managed
- carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
- complying with the charity's governing document and the law
- managing the charity's resources responsibly

b) The charity is operating compliant with POR and the local charity regulator, including effective management of each of the Key Policies listed in POR Chapter 2.

c) Young people are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels

d) The District has sufficient resources (funds, people, property and equipment) available to meet the planned work of the District including delivery of the high quality programme and resource requirements of the training programme (see Rule 4.3.7)

5c.2.6.4

The District Trustee Board members must themselves collectively:

a) develop and maintain a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations

b) ensure that the District's finances are properly managed, including development and maintenance of appropriate budgets to support the work of the District

c) ensure that where one of the District's Explorer Units is partnered with a Group and the operational financing is undertaken by the Group, this arrangement is documented in the Partnership Agreement, and the finance arrangements must follow this guidance.

d) maintain and manage:

- a reserves policy for the charity. This must address the minimum reserves that should be maintained to allow for difficult financial circumstances in the District, and must also include a statement about how reserves outside that 'minimum' will be used for development of Scouts
- an investment policy for the charity
- a public benefit statement for the charity

- e) ensure that people, property and equipment are appropriately insured, and that any property and equipment owned or used by the District is properly protected and maintained
- f) ensure the appointment and management and operation of any sub-teams, including appointing a Chair to lead the sub-teams. This should normally be one of the District's Trustees. This sub-team Chair role title is Sub-Team Leader (see the Teams Table in Chapter 16).
- g) ensure that effective administration is in place to support the work of the District Trustee Board
- h) appoint any co-opted members of the District Trustee Board
- i) ensure transparency of operation, including:
- prepare and approve the Annual Accounts and arrange their examination by an auditor, independent examiner or scrutineer as appropriate and as appointed by the District Scout Council at their AGM
 - prepare and approve the District Trustees' Annual Report which must include the Annual Accounts and include the report from the auditor, independent examiner or scrutineer
 - present the approved Trustees' Annual Report and Annual Accounts to the District Scout Council for their consideration at the District's AGM
 - following the District AGM, ensure that a copy of the District Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts is filed as described in 5e.2.1.2
- j) take responsibility for the District's adherence to Data Protection Legislation recognising that, dependent on circumstances, it may at different times act as a Data Controller and as a Data Processor
- k) individually and collectively maintain confidentiality regarding appropriate District Trustee Board business
- l) put in place annually an open and transparent selection process to recommend to the District Scout Council appropriate persons to be appointed members of the District Trustee Board, including Chair and Treasurer. Vacancies for appointed Trustees only occur at the end of their period of appointment (for example, a Trustee may have been appointed for three years and so does not need to be re-appointed or re-selected after years 1 and 2).

m) where staff are employed:

- act as a responsible employer in accordance with Scouts' values and relevant legislation
- ensure that effective line management is in place for each employed staff member and that these are clearly established and communicated
- ensure that appropriate specific personnel insurance is in place

5c.2.6.5

A District Trustee Board may create sub-teams it deems necessary to support its governance function. The District Trustee Board must ensure that for any sub-team it appoints:

- a) its purpose is governance focused and not operational
- b) its members are agreed and approved by the District Trustee Board
- c) the District Chair has right of attendance
- d) the District Lead Volunteer has right of attendance

5c.2.6.6

Sub-team members are not District Trustees unless they are already members of the District Trustee Board.

5c.2.6.7

All sub-team members must be recorded on the membership system.

5c.2.6.8

To support effective governance and share good practice, the District Chair and Treasurer should create a support network amongst the Group Chairs and Group Treasurers of the District.

5c.2.7 District Scout Council - Conduct of meetings

5c.2.7.1

The District Scout Council meets at their AGM (see 5c.2.5).

5c.2.7.2

It would be unusual for there to be additional meetings of the District Scout Council. This is because the primary task of the District Scout

Council is to appoint the District Trustee Board. If members resign from the District Trustee Board, Rule 16.9.2.2 must be followed, thus rendering an additional District Scout Council meeting unnecessary.

5c.2.7.3

A District Scout Council meeting should normally be convened with at least four weeks' notice. A meeting may be convened on shorter or no notice with the agreement of at least three quarters of the members of the District Trustee Board.

5c.2.7.4

District Scout Council meetings are chaired by the District Chair. If the Chair is unable to be present, the Chair may appoint a delegate to chair a meeting of the District Scout Council subject to such appointment being approved at the start of the meeting by a majority of the District Scout Council members present.

5c.2.7.5

Only District Scout Council members, as defined in Rule 5c.2.4.2, may vote in District Scout Council meetings.

5c.2.7.6

The quorum for a District Scout Council meeting is agreed by the District Scout Council at their AGM (see 5c.2.5.3(a)).

If there is no quorum present at a meeting of the District Scout Council, the meeting must be closed and reconvened at the earliest opportunity.

5c.2.7.7

Decisions are made by a majority of votes cast by those present at the meeting. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast on either side, the Chair does not have a casting vote and the matter is taken not to have been carried.

5c.2.7.8

To discharge their responsibilities, the District Scout Council may meet by video conference as well as (or instead of) face to face when agreed by the District Chair. The District Scout Council must not 'meet' using any indirect process, such as email. At any meeting which is not fully in person, there must be an online poll or other electronic method of counting votes.

5c.2.7.9

All meetings of the District Scout Council, whether face-to-face or otherwise, must be properly recorded and minuted.

5c.2.8 District Trustee Board - Conduct of meetings

5c.2.8.1

Meetings of the District Trustee Board should be convened on at least two weeks' notice. Meetings may be convened on shorter or no notice with the agreement of at least half of the members of the District Trustee Board.

5c.2.8.2

District Trustee Board meetings are chaired by the District Chair. If the District Chair is unable to be present at a meeting, the District Trustee Board may choose a member to act as chair for the duration of the meeting of the District Trustee Board subject to such appointment being approved at the start of the meeting by a majority of the members present at the meeting.

5c.2.8.3

Only members of a District Trustee Board as defined in 5b.3.3 may vote in its meetings.

5c.2.8.4

The quorum for a meeting of a District Trustee Board is one third of the Trustees (ex officio plus appointed plus co-opted) plus one [round down if necessary]. So, a Trustee Board with 10 members would have a quorum of four. And a Trustee Board with six members would have a quorum of

three. For any sub-teams of the District Trustee Board, the quorum for each sub-team must be set by the District Trustee Board, based on the size of the sub-team and the complexity of its task(s).
If there is no quorum present at a meeting of the District Trustee Board, or a sub-team, the meeting must be closed and reconvened at the earliest opportunity.

5c.2.8.5

Decisions are made by a majority of votes cast by the Trustees present at the meeting. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast on either side, the Chair does not have a casting vote and the matter is taken not to have been carried.

5c.2.8.6

To fulfil their responsibilities, the District Trustee Board may meet by video conference or in person, as determined by the District Chair. This includes 'hybrid' meetings, where some Trustees are present at an agreed location while others participate remotely via phone or video.

5c.2.8.7

Where urgent matters arise between scheduled meetings of the District Trustee Board and if it is not feasible to convene a meeting of the Trustee Board, electronic voting (such as email) may be used for decision making provided the District Chair deems it appropriate.

For such decisions, a minimum of 75% approval from the Trustees is required [the 'rounding' guidance from 5c.2.8.4 also applies in this case]. The results of the vote must be reported to, and recorded in, the minutes of, the next District Trustee Board meeting.

Financial Review 2024:

These accounts have been drawn up on the Receipts & Payments basis, which is consistent with previous years.

The major part of our income is derived from the subscriptions we raise from our Groups using the annual census return before paying County the Capitation fee so that in 2024 the surplus was £4,357.95 increased from £3,999.50 in 2023 despite subsidising one Group by £810.

We did have an investment account run via **The Scout Association** but that was closed due to poor administration by the investment managers involved. So, we only now receive interest on our current account with **CAF Bank** at £81.11 substantially down from the total of the previous year of £480.61.

As Trustees we have agreed not to pass on the full amount of the increases made by County on the Capitation fees but our **District Commissioner** has asked all Groups to carefully consider the level of subscriptions charged in future as we might not be able to contain these increases in future years.

When a Group closes any monies left over become part of the District's funds. There were no such amounts in the year although £23.66 was found in collecting tins left at the 15th in the previous year.

Diane Rogers continues to manage the supply of badges to the District and does an excellent job in doing so. She does create a surplus and made a donation of £250 in the year slightly more than the year before at £233.54.

Events & Groups show the finance of the sections where District has been involved including District Events as well as showing the income and expenditure for the **Explorer** sections; **Apollo** and **Excalibur**. In 2025 **Apollo** opened their own bank account and the funds District held on their behalf have been transferred to them including a £3,000 grant they secured from '**Blackbaud**'.

Please also note that for our planned trip to **Lochearnhead** the finance is to be operated separately from District. However, before this could be set up, we paid a deposit of £1,433.25 but we have agreed to allow this as part of District funding of the event particularly as we did have a surplus last time we visited.

In summary we started the year with funds of £36, 863.25 which included £642 Restricted Funds, £3,632.53 **Apollo** and £611.02 **Excalibur** so the **General Fund** was £32,619.70.

Whilst overall there was a surplus of £2,134.71 that included £250.99 belonging to **Apollo** and £1,873.78 belonging to **Excalibur** thus leaving a magnificent £9.94 surplus for the **General Fund**!

Our **Explorers** continue to be well funded with **Excalibur** having a much higher balance than previously. Whilst **Apollo** was much the same, they did secure a grant in 2025 for £3,000 from **Blackbaud**. Bear in mind these figures will reduce in February 2025 after Capitation is taken into account.

The **General Fund** did not increase in the year which was by design as we already have a significant reserve as shown.

There were no other significant entries after the year end.

The accounts have been scrutinised by **Val Collins** who has confirmed they are in order. She has agreed to continue for another year in this role.

Barry Hulin FCII
Treasurer

Financial Result

	2023	2024
Excess or (deficit) of Receipts over payments	(£16,285.60)	£ 2,134.71
Balance of funds at 1 st January	£53,148.85	£36,863.25
Balance of funds as 31st December	£36,863.25	£38,997.96

The balance as at 31st December 2024 was made up as follows:

Current Account	£38,997.96
Cash in hand	£ Nil
Total	£38,997.96

The current account is held with **CAF Bank Ltd** in Kent. The investment account arranged via **The Scout Association** was closed in 2023 due to poor performance.

The total is made up of the following funds:

Designated Funds

Jamboree Reserve	£ Nil
Apollo Explorers	£ 3,883.52
Excalibur Explorers	£ 2,484.80
General Fund	£31,987.64
Kenya Fund Bushey & Oxhey R	£ 412.00
Tony Smith Memorial Collection R	£ 230.00
Total	£38,997.96

The funds marked R are Restricted Funds where the money is committed to be spent on specific items.

Assets & Liabilities

	2023	2024
Money Assets		
Cash in hand	£ Nil	£ Nil
Current Account	£36,863.25	£38,997.96
Investment Account	£ Closed	£ Closed
Total	£36,863.25	£38,997.96
Liabilities Restricted Funds		
Kenya Fund (Bushey & Oxhey)	£ 412.00	£ 412.00
Tony Smith Memorial Collection	£ 230.00	£ 230.00
Designated Funds		
Jamboree Reserve	£ Nil	£ Nil
Apollo Explorers	£ 3,632.53	£ 3,883.52
Excalibur Explorers	£ 611.02	£ 2,484.80
General Fund	£32,619.70	£32,629.64
Total	£36,863.25	£38,997.96

Notes:

When a Group closes or merges **The Scout Association** ‘POR’ gives the District the responsibility for their assets and liabilities. More information is given elsewhere but included here we should include the land, buildings and contents of the **15th Scout Group** that closed in 2019. This site is a drain on our resources but we have engaged agents to find a buyer.

The **22nd Watford South Group** closed and I am currently trying to establish details of their bank account and the amount of any residual funds.

The **72nd** closed some time ago and there are two garages behind the **Trinity Methodist Church** Whippendell Road Watford. Not clear if these garages were owned by the Group or are church property. Trying to gain access to see what contents remain inside.

We should also not that we own a minibus for use by Groups; **LT59RTV Citroen Relay** 15-seater 2009 bought 18th November 2011. The last valuation for this vehicle was £4,000 but is probably worth much less now.

Notes to receipts

	2023	2024
1. Subscriptions	£35,062.50	£40,170.00
We pay Capitation to County based on the annual census return which showed 623 in 2023 and 683 in 2024. We charged £60 and paid £52.50 in 2024 as against £55 and £53.35 in 2023. We are liable to County for Capitation whether or not we have collected the money from our Groups. There was a shortfall of £810 in the year where one Group did not pay the full amount in that year.		
2. Groups		
Final closure of 15 th	£ 23.66	£ Nil
3. Sections/Events		
Beaver Section	£ 18.81	£ Nil
Cub Section	£ Nil	£ Nil
Scout Section	£ 295.00	£ 168.00
District Events	£ Nil	£ 564.51
Apollo Explorer Section	£ 4,666.02	£ 9,895.50
Excalibur Explorer Section	£ 1,902.50	£ 2,677.50
Total	£ 6,882.33	£13,305.51
4. Miscellaneous		
TSA Investment Account interest	£ 239.73	£ Nil
CAF Bank account interest	£ 240.88	£ 81.11
Watford Borough Council	£ 213.42	£ Nil
XMAS Charity Collection	£ Nil	£ 368.22
Herts Lottery	£ Nil	£ 45.76
Total	£ 694.03	£ 495.09

Notes to payments

2023

2024

1. Event Expenses

Beaver Section	£ Nil	£ Nil
Cub Section	£ 230.00	£ Nil
Scout Section	£ 119.10	£ 97.75
District	£ 316.25	£ 1,837.25
Apollo Explorer Section	£ 5,487.09	£ 9,644.51
Excalibur Explorer Section	£ 2,127.33	£ 803.72
Total	£ 8,270.77	£12,383.25

Note

That under the District item we paid a deposit of £1,433.25 for Lochenhead. The accounts for this trip are to be operated separately from District.

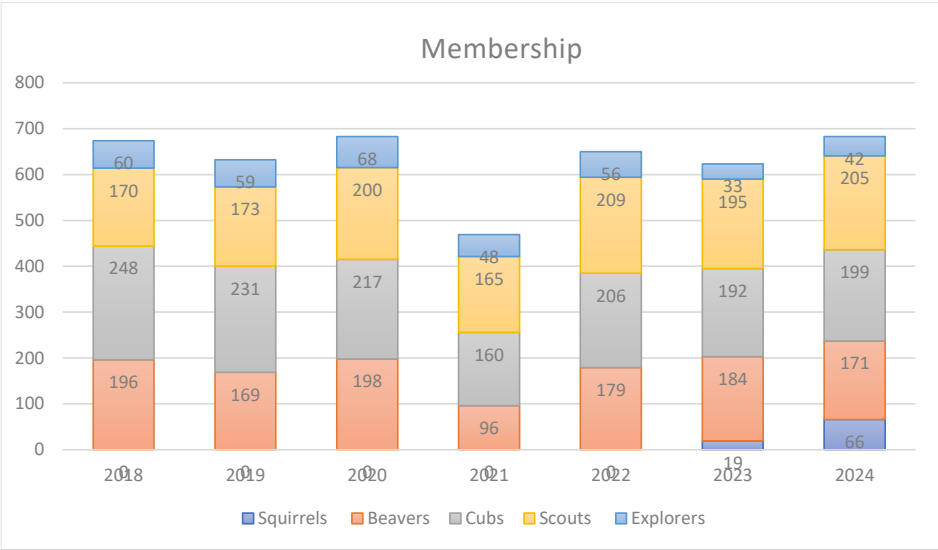
2. Administration

Insurance	£2,535.45	£331.20
Administration/ Donation	£ Nil	£ Nil
Bank Charges	£ 60.75	£ 60.00
Data Protection Registration	£ 40.00	£ 75.00
Website & email server	£ 35.95	£ 37.95
Bury Lake Membership	£ 150.00	£ Nil
Training	£ Nil	£ 51.00
Badges	£ 227.98	£ 66.11
Lottery	£ Nil	£ 20.28
Total	£3,050.13	£641.54

3. Group Payments

14 th /2 nd	£11,484.99	£ Nil
15 th	£ 3,797.38	£ Nil
Totals	£15,282.37	£ Nil

Membership



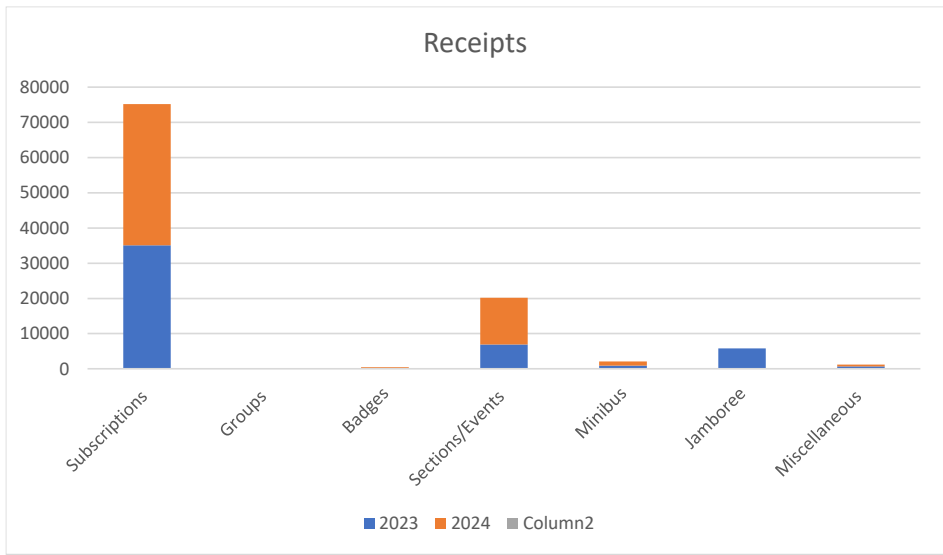
The figures are taken from the annual census return we make to The Scout Association on which the capitation fees are paid.

For the 2024 year there were 66 Squirrels, 171 Beavers, 199 Cubs, 205 Scouts and 42 Explorers giving a total of 683 up from 623 in 2023.

Out of interest the census return for 2025 made in January 2025 for the year ahead showed: 72 Squirrels, 174 Beavers, 217 Cubs, 205 Scouts & 45 Explorers making a total of 713.

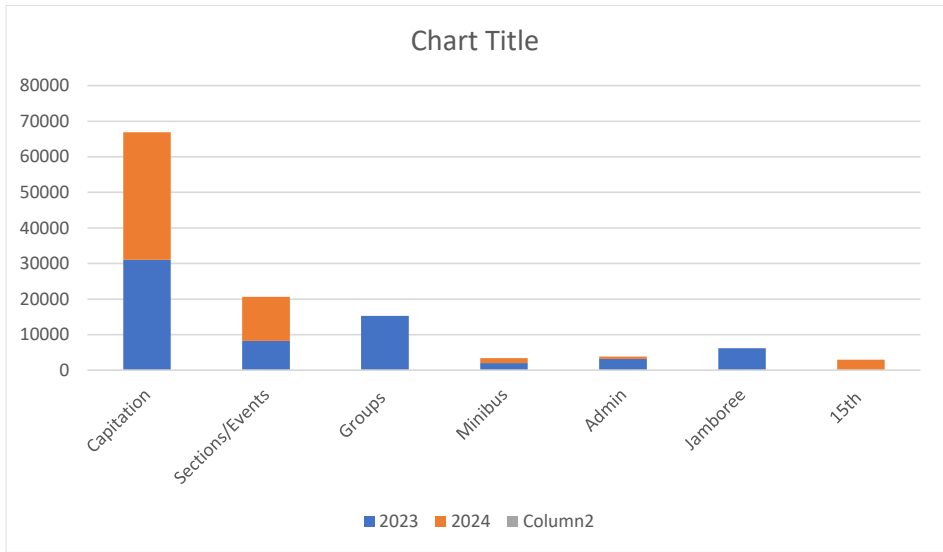
Receipts

	2023	2024
Subscriptions see note 1	£35,062.50	£40,170.00
Groups see note 2	£ 23.66	£ Nil
Badge Secretary	£ 233.54	£ 250.00
Sections/Events see note 3	£ 6,882.33	£13,305.51
District Minibus	£ 922.50	£ 1,159.20
Jamboree	£ 5,828.03	£ Nil
Miscellaneous see note 4	£ 694.03	£ 495.09
Total Receipts	£49,646.59	£55,379.80



Payments

	2023	2024
Capitation to County see note 1	£31,063.00	£35,812.05
Sections/Events see note 5	£ 8,270.77	£12,383.23
Group Payments see note 7	£15,282.37	£ Nil
Minibus LT59RTV	£ 1,972.43	£ 1,448.01
Administration see note 6	£ 3,175.13	£ 641.54
Jamboree	£ 6,168.49	£ Nil
15 th Maintenance	£ Nil	£ 2,960.26
Total Payments	£65,932.19	£53,245.09



Moreton Hall

This continues to be a drain on our resources although we have reduced the buildings insurance to cover demolition costs only as we would not rebuild in the event of damage. This reduced the premium payable.

Whilst the gas is turned off for safety and insurance purposes, we were paying a standing charge but have now had the service cut off to avoid further bills. We are still paying water rates but have recently asked **Castle Water** to explain the reason for a 22% increase in their bills bearing in mind the site is not used and also to explain how the service can be terminated to avoid further cost.

Barry Hulin continues to visit the site most weeks and is still removing and sorting the contents. Two van loads of metal have been removed for example. A neighbour to the rear of the site expressed concern over the safety of an Ash tree which she thought was threatening her property. We thought it prudent to have all the trees assessed by professionals and whilst surprisingly the Ash tree was safe and free of Ash Die Back that tree and others on the perimeter of the site were pruned at a total cost of £2,400.

Independent Examination

As a local Scout District, we are an unincorporated body and as such there are no legal requirements regarding format and auditing of accounts.

On advice from the HQ who would have drawn on the legislation for limited companies and charities we have prepared this receipt & payments account based on the guidelines they have recommended.

Whilst it is not necessary for the accounts to be audited, we have also adopted the recommendation that these accounts be independently examined which involves the following procedures:

- comparison of these accounts with the accounting records;
- inspection of all accounting records for material errors;
- analytical review of the accounts to identify problems;
- review of accounting policies, material assumptions & judgements;

and the examiner has also obtained an understanding of our activities & accounting systems, the nature of our assets, liabilities, income & expenditure to be able to plan this work properly.

Signed:.....Dated:.....

Valerie Collins

District Volunteer Lead Report:

Chris Turnbull

2024 has been a year of continued momentum and enthusiasm as we returned fully to the vibrancy of post-Covid Scouting. Across Watford South, we've delivered more nights away, awarded more top awards in the younger sections, and offered more opportunities for our young people to develop #SkillsForLife than ever before.

Our district has grown significantly:

We now have five Squirrel Dreys across four groups, offering our youngest members a fantastic start to their Scouting journey.

Our youth membership increased by 40 young people.

Our adult volunteer team grew by 15, reaching a total of 155 dedicated volunteers.

However, we still face challenges. According to the 2024 Census, 154 young people of Scouting age remain on our waiting lists. If each of our 39 sections took just four young people, we could clear that list. But, of course, that requires more adult volunteers to help us meet this demand.

We've seen wonderful Scouting delivered across all sections: Squirrels and Beavers have raced boats on the river and even enjoyed camping experiences.

Cubs tackled the Gauntlet Challenge and participated in athletics competitions.

Scouts held a district Marksman Competition and enjoyed several nights away.

Many of our groups attended the Lees Wood Anniversary Camp, which was a fantastic celebration of adventure and community.

We also had the pleasure of presenting several Awards of Merit to

volunteers who've gone above and beyond, supporting the district and county while continuing their group roles. Their dedication is deeply appreciated.

Towards the end of 2024 and into early 2025, many volunteers across the UK faced frustrations with the delayed rollout of the new adult membership system. The transition to teams and new role titles has not been easy, but our district has worked hard to:

Ensure all adult roles were migrated correctly.

Complete the new Safety Module, safeguarding training, and maintain valid DBS checks for all volunteers in youth-facing roles.

This compliance work is essential to keeping our young people safe.

A kind reminder: if you receive a 60-day training reminder, please prioritise it—every late completion adds to the compliance report, and that means time spent chasing rather than supporting.

Though this report technically covers January to December 2024, the start of 2025 has already shown us just how exciting Scouting continues to be. We've already celebrated numerous Chief Scout's Bronze and Silver Awards, and we expect to see more Gold Awards before the end of the year.

Some 2025 highlights include:

A joint St. George's Day celebration with Watford North.

A district trip to Lochearnhead (though sadly with lower participation than hoped).

An Explorer international trip to France.

A Network team completing the Explorer Belt expedition—our first in many years!

A Thank You to Our Volunteers

None of this happens without our exceptional volunteers:

Section leaders delivering weekly meetings.

Administrators managing records and logistics.

Parents and supporters helping with camps, kit, and transport.

Those quietly maintaining Scout HQs and huts across the district.

You make Watford South a thriving and safe place for young people to learn, grow, and explore.

Opportunities to Get Involved

We still have much more we can achieve, but we need your help.

The Scout Association's national goal is to grow youth membership by 4.4% in 2025. For us, that's just 28 additional 6–18-year-olds and 21 Squirrels—achievable if we can clear our waiting lists, but only with more adult support.

Lees Wood Scout Camp Needs You!

Lees Wood is a stunning, volunteer-run site used by our groups nearly year-round. We're currently:

- Recruiting a Chairperson for the management committee.
- Seeking volunteers for maintenance and a potential Weekend Support Crew (just 5 weekends a year).
- Fundraising to replace the volunteer accommodation block, now over 50 years old. Please consider donating or connecting us with grant opportunities.
-

District Team Vacancies

To better support our groups, we need:

District Team Leads for each age section to provide training guidance, event coordination, and peer support.

A Volunteer Support Team Lead to welcome new volunteers and ensure our teams feel recognised and appreciated.

More activity instructors—particularly for walking and water-based activities.

If you're interested or simply want to explore how you might help,
please get in touch. Let's have a conversation.

And to guiltily pinch a closing statement

Scouting has something for everyone

And

Everyone has something to offer scouting





District Chair's Report:

Sam Shepherd



It's hard to believe that another year has passed already in Watford South.

During that time, I've had the pleasure of meeting more of our wonderful volunteers at group level and helping to support with trustee board related challenges. I've also broadened my own Scouting experience by volunteering with one my local Scout group's Squirrels dreys.

Through these experiences, it has become clearer than ever that the cost of living crisis continues to affect Scouting across the District. From trying to raise funds for roof repairs and having to pay greatly increased energy bills, to young people struggling financially to attend camps or even afford uniform, our groups need support now more than ever.

In the short term, I'm always available to support and advise groups regarding potential grant applications that they could make to

obtain additional funds. Please contact me on sshepherd7989@gmail.com should this be something you'd like help with.

However, the question remains: What long term support can we provide to ensure that Scouting can go from strength to strength in Watford South?

Thanks to our former District Youth Lead, Neo Moise, who is now County Youth Lead, we are several steps closer to reaching an answer.

Moreton Hall

As referenced in the Financial Review conducted by Barry Hulin, Moreton Hall (previously occupied by the 15th Bushey and Oxhey Scouts) has continued to be a drain on our resources over the past year.

In the latter months of 2024, Neo took great initiative in setting the ball rolling to sell the site, doing lots of preliminary research and getting us to a position where we had several offers coming in.

When his new commitments at County beckoned, Neo handed the baton to me. I'm pleased to be able to share that we have now engaged a buyer for the site.

The full details of the sale will remain confidential for the time being, as it's still early days with lots of red tape to navigate.

However, all being well, the resulting funds have the potential to secure a greater level of financial security for Watford South in years to come and enable you to keep providing and having great Scouting experiences.

District Youth Lead's Report:

Toby Hancock



Since taking over from Neo Moise as Youth Lead in April, I've had the amazing opportunity to be able to meet many young people and teams from around the district at section evenings, camps and events. Ranging from Squirrels to Network, I have spoken with young people within the district about what they enjoy within scouting, and how they would like to build on these experiences going forwards with a focus on how to provide a youth shaped programme.

I was invited to a group camp organised by the 74th, and another with Apollo ESU as they attended Explorer Chill Fest at Well End. I attended the recent district Athletics at Merchant Taylors' school where over 100 Cubs took part in sporting activities to complete their Athletics or Athletics plus badges, along with the Squirrel,

Beaver, and Cub Sports Day at Queens' school. In addition, it is wonderful to see so many young people from within Watford South being given opportunities outside of the district, with Squirrels, Beavers, and Cubs attending Hertfordshire Scouts Squirrel's in Trees, Beavers in Tents, and Cubs in Tents respectively, as well as the county water activity days for Cubs and Scouts.

In August the district will be returning to Lochearnhead Scout Station in Scotland for the first time since 2019 with 40 young people and 29 adults in attendance. The adult team includes multiple members of Harlequin Network, with experience of previous trips as youth members. Looking to pass on what they know to the next generation of Scouts. Our recent training camp at Lord Hyde campsite was very successful, with everyone learning vital skills that they will use at the station and getting to know others from different groups around the district.

During the next year, I hope to host structured youth forums with all age groups up to the age of 25, to ensure that the youth voice, the core of everything that we do within scouting, is listened to and catered for to the best of the district's ability.

I would like to take a moment to thank Ryan Perrin, who stepped up to take on the role of Deputy Youth Lead at the same time as my appointment and has assisted me greatly by attending events around the district and county as we try to be as far reaching as possible. I would also like to thank the other members of the district leadership team who have helped me to have a smooth transition into the role and settle so quickly.

Transformation report

Towards the end of 2024, Scouts moved from away Compass to a new system to manage all adult member records, permits, nights away notifications (NANs), awards and training.

The system has had a steep learning curve for all members of scouting, with this continuing till now. Most members have now logged into the new system, and we as a district continue to strongly encourage that all members log in and sign their declaration.

As a result of the 'Prevention of Further Deaths' enquiry, all adult members of scouting which require safety training as part of their role are required to redo this training. A hard deadline of the 14th of July has been set for this to be completed, with anyone who has not completed this training being restricted from certain activities or suspended. As of 06/07/2025, there are 32 individuals within the district still yet to complete this training. The district will support anyone who needs assistance with the new system as we all continue to get used to it. Anyone who has questions or requires help should contact Toby Hancock.

District Safeguarding Lead Report



Safeguarding remains one of the most vital responsibilities we all share as leaders within Scouting. While I cannot provide a detailed summary of the past year due to the sensitive and confidential nature of safeguarding matters, it is important to highlight some key principles and reminders to ensure we are always putting young people's safety and wellbeing first.

1. Vigilance is Key

Safeguarding is not just a process—it's a mindset. We must all operate from the assumption that it could happen here, rather than thinking it's unlikely to happen in our group. This proactive approach ensures we are constantly alert to signs of concern and ready to act.

2. Mandatory Training

Please ensure all your mandatory safeguarding training is up to date. This is not only a requirement but also an essential tool in helping you recognise and respond to any concerns appropriately. If you are unsure of your training status or need help accessing a course, please do not hesitate to reach out.

3. Supporting Individual Needs

Safeguarding is not one-size-fits-all. Many of our young people have additional needs, and it is essential we are equipped to support them effectively. Do not be afraid to speak with parents or carers to gain a better understanding of how to best support these individuals. Proactively asking questions and building those relationships can make a big difference.

4. Challenging Behaviour

Children who display challenging behaviour may be expressing an unmet need or underlying issue. Leaders should feel comfortable raising concerns or discussing these behaviours within their teams. Open, honest conversations help us support the child appropriately and ensure a safe environment for everyone.

5. When in Doubt, Ask

If you ever have a concern—no matter how small—it's always best to report it. You can contact me directly (Jack Jarman), or you can go straight to the national safeguarding team. The most important thing is that action is taken promptly and responsibly.

Thank you for your continued commitment to keeping our young people safe. Safeguarding is a collective responsibility, and your vigilance, care, and ongoing learning make all the difference.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need further support.

Apollo ESU AGM Report

2024-25 has been a year of continuing strength for Apollo ESU. Our 43 members have participated in, and organised, a number of successful evenings, including lipsync, Rupollo's Drag Race, and Hunted. Suit nights have continued to be successful, and it is pleasing to see younger members stepping up as those who have traditionally organised those evenings have turned 18 and moved on.

We have had a good year for events, with London Lightweight, Monopoly Challenge, summer camp, and another patrol camp in March particular highlights. This summer, we have Explorers participating in the district trip to Lochearnhead and the joint trip to Paris with Trident ESU. We have continued to provide crews for Lees Wood every 7 weeks. A special mention for David for his dedication in organising Watford South's only crew contribution.

Our Duke of Edinburgh programme is slowly building post-covid; we have had two of our members achieve their Bronze award and move on to Silver which we hope to have completed by the end of this year. We have a fresh crop of Explorers giving back to the younger scouting sections as Young Leaders.



Harlequin Network AGM Report

2024-2025 has been a year in which Harlequin Network has continued to grow. We have continued with our monthly meetings, with highlights being laser tag, Fright Night at Thorpe Park, wide games in Cassiobury Park, and campfires at Lees and Phasels Woods. We have also had some meetings with Watford North.

Our work on rebranding from “Meteor” is going well, with a grand investiture event in the pipeline.

We have also participated in a number of larger events, such as Herts Monopoly Challenge. Internationally, a number of our members recently completed their Explorer Belt expedition in south-eastern Europe. We also have participants travelling to Portugal and Madagascar on international Scout expeditions in the next few weeks. We would like to thank everyone in the district for their wonderful support.



Excalibur ESU AGM Report – 2024-2025

Well, it's safe to say this year has been... eventful. A real rollercoaster – if that rollercoaster occasionally stopped halfway up the hill because someone had to work a Saturday shift. We've had our ups and downs in Excalibur. Many of our young people have had to juggle weekend commitments – from part-time jobs to GCSEs, A-levels, and just occasionally pretending they've done their homework. As a result, we haven't been quite as action-packed as we'd hoped – but that hasn't stopped our Explorers from excelling in a range of adventures.

Highlights from the Year

North Wales Adventure: In the annual North Wales trip – our fearless band of Explorers summited Cader Idris (or “Cider Idris” as spellcheck would have you believe – we promise it wasn't that kind of trip). They explored abandoned mines, climbed a waterfall 800 feet below ground – because apparently, heights are even more fun when you're also underground – and led their very own low-level hike around Beddgelert. GPS? Optional. Snacks? Essential.

High Flyers: Back on the surface – and way above it – some of our Explorers took to the skies with Hertfordshire Scouts at Cambridge. After tasting the skies once, some returned for a full gliding session with the Cambridge Flying Club. We're still waiting to confirm whether one of them is secretly applying for their pilot's license.

Young Leaders: We currently have four amazing Young Leaders supporting the 14th/2nd Beaver section. They're delivering weekly sessions with energy, creativity, and occasionally glitter. Two are about to step up into full leader roles – which is brilliant – and slightly terrifying because we still remember when they were the ones tying themselves up with rope.

Chief Scout's Award & DofE: We almost completed a Chief Scout's Platinum Award... then university stepped in like an over-enthusiastic referee and blew the whistle. That said, we have three Explorers on the verge of finishing, provided they can muster one final push.

On the DofE front:

5 Explorers are working through their Bronze Award

3 Explorers are on Silver

We're confident 2025 will be the year of certificates, celebration, and the occasional lost boot in a bog.

MasterChef: Excalibur Edition: In what was definitely the best-fed event of the year, our teams entered a full-on MasterChef-style competition in a real commercial kitchen. With surprise ingredients and a tight deadline, they pulled together three-course meals that impressed everyone. Let's just say, Gordon Ramsay would've approved – and maybe even sworn less.

Water Sports – Kind Of... Ah, water sports. The spirit was willing, but the water... not so much. Thanks to a certain unnamed water company, who thought the river was a great place to "recycle" – our local lake got temporarily downgraded from 'aquatic haven' to 'biohazard zone'.

Despite that, we managed 6 weeks of water activity – with PSRC training and Paddle Sports Awards on the go. Things are looking brighter this year, and we're back to paddling, splashing, and trying not to fall in (too often).

The State of the Unit: On the financial front – we're in a stronger place than last year. Subs are coming in more regularly (thank you to all the parents, you absolute legends), and we can now plan with a bit more breathing room.

Membership is solid at around 20 Explorers, mostly from the 14th/2nd and 64th, with more expected to join us in September 2025 – especially as the Beavers keep growing like they're on fast-forward.

Looking Ahead to 2025: The year ahead is shaping up to be a cracker. On the calendar so far:

More camping (and marshmallows, obviously)

More flying (with parachutes not included – just kidding, maybe)

More water sports (minus the contamination)

Another legendary North Wales trip

And – fingers crossed – more commitment from the Explorers to lead, plan, and maybe even pack their own kit before the night before a trip.

In Closing... Despite the challenges, this has been a year full of memorable moments, impressive achievements, and great potential. We're proud of what our young people have done – and incredibly excited for what's next.

Huge thanks to the leadership team – myself, Zoe, and Spencer – and of course, to all the parents and supporters who keep the wheels turning and the kit washed.

Here's to another year of adventure, growth, and slightly chaotic, always fun, Explorer Scouting.

Yours in Scouting,

Dave, Zoe & Spencer

(aka the slightly tired but very proud Excalibur ESU team)

District Contacts

Name	Role
Sam Shepherd sshepherd7989@gmail.com	District Chair
Christine Turnbull christinescoutsws@gmail.com	District Volunteer Lead
Brian Alan Fox foxba@btinternet.com	District Secretary
Barry Hulin barryhulin@btopenworld.com	District Treasurer
Toby Hancock toby61st@watfordsouthscouts.onmicrosoft.com	District Youth Lead
Jack Jarman Jarman.scouting@gmail.com	Safeguarding Trustee
Caroline Jarman socialmedia@watfordsouthscouts.org.uk	PR & Media
Vacant	Parent Representative
Vacant	Property & Portfolio

Stay in Touch

Web: <https://www.watfordsouthscouts.org.uk/>

Facebook: Watford South Scouts

Instagram @Watfordsouthscouts

Twitter: @Watsthscouts

If you have any pictures of scouting events that can be posted on social media or included in newsletters, please email them to:

socialmedia@watfordsouthscouts.org.uk.

Please ensure you have correct permissions of all young people in the pictures.



Scouts



Accounts



Scouts

Watford South

Annual Report 2023



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AGM Agenda

- 1. Introduction and welcome**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Governance topics**
 - a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in 2023
 - b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules
 - c. Note the District's financial year
 - d. Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council
 - e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
 - f. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)
- 4. Review of the previous year**
 - a. The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in Watford South
 - b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts
 - c. Apollo review
 - d. Excalibur review
 - e. Jamboree review
- 5. Making appointments**
 - a. Confirm the District Chair, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
 - b. Confirm the District Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
 - c. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
 - d. Appoint the Scrutineer / Independent Examiner / Auditor
 - f. Nominate 2 representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council
 - g. Confirm the County Team Lead
- 6. Awards**
- 7. Any Other Business and closing remarks**

Overview of minutes at 2023's AGM

Welcome: Chris Turnbull, District Commissioner, acknowledged Ian Leech and Graham Raven.

2022 Exec Update:

- Barry Hulin is acting treasurer after Paul Chambers.
- Sam Shepherd became chairman.
- A minute of silence was observed for those lost, including Robert Baden Powell's Grandson.

Apologies given: Deputy Mayor of Hertsmere, Councillor Ravi Martin & 11 scout council members

Approval of Minutes: Approved: Brian Fox. Seconded: Will Waite. Unanimously in favour.

Governance:

- Model Constitution adopted; contact Chris or Sam with issues.
- Approved: Bruce. Seconded: Kerry Waite. Unanimously in favour
- Trustee board replaces the executive committee.

Trustee Nominations:

- Recommended: DC, Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Parent Rep, Safeguarding Rep, Property Rep
- Quorum: 5 of 7 members

Scouting Review 2022-2023:

- Membership dropped from 650 to 623.
- Thanks to Larry for activities and including Squirrels in sports day.

Celebrations:

- 2 QSA in 2023, 1 KSA in 2024, 1 Gold DofE
- Neo Moise recognized for Operation Feather.

District Trustee Board & Accounts:

- Barry Hulin presented the accounts.
- Income: £3500 surplus, £1000 badge income, £1300 from 72nd closure, £18K from 2nd closure.
- End of year: £42K funds, £10K surplus, £36K after payments.

District Assets:

- Minibus: Costs exceed income, MOT until April/May 2024.
- Morten Hall: Needs demolition, costs £2.5K/year, discussions ongoing with council.

District Event Subsidies:

- Approved: Melissa Fox, Seconded: Sam Wright. Unanimously in favour

District Structure:

- Nominations open for various roles, aiming for 30% under 30.

Trustee Board Elections:

- Chair: Sam Shepherd
- Treasurer: Barry Hulin (Nominated: Melissa Fox, Seconded: Sam Wright, Unanimously in favour)
- Secretary: Brian Fox (Proposed: Barry Hulin, Seconded: Will Waite, Unanimously in favour)
- Safeguarding: Jack Jarman (Proposer: Kerry Waite, Seconded: Ben Bateman, Unanimously in favour)
- Parent Rep, Property Portfolio, and Scrutineer: No nominations

Jamboree Presentation:

- 25th WSJ in South Korea attendees from Watford South.

Awards:

- Long Service: Sam Wright (5 years), Jack Jarman (5 years)
- Wood Badge: Jack Jarman, Tony (14th)
- Chief Scout's Commendation: Krishant Uka
- Queens Scout Award: Jack Jarman

End of minutes

Policy, Organisation and Rules Constitution

5.3 applies to each District, whether or not it is registered with a charity regulator.

5.3.1.1 Every charity must have an agreed constitution. Although a charity may agree its own constitution, it is very strongly encouraged that each District adopts the model constitutions that are shown in 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6, respectively, in this chapter.

The model constitutions in 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6 describe the role, membership and operation of the Scout Council, and the Trustee Board.

5.3.1.2 In the interest of openness, especially for new members of the Scout Council, the Scout Council should re-adopt their charity's constitution at each AGM. This must be recorded in the minutes of the AGM.

A District which adopts unchanged the model constitution in 5.4 should record in their AGM minutes that POR 5.4, 5.5 or 5.6 is fully adopted as its constitution. In this case, a copy of 5.4, 5.5 or 5.6 does not need to be attached to the minutes – it is sufficient for the adoption of 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 to be stated in the AGM minutes.

5.3.1.3 As stated in Rule 16.1.1.1, a person must have reached their 18th birthday before they take on a charity Trustee role in the Scouts.

5.3.1.4 There are three classifications of Trustee:

a. Ex officio

These people are Trustees by virtue of their role in the Scouts. They are a vital part of the Trustee Board, providing a clear link with the leadership and operation of the charity.

b. Appointed by the Scout Council

These Trustees are appointed by the Scout Council at their AGM following a rigorous and transparent selection process agreed by the members of the Trustee Board. This includes the Chair and Treasurer roles.

This selection process may include nominations or an election process or other locally appropriate procedures. It may include selection of persons with specific skills from outside the Scouts.

The Trustee vacancies should be advertised widely so that it is clear it is an open process. It may include members of the Scout Council and may also include people from outside the Scout Council (including from outside the Scouts) provided that there is no conflict of interest.

c. Co-opted by the Trustee Board

These Trustees are appointed by the Trustee Board. Co-opting offers the Trustee Board a way of broadening its skills mix or to introduce potential new Trustees mid-year.

The Trustee Board must ensure that co-opted appointments follow an appropriate selection process, similar to that described for Appointed Trustees.

5.3.1.5 Certain people are disqualified from being charity trustees by virtue of the Charities Acts. This must be determined during the appointment process through the Trustee's declaration and by Trustee eligibility checks (see Rule 16.1.3.1(d) and (e)). SV

In the previous edition of POR, Section Leaders (if they opted in), Deputy Group Scout Leaders and Group Secretary (if appointed) were ex officio members of the Group Trustee Board. If they are currently in role as ex officio Trustees at the time of this edition of POR becoming 'live' (1st April 2024) then their role as a Trustee will continue until the next Group AGM after 1st April 2024, or until 31st March 2025, whichever is sooner.

In the previous edition of POR, the District Explorer Scout Commissioner, the District Scout Network Commissioner and the District Secretary (if appointed) were ex officio members of the District Trustee Board. If they are currently in role at the time of this edition of POR becoming 'live' (1st April 2024) then their role as a Trustee continues until the next District AGM, or until 31st March 2025, whichever is sooner.

In the previous edition of POR, the County Secretary (if appointed) was an Ex Officio member of the County Trustee Board. If they are currently in role at the time of this edition of POR becoming 'live' (31st March 2024) then their role as a Trustee will continue until the next County AGM, or until 31st March 2025, whichever is sooner.

5.3.1.6 Trustees - term of appointment

- a. Appointed Trustees are appointed by the Scout Council for an initial period of no longer than three years.
Further periods of appointment may be agreed by the Scout Council.
- b. Co-opted Trustees are appointed by the Trustee Board for an initial period of one year.
Further periods of appointment may be agreed by the Trustee

Board, however co-opted Trustees are encouraged to move to being appointed trustees at the next AGM.

- c. Appointed and co-opted Trustees must serve no more than nine years in any Trustee role on the specific Trustee Board (this includes Chair and Treasurer). As example, if a Trustee served three years and then became Treasurer on the same Trustee Board, that person could serve as Treasurer for no more than six years.
- d. Ex officio Trustees serve as a Trustee for as long as they hold the ex officio role. If their ex officio role is held for less than nine years, then they may hold an appointed or co-opted Trustee role to a maximum of nine years as a Trustee on the specific Trustee Board.
- e. A volunteer who has been a Trustee may be considered for re-appointment to the same Trustee Board after a gap of three years.
- f. Ex officio Trustees hold their trustee responsibilities for as long as they hold their role that includes trustee responsibility. Their Trustee membership of the Trustee Board ceases as soon as they are no longer in role.
- g. The nine year Trustee maximum term rule referred to in 5.3.1.6 comes into effect from the charity's AGM held during 2024.

5.3.1.7 All Trustees must complete learning as specified in Rule 16.1.3.1(g), 16.2.3.1(g) and the Chapter 16 Roles Table.

5.3.1.8 In addition to the Rules in 5.3, important parts of the model constitution in 5.4, 5.5 or 5.6 are Rules that must be followed. To ensure good and transparent governance, reasons for any variation from 5.4, 5.5 or 5.6 must be clearly documented in the minutes of the AGM.

Financial Review 2023:

The accounts have been drawn up on the Receipts and Payments basis, which is consistent with previous years.

The major part of our income is derived from the subscriptions we raise from our Groups using the annual census return before paying County so that in 2023 the surplus was £3,999.50 increased from £3,477.50 in 2022.

Regular income includes interest which was £480.61 for both the current account & investment account as well as some miscellaneous income, as against £46.40 the year before.

Diane Rogers does a sterling job as Badge Secretary where the funds raised amounted to £233.54 down from the year before at £1,106.56.

Barry Hulin scrutinised these accounts in February 2024 & found them in perfect order. These accounts are held & operated separately from District and monies are held on behalf of Groups & a stock of badges is also held.

Exceptional income included Jamboree receipts of £5,828.03 as against expenses of £6,168.49. For the first time we did contribute some spending money to the leaders who attended this event in North Korea. We do subsidise the young people attending and will need to set a budget to do the same for 2027 when the Jamboree will be in Poland.

We subsidise District Events where we do charge a modest amount for participation so in the year that income was £6,910.83 against costs of £8,270.77.

We operate the accounts for our two Explorers sections: Apollo & Excalibur.

Their income was £4,666.02 & £1,931.00 respectively against expenses of £5,478.09 and £2,127.33. At the year end their funds in hand were £3,632.53 and £611.20 reduced from £4,329.60 & £922.35 the year before.

In summary we ended the 2022 year with total funds of £53,148.85 and in 2023 there was a deficit of £16,285.60 reducing the total to £36,863.25.

For the 2022 year there were a number of significant post year entries which reduced the overall funds. Whilst there were also some small amounts post 31st December 2023 they do not significantly change the total.

The years 2021 and 2022 had not been scrutinised although in practice since I have been operating as nominee Treasurer I can confirm that the figures shown here were prepared by Paul Chambers are accurate and can be relied on so I have acted as scrutineer in those years.

The correct documents needed by CAF Bank Ltd for our general account have been accepted so I am now formally treasurer with them and I am also the point of contact for The Charity Commission and our returns to them are up to date.

Santander for the Badge account have yet to be convinced to formally complete this change of treasurer. They could not have made this change more difficult.

Financial Result

2022

2023

Excess or (deficit) of receipts over payments	£10,488.52	(£16,285.60)
---	------------	--------------

Balance of funds at 1st January	£42,660.33	£36,863.25
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Balance of funds at 31st December	£53,148.85	£36,863.25
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Balance as at 31st December 2023 made up as follows:

Current account	£36,863.25
-----------------	------------

Cash in hand	£ Nil
--------------	-------

Total	£36,863.25
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The current account is held with **CAF Bank Ltd** in Kent and the investment account which was held via a deposit account with **The Scout Association** was closed by them in 2023 due to poor performance and monies transferred to our current account.

The total is made up of the following funds:

Designated Funds

Jamboree Reserve	£ Nil
Apollo Explorers	£ 3,632.53
Excalibur Explorers	£ 611.20
General Fund	£31,977.52
Kenya Fund Bushey & Oxhey R	£ 412.00
Tony Smith Memorial Collection R	£ 230.00
Total	£36,863.25

The Funds marked **R** are Restricted Funds being funds where the money is committed to be spent on specific items.

Assets & Liabilities

2022

2023

Money assets

Cash in hand	£ 311.40	£ Nil
Current Account	£ 34,214.65	£ 36,863.25
Investment Account	£ 18,622.80	£ Closed
Total	£ 53,148.85	£36,863.25

Liabilities Restricted Funds

Kenya Fund (Bushey & Oxhey)	£ 412.00	£ 412.00
Tony Smith Memorial Collection	£ 230.00	£ 230.00

Designated Funds

Jamboree Reserve	£ 1,000.00	£ Nil
Apollo Explorers	£ 4,329.60	£ 3,632.53
Excalibur Explorers	£ 922.35	£ 611.20
General Fund	£46,254.90	£32,619.52
Total	£53,148.85	£36,863.25

Notes:

When a Group closes or merges the Scout Association 'POR' gives the District responsibility for their assets & liabilities. More information is given elsewhere but included here we should list the land, buildings & contents of the 15th Scout Group which closed in 2019. As a guide to value the buildings are insured in the sum of £237,219.

We should also note that we own a minibus for use by Groups; LT59RTV Citroen Relay 15 seater 2009 bought 18th November 2011. The last valuation for this vehicle was £4,000 but is now probably worth much less.

Notes to receipts

2022

2023

1. SUBSCRIPTIONS

£34,677.50

£35,062.50

We pay Capitation to County based on the annual census return which showed 650 members in 2022 and 623 in 2023.

We charged Groups £55 and paid £50 per member in 2023 as against £53.35 and £48.00 respectively in 2022.

We are liable to County for Capitation whether or not we have collected the monies from our Groups.

2. Groups

2nd Bushey & Oxhey Group	£17,951.30	£	Nil
Final Closure of 72nd Group	£ 1,355.54	£	Nil
Final closure of 15th Group	£ Nil	£	23.66
Total	£19,286.84	£	23.66

3. Events

Beaver Section	£ Nil	£	18.81
Cub Section	£ 82.83	£	Nil
Scout Section	£ 73.50	£	295.00
Apollo Explorer Section	£ 4,844.04	£	4,666.02
Excalibur Explorer Section	£ 5,987.04	£	1,902.50
Total	£10,987.41	£	6,882.33

4. Miscellaneous

Scout Assoc. Investment Account	£ 16.32	£	239.73
CAF Bank Current Account	£ 30.08	£	240.88
Watford Borough Council	£ Nil	£	213.42
Totals	£ 46.40	£	694.03

Notes to payments

2022 2023

5.Event Expenses

Beaver Section	£	Nil	£	Nil
Cub Section	£	497.18	£	230.00
Scout Section	£	123.50	£	119.10
Apollo Explorer Section	£	6,320.11	£	5,478.09
Excalibur Explorer Section	£	6,297.80	£	2,127.33
District Events	£	Nil	£	316.25
Totals		£13,238.59		£8,270.77

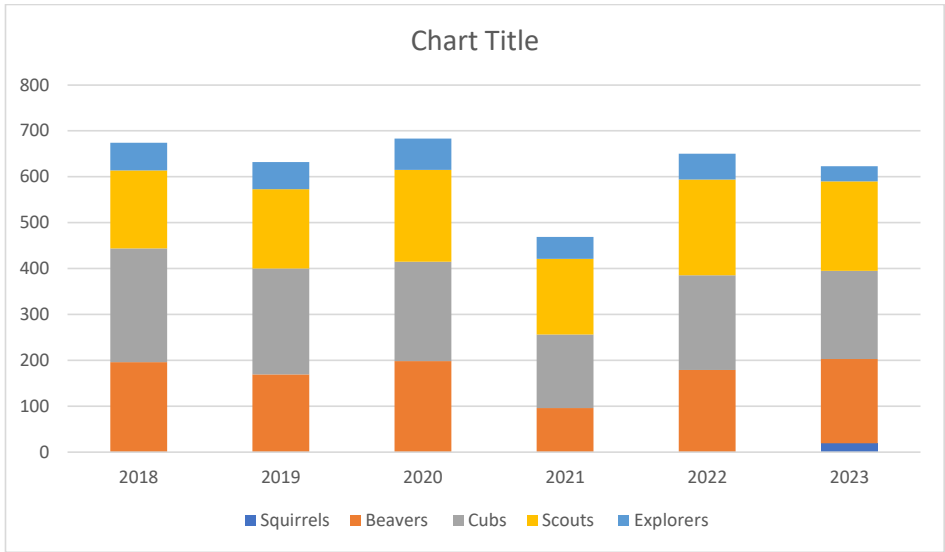
6. Administration

Insurances	£	157.20	£	2,535.45
Administration/donation	£	298.65	£	Nil
Bank Charges	£	81.00	£	60.75
Data Protection registration	£	40.50	£	40.00
Web Site & e-mail server	£	35.95	£	35.95
Bury Lake Membership	£	75.00	£	150.00
Training	£	85.00	£	Nil
Miscellaneous	£	Nil	£	Nil
Badges/Cards	£	Nil	£	227.98
AGM Expenses	£	Nil	£	125.00
Totals		£ 773.30		£3,175.13

7. Group payments

14th/2nd	£	864.54	£	11,484.99
Transfers for Groups	£	Nil	£	Nil
15th Group	£	1,632.31	£	3,797.38
Totals		£2,496.85		£15,282.37

Membership

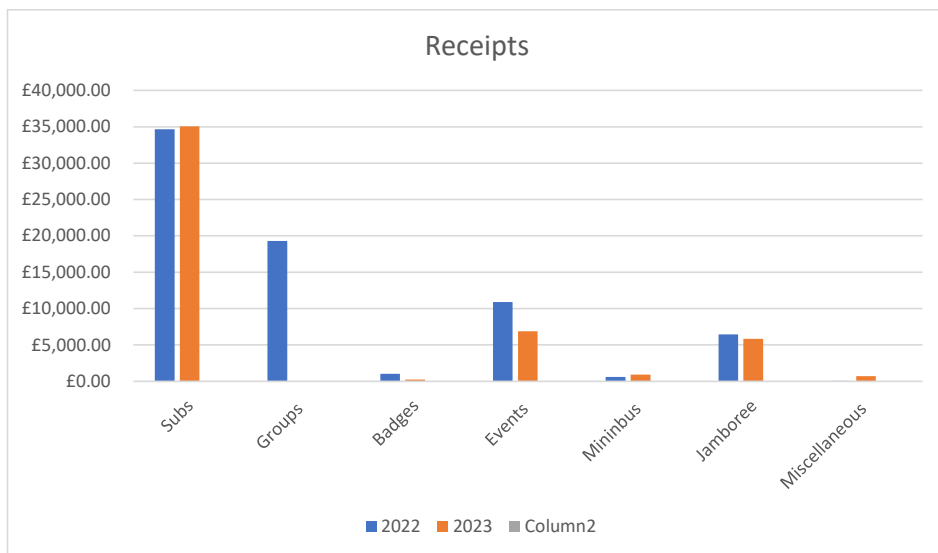


The figures are taken from the annual census return we make to The Scout Association on which our capitation fees are paid.

For the 2023 year there were 19 Squirrels 184 Beavers, 192 Cubs, 195 Scouts & 33 Explorers giving a total of 623.

Out of interest the Census return made in January 2024 for the year ahead showed: 66 Squirrels, 171 Beavers, 199 Cubs, 205 Scouts & 42 Explorers making a total of 683.

Receipts



Receipts

2022

2023

Subscriptions See note 1	£34,677.50	£35,062.50
Groups See note 2	£19,286.84	£ 23.66
Badge Secretary	£ 1,016.56	£ 233.54
Events See note 3	£10,987.41	£ 6,882.33
District Minibus	£ 605.00	£ 922.50
Jamboree 2023	£ 6,455.97	£ 5,828.03
Miscellaneous See note 4	£ 46.40	£ 694.03

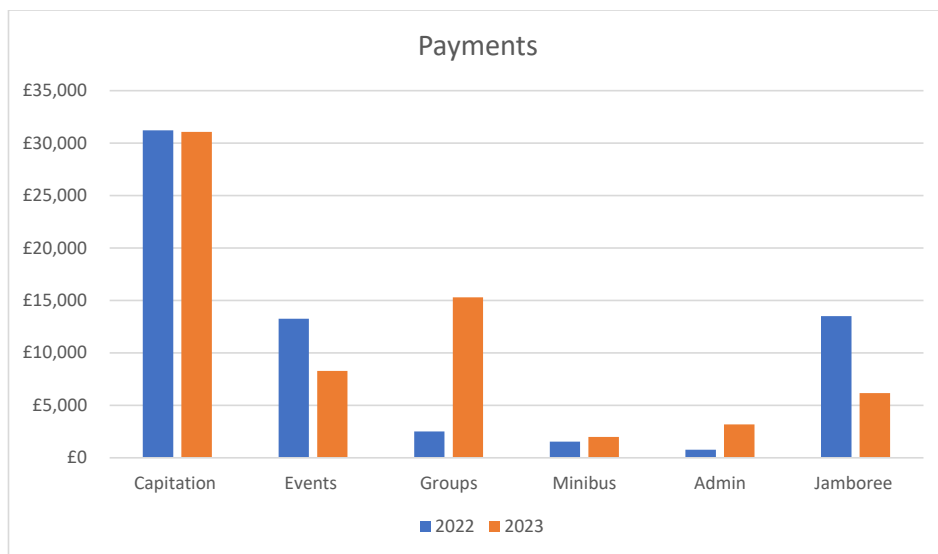
TOTAL RECEIPTS

£73,075.68

£49,646.59

Payments

Payments	2022	2023
Subscriptions to County Note 1	£31,200.00	£31,063.00
Event Expenses See note 5	£13,238.59	£ 8,270.77
Group payments See note 7	£ 2,496.85	£15,282.37
Minibus LT59RTV	£ 1,528.42	£ 1,972.43
Administration See note 6	£ 773.30	£ 3,175.13
Jamboree	£13,350.00	£ 6,168.49
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£62,587.16	£65,932.19



Moreton Hall

A review of our finances would not be complete without reference to this freehold site particularly as it is a drain on our resources.

The site was donated to the Scout movement by the then headmaster of Kingsfield Prep School - Mr W H Sobey in 1951. Previously in 1946 Bert Moreton started the 21st South West Herts Group on 25th March 1946, the building there being named after him. The 15th Bushey & Oxhey Scout Group was formed on 22nd August 1980 by combining two Groups that met there. Sadly, the Group closed in 2019 since when the site has been left idle and ownership reverted to the District. It comprises land of approximately 100 metres by 50 metres with a Scout building, garage, store and garden shed on it. There are a lot of contents which **Barry Hulin** is slowly sorting out during his weekly visits to comply with the insurance condition for same. We are insuring the property at an annual cost of £1,398.95.

The main building is in poor condition with Acrow props holding up one wall & roof which is also leaking. There was a burst pipe when the stop tap failed and has been temporarily fixed so we only have one operational toilet although the water is normally turned off. The electrics have not been checked and no asbestos survey carried out although the use of such material is unlikely. The site is overgrown and the garage is full of a kitchen which was intended for this site but is allegedly in poor condition. This has not been seen because of the undergrowth in front of the garage it is housed in.

We have not been able to find leaders to operate a new group here and we do not have the funds to renovate the buildings or site. We have started the process of disposing of the site and have engaged the services of David Parry of AD Practice Ltd who is a scouter himself and has been used successfully elsewhere in the District so came highly recommended.

He is also discounting his usual fees.

He tells us that the site is situated in the Watford Borough council area and is bounded by a stream putting this in Flood Zone 2 although the Environment Agency does not show any flood risk.

Development of the site could have some difficulties because:

1. the rear of the site & edge of the footpath is allocated as 'open space & green infrastructure'
2. the access drive has a pinch point which could reduce the number of properties allowed to be built
3. high voltage wires laid over the site which could reduce the height of buildings &/or attractiveness for residential development
4. sight lines when leaving the driveway

David's advice which we have accepted is to engage the Borough Council at an early stage by way of a pre-app consultation. This went ahead but the Council have insisted on engaging a number of consultants which will be costly so we may have to consider a joint development.

The deeds are held by **The Scout Association Trust Corporation** which have recently been obtained so we are planning on a further meeting with **Dave Parry** to decide the best way forward given the deterioration of the site and the costs of maintaining it. In recent times we have had to spend £2,400 on tree maintenance due to approaches from neighbouring houses.

Independent Examination

As a local Scout District, we are an unincorporated body and as such there are no legal requirements regarding format and auditing of accounts.

On advice from the HQ who would have drawn on the legislation for limited companies and charities we have prepared this receipt & payments account based on the guidelines they have recommended.

Whilst it is not necessary for the accounts to be audited, we have also adopted the recommendation that these accounts be independently examined which involves the following procedures:

1. comparison of these accounts with the accounting records;
2. inspection of all accounting records for material errors;
3. analytical review of the accounts to identify problems;
4. review of accounting policies, material assumptions & judgements;

and the examiner has also obtained an understanding of our activities & accounting systems, the nature of our assets, liabilities, income & expenditure to be able to plan this work properly.

Signed:.....Dated:.....

Valerie Collins

District Volunteer Lead/ DC Report:

Chris Turnbull

Whilst this report covers January to December 2023, I only took the role of District Commissioner in June 2023, prior to that we had an interim DC appointed by County

I was just in role at the AGM last year, and maybe even I did not quite know the challenges that lay ahead, at The AGM we went from a District Executive to a small Trustee Board. Barry agreed to be District Treasurer, and Brian agreed to be secretary. Following the meeting we co-opted Sam into the role of chair and Jack into a safeguarding role, you will be aware we are still looking for parent representative and a Property portfolio person on the trustee board to help us to keep our eyes on the young people and support our properties respectively.

I have spent some time with both new Group Scout Leaders and New Trustee Boards, trying to ensure we have a firm basis on which to build I am pleased to say as of this AGM we have GSL's at all but one group, and Group chairs at all but 2 groups this has taken a lot of effort and there is now some distance to go with training as some do not have a scouting background.

This is crucial especially in a time of change we should never underestimate the impact that a District and Group with sound administration makes to front line scouting.

So where are we with front line scouting? Whilst leaders are still scarce and our waiting lists far longer than we would like we have welcomed some new faces, some faces have/ are moved/ moving on to other roles in scouting and we have said goodbye / are saying

goodbye to a few faces at the end of this term. Currently all groups have Beavers Cubs and Scouts meeting, 4 groups have Squirrel Dreys we have 2 Explorer units and there is a sniff of a network section.

We must not be complacent, after the summer we will have 3 Cub packs without their own leadership team which we need to address, we will have one troop under new leadership, another Squirrel drey and another troop, As leaders we (I count myself in here) must continue to talk to people about scouting at every opportunity, the news just last week talked about the number of young people unable to join because we don't have the leaders to be able to offer them scouting.

Whilst we must continue to drive scouting forward an AGM is a time to look back, the young people who went to Korea did not have the jamboree they expected but because the UK contingent leaders along with UK headquarters made decisions fast it seems from talking to people, they still had the trip of a lifetime.

We have had a number of Queens and Kings scouts (depending on their completion dates) as well as a number of Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We should be proud of these young people all of Whom are still involved in scouting in some capacity.

Since the last AGM we have also awarded:

- 7 Acorn Awards
- 40 Bronze Chief scouts
- 19 Silver Chief scouts Award
- 1 Gold Chief scouts award

We should be proud of the recipients as well as our leaders for ensuring these were completed.

I am pleased to see some district events starting to happen again thank you to all who have stepped up to organise them.

SO now we must look forward – there are more district events to be held this year.

2025 sees, explorers and scouts off to Lochearnhead Scout Station, we are just starting to plan this trip we have a number of new faces in the leadership team as well as some who are clocking up double figures for trips to the station whether for district trips, County Trips or maintenance weeks.

2025 also sees a group from Network off to gain their explorer Belt and a leader and explorer off to Madagascar (no it's not like the film) with Hertfordshire County.

Thank you to everyone who makes Watford South Scouts what it is, we need to further develop the District Team, and the groups to get the Kids off the waiting lists and into scouting

And of course, for those between 14 and 18 at the end of July 2027 there will be a Jamboree in Poland we would expect to run selection in the spring / Summer of 2026.

District Chair's Report:

Sam Shepherd

This first year as District Chair within the new volunteering structure has certainly been a learning curve. As has the overall role so far, since I do not come from a Scouting background. Far from seeing this as a barrier, however, I have enjoyed learning new things every day and using the transferable skills that I have brought to the role from a long events management career.

For the past few months, safety has been at the forefront of my mind. It would be remiss to say that the Great Orme inquest has not impacted this. However, it has not been the sole driver behind the scouting premises risk assessment survey and support initiative that I've been gradually introducing. Having a properly risk assessed hut, or rented venue, where you can hold meetings helps to form the foundation for safe scouting.

If your group does not currently have a premises risk assessment in place, or the one that you have is very out of date, please do not be afraid to contact me on sshepherd7989@gmail.com. I can help you with an initial risk assessment, so that things are easier to maintain going forwards.

Of course, it is easier to keep track of risk assessments and maintain your scouting premises if you have a full trustee board in place for your group. I have had the pleasure of assisting with this by engaging with prospective volunteers over the past few months.

However, there is a lot more that I'd like to do in this area. My plan over the next six months, should I be re-elected, is to work with those of you who need to change your executive committee to a trustee board, or recruit new trustees to ensure that you are properly set up for the future.

It has been an honour to serve as Chair for the past year and I am grateful to my fellow trustees for their support while I have been finding my feet. Now that I have, I hope to be able to work with more of you in the future to enable you to do what you do best – giving young people invaluable life skills and experiences.

District Youth Commissioner's Report:

Neo Moise

As a relatively new District Youth Lead (DYL), I do not have much to report yet. However, since taking on the role in October, I have had the opportunity to get involved in lots of District events.

In October, I supported Peak assault and witnessed the enthusiasm of two Apollo Explorer teams. I also attended Green Beret, where I saw Scout sections from our district having a great time despite the challenging conditions. During the event, I assisted Lees wood with managing the assault course, and in the evening, I worked with County Youth Lead (Kaighley Malon) to gather feedback from the youth.

As DYL, my main aim is to support volunteers in putting the views and ideas of young people at the heart of their section's program. Specifically, I plan to focus on:

- Promoting participation in the You Shape award and top awards.
- Inspiring and motivating young people in the district to know about all the different opportunities available to them in Scouts, including what they can do when they turn 18.
- Influencing decisions made in the district as a District Trustee Board member, ensuring that young people are at the heart of decisions.



District Contacts

Name	Role
Sam Shepherd sshepherd7989@gmail.com	Chairman
Christine Turnbull christinescoutsww@gmail.com	District Commissioner District Volunteer Lead
Brian Alan Fox foxba@btinternet.com	Secretary
Barry Hulin barryhulin@btopenworld.com	Treasurer
Neo Moise neomoise@hotmail.co.uk	District Youth Commissioner
Jack Jarman Jarman.scouting@gmail.com	Safeguarding Trustee
Caroline Jarman socialmedia@watfordsouthscouts.org.uk	PR & Media
Vacant	Parent Representative
Vacant	Property & Portfolio

Stay in Touch

Web:

<https://www.watfordsouthscouts.org.uk/>

Facebook:

Watford South Scouts

Instagram

@Watfordsouthscouts

Twitter:

@Watsthscouts

If you have any pictures of scouting events that can be posted on social media or included in newsletters, please email them to:

socialmedia@watfordsouthscouts.org.uk.

Please ensure you have correct permissions of all young people in the pictures.





Scouts

Watford South

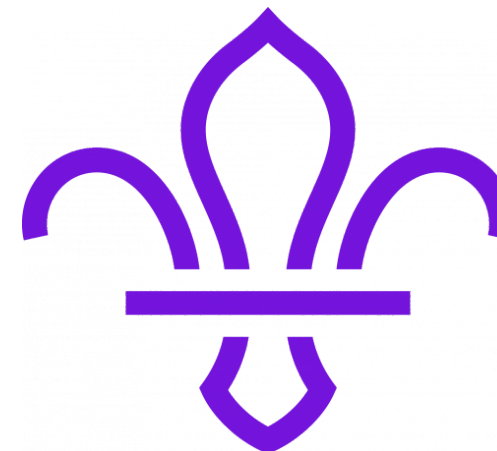


Accounts

Who's Who

As per last return to	Charity Commissioner
Vacant	Chairman
Ian John Leach	Acting District Commissioner
	ianleach.wfc@virgin.net
Shirley Jane Farthing	Secretary & Charity Comm contact
	shirley.farthing@ntlworld.com
Paul Chambers	Treasurer
	pb.chambers@virginmedia.com
Cynthia Anne Blake	Trustee
	ltmwatsth@talktalk.net
Rhian Cranswick	Trustee
	lesandrhian@yahoo.co.uk
Brian Alan Fox	Trustee
	foxba@btinternet.com
Barry Hulin	Trustee
07738 434957	barryhulin@btopenworld.com
Simon James Wilson	Trustee
	simon.wilson234@gmail.com
Jennifer Suzanne Wright	Trustee
	jeni.scouts@virginmedia.com
Benjamin Jack Stanley Bateman	Trustee

Annual Report 2021/2022



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About Us

Watford South Scouts District covers the south of Watford, Bushey & Oxhey areas, providing local Scouting for all sections of the Scouting movement.

The Scout Association provides adventurous activities and personal development opportunities for 400,000 young people aged 4-25. Internationally, we have over 28 million young people enjoying the benefits across 216 countries. Personal development means promoting the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual well-being of the **iScoutingindividual**, helping them achieve their full potential. In Scouting, we believe that young people develop most when they are 'learning by doing,' when they are given responsibility, work in teams, take acceptable risks and think for themselves.

Our District is made up of the following Groups with Beaver, Cubs & Scouts sections but with the **64th** operating a section for Squirrels as well.:

1st/82nd Watford South Scout Group Durban Road East Watford

14th/2nd Bushey & Oxhey Sea Scout Group HMS Capetown Building Green Lane South Oxhey

16th Watford South Scout Group Holywell Community Centre Chaffinch Lane Watford

1st Bushey Heath Scout Group Little Bushey Lane Bushey Heath

22nd Watford South Scout Group *No details on website*

29th Watford South Methodist Scout Group 79 Chalk Hill Oxhey

53rd Watford South Scout Group Imperial Way Watford

61st Watford Scout Group Cassiobury Junior School Belmont Wood Avenue Watford

64th Watford South Scout Group The Moatfield Bournehall Lane Bushey

74th Watford South Scout Group St Lukes Church Langley Way Watford

79th Bushey Heath Scout Group Park Avenue Bushey

Apollo Explorers Beechen Grove Baptist Church Clarendon Road Watford

Excalibur Explorers 2nd HQ St George's Drive Oxhey

Agenda AGM 2023

Lees Wood Scout & Guide Activity Centre Fir Tree Hill Chandlers Cross Herts WD3 4NA **Thursday 6th July 2023 7.30 pm**

1. **Introduction** & welcome
2. **Apologies** for absence
3. **Approve** the minutes of the AGM held in 2022
4. **Governance**
 - Adoption of our constitution
 - Note our financial year end is 31st December annually
 - Agree the number of members for Trustee Board
 - Agree the number of persons who can make a quorum at meetings
5. **Review of the previous year**
 - District Commissioner review of scouting in the District
 - Receive & consider the annual report of the District Trustee Board & the annual statement of accounts
6. **Making appointments**
 - Note & introduction of District Commissioner Chris Turnbull
 - Approve appointment of Sam Shepherd as Chairperson by DC
 - Elect District Secretary
 - Elect District Treasurer
 - Elect members of the Trustee Board
 - Nomination of District Representatives for the County Scout Council
 - To approve the scrutineer
7. **District Structure** Note & introduction
8. **Jamboree Presentation**
9. **Awards**
10. **County Representative**
11. **Summary & close**

AGM Minutes page four

Please think carefully who can come to join the Team both as Leaders in our Groups & as Executive members for governance.

Clearly some awesome stuff is going on in the **District** as seen by the Badge Secretary's sales. Thanks to everyone who has contributed.

14. Presentations:

Ian & Liz presented the following:

Wood Badge for **Priya Uka** for Cub section.

She has nearly completed her Explorer Scout one too.

5 Year Long Service awards: **Neo Moise & Priya Uka**.

10 Year Long Service award: **Toby Hosker**.

15 Year Long Service award: **Barry Hulin** plus Chief Scots Commendation

20 Year Long Serve Award: **Diane Rogers** plus Chief Scouts Commendation

20 Year Long Service & Bar to the Award of merit to **Shirley Farthing**

On behalf of the **District**, **Ian** presented flowers & gifts to **Janet & Paul Chambers** and **Shirley Farthing**. **Janet** is standing down as District Appointments Secretary, a role she has held since 2013 alongside completing other tasks.

15. Any other business

- a) **Lees Wood Activity Day** to be held 9th July 2022 so please promote this to families.
- b) **Jeni Wright** offered to cover minute taking at District meetings.
- c) **Barry Hulin** offered to consider the Treasurer role as **Ian** had explained that without this position filled the District would have to consider closing.

Ian thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

General Information

Watford South District Scout Council has been registered with the **Charity Commission** since 24th August 1972 under number 302599 and are registered with **The Scout Association** (TSA) under number 12221. We were previously known as Watford Central District Scout Council.

We provide advice & support for the Scout Groups within the area designated as **Watford South** by **The Scout Association**. We do this with the help of the trustees shown on the rear page.

We bank with **CAF Bank Ltd** 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ and now mostly use their on line facility although two separate authorisations are required before any payment is completed.

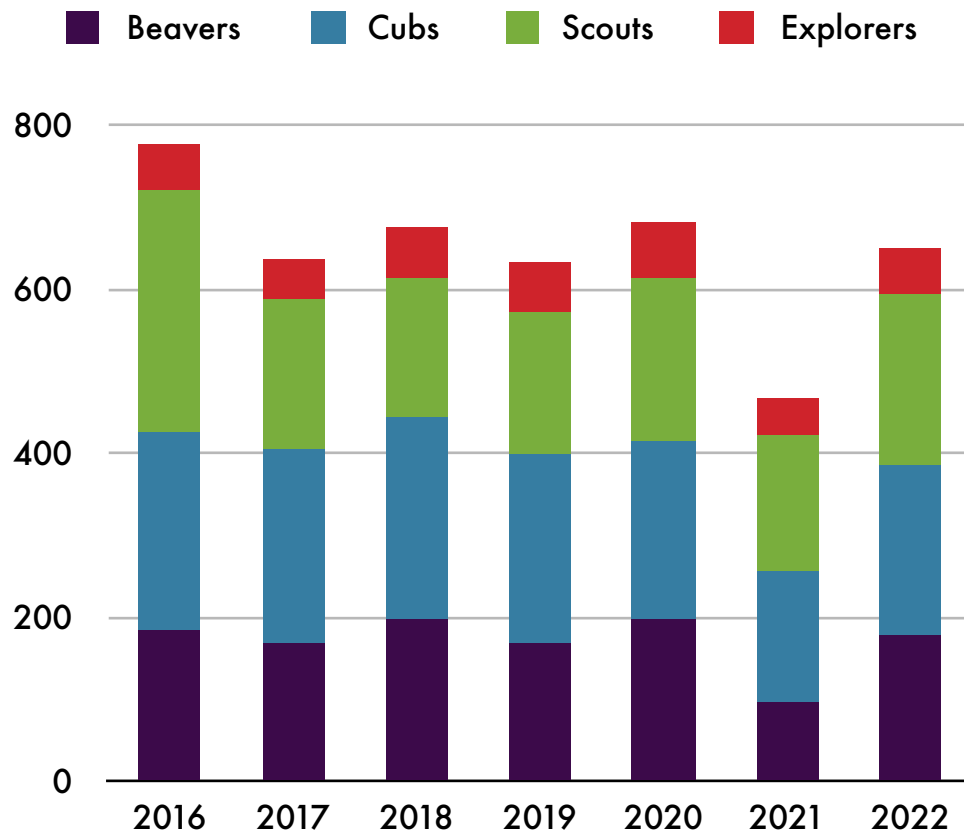
We also hold an investment account via TSA, **The Charity Deposit Account** Gilwell Park Bury Road Chingford London E4 7QW. This was closed by 'TSA' in May 2023 & our funds transferred to our normal bank account as above.

The Scout Association also act as a custodian trustee.

Lees Wood Camp Site

We along with **Watford North District Scout Council** jointly & equally own & are Trustees of this site where the freehold cost £52,000. The site comprises 47 acres of woodland at Chandlers Cross. It is held in freehold tenure under a Declaration of Trust by our custodian trustee as above and operated in accordance with the Policy, Organisation & Rules of TSA.

The site is managed by a joint committee & reports separately as a registered charity under number 810314. As no transactions have taken place between the two, no financial details of that site are included here.



The figures are taken from the annual census return we make to **The Scout Association** on which our capitation fees are paid.

For the 2022 year there were 179 Beavers, 206 Cubs, 209 Scouts & 56 Explorers giving a total of 650.

Out of interest the Census return made in January 2023 for the year ahead showed: 19 Squirrels, 184 Beavers, 192 Cubs, 195 Scouts & 33 Explorers making a total of 623.

12. District Report:

Ian said that we are 33 young people down on pre-covid numbers & 39 Leaders less. These figures are reflected across the County. He is very grateful for getting the numbers back up. The waiting list is unrelenting, he has had 10 to 15 enquiries just that week, which are being passed to the Groups. The **14th** now covers a massive area of 50,000 residents.

Lots of good things have been happening. It is great to see camps coming back & the use of the campsite for meetings etc. Thanks to **Simon & Larry** who have put on some **District** events. Please support them by attending. **Squirrels**, the new Section are now up & running at the **64th** with a maximum number of 18 already. The **14th** have been approved & he believes 1 more **Group** is hoping too open a **Drey** too. Great to see **Beavers** in tents.

Thanks to **Toby Hosker** who has stepped forward as **Nights Away Advisor**. Please use the new **NAN** form and send to **Toby** in good time.

Lees Wood is a great part of the **District**. Plans are taking shape & the future is looking good. Thanks to **Graham Raven** & all the Management Team. **Graham Farthing**, Chair of **Lees Wood**, interjected that it is good to see so many people back on Site & using it again.

In conclusion **Ian** said that 3 years ago he had been asked to stand in as **District Commissioner** for 3 months. He will be standing down at the end of this term, but he does not want to see the **District** fold. If the **District** folds the Group fold too. Please act & find people to take on the roles.

13. County Commissioner:

Liz Walker thanked **Ian** for staying put for 3 years & especially through such a difficult time. She said we really want young people to continue Scouting in the **District**.

AGM minutes page two

7. Nomination of Chairman:

Ian advised that this item will need to be carried over as he had not received any nominations in advance or from the floor.

8. Election of Officers:

Ian thanked **Paul** for his 17 years as Treasurer & said he was grateful that he stayed on these last 3 years. He also thanked **Shirley** for her 5 years in the post & confirmed she too is standing down as advised at last year's AGM. There had been no nominations for either post.

9. Election of District Executive Committee:

Ian advised that we had vacancies and asked people to consider joining. **Brian Fox, Cynthia Blake & Simon Wilson** had agreed to continue as uniformed representatives. **William Waite** offered to stand. **Barry Hulin & Ben Bateman** will also continue. Everyone present agreed with all 6 names.

9. Nomination of District Representative for County AGM:

Ian advised that **Cynthia Blake** has agreed to continue and **Barry Hulin** has agreed to stand. All agreed.

10. Extra Item:

Ian said he would like to propose **Paul Chambers** as District Vice President. Seconded by **Simon Wilson**. All present in favour.

11. District Representatives for Lees Wood Management Committee: **Ian** advised that **Jeni Wright & Dave Fayer** have agreed to continue.

Review 2022

I feel wholly inadequate at letting you know what went on. Some of the regular events happened and some were still being evaluated post Covid.

Some groups are struggling for adult leadership although its great to see some sections thinking outside the box. One troop has someone doing their utmost to try and ensure they take advantage of district events and by keeping on top, freeing the leader to run meetings.

If you are a parent or someone not yet involved in scouting please consider what you can offer and I ask groups to think outside the "traditional Scouting Structure" in getting help.

Whilst what I say maybe a little generic & I will probably miss something, remember this, is at the end of 2023 as I will be asking for corrections and anything else we wish to shout about at the end.

Squirrels

The **64th** opened the **1st Squirrel Drey** in the District on April 22 & it was great to see them take part in Sports day. My thanks to **Larry** and the base leaders for adjusting the activities as needed.

The **79th** opened their drey in September 22 and have made wonderful progress so it was good to see the first **Squirrel** flag on parade at the **District Carol Service**.

There are 2 more groups expecting to open dreys in 2023 and the **64th** have their first **Acorn** awards completed.

Beavers

This section continues to work towards their **Chief Scout Silver** award.

It was wonderful to see **Beavers** from **Watford South** at **Beavers in Tents** in 2022 and I know some have been in tents in 2023.

Review page 2

They also attended **Sports Day, CycloX** and 2023 saw the return of the **Beaver Challenge**. We should be using events like this to meet the requirement of all Beavers being offered one night away each year

Cubs

I have heard lots of whispers of stuff going on but as I have had little contact with this section in my role at the **64th** I am a bit in the dark – they held **Sports Day, Nightex** and **CycloX** and I know a number went to camp – thanks to **Larry** for organising the big events for Cubs and inviting the other sections as appropriate

Scouts

From those I see have been busy with a **Marksman Competition**, thanks to **Simon**, and generally working in their troops and groups. They went to an **Introduction to the Hills** a great, if slightly expensive, long weekend of walking climbing cycling and caving. **District** events for this section have been difficult to organise

Explorers

Explorers have been out and about doing what explorers do, we need to look at the young leader offering across the district and also how we encourage scouts to transition across to **Network**.

Network

Have met spasmodically and many are involved in groups as Leaders but we must not underestimate what they are up to:

2 Queens Scout Awards - they elected to be the last Queens Scouts rather than Kings Scouts

- **Lottie Wright**
- **Jack Jarman**

Minutes of AGM 2022

Watford Scout District Scout Council

22nd June 2022

Held at Lees Wood Campsite

1. Welcome Ian Leech acting as District Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then led a minutes silence for all those who have Gone Home since we were last able to meet face to face.

2. Attendees: 29 people signed the Attendance Sheet.

3. Apologies for absence: Received from Graham Raven, Bruce Scott & Dave Collette.

4. Approval of Last Year's AGM held on 8th July 2021 via Zoom:

The minutes of last year's AGM had been circulated and there had been no changes. Their acceptance was nominated by Barry Hulin and seconded by **Larry Hunt** and approved by all those present.

5. Matters Arising: There are no matters arising.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Paul Chambers presented his report, which had been made available for people to read prior to the meeting starting. He drew attention to particular parts & also thanked **Diane Rogers**, Badge Secretary, who has been kept very busy during the lockdowns. Concluding his verbal report, **Paul** asked for questions from the floor. None were raised.

His report was proposed by **Larry Hunt** & seconded by **William White** and accepted by all those present.

Some History

The history of this site includes:

1937 Scouting in Oxhey Hall with **55th South West Herts Scout** Group started on 8th October founded by **E C Needle**

1938 1st Cub pack for the area started by **Mr Dakin** and was kept going through the war years by **Gladys Heath**.

1946 21st South West Herts Group started on 25th March by **Bert Moreton** at the rear of the shops in Eastbury Road

1951 The current hut and land were donated to the Group by the then Headmaster of **Kingsfield Prep School Mr W H Sobey** and the deeds transferred in that year to the Scouting Association.

1980 The two Groups amalgamated on 22nd August when it was agreed that the '1' from the **21st** and the '5' from the **55th** should be used to form the **15th Bushey & Oxhey Scout Group**.

Leaders of the 15th Group included **Roger Sands** who became County Commissioner, **David Sands** who was Chairman of the 15th became District Chairman, **Gerry Haynes** became District Commissioner.

1988 The Venture unit amalgamated with the District Unit using Moreton Hall as its base.

1989 A Beaver colony was formed.

1994 An extension to the Hall was built adding a kitchen, toilets and an extra room funded by a trust fund made by the late **Bert Moreton**.

1996 Saw the development of the field as an environmental & extended play area organised by **Ken Moxley** GSL using a grant from **Watford Council** & the **Hertfordshire Community Trust**.

Review page 3

1 Operation Feather – Queen lying in state

• **Neo Moise**

We also have 2 **Kings Scouts** in the pipeline one of whom has recently been signed off - **Tom King Cline** and one more very close

Leader Team

There have been a number of **Long Service Awards** & commendations in 2022. We have 2 leaders from **Watford South** going to the **Jamboree** as Unit leaders and a number going as part of the International support team we wish them well and look forward to welcoming them back.

So all in all, as **Ian Leach** stepped back from the **DC** role at last years AGM, the district has continued to function, because of the drive and enthusiasm of group leaders/section leaders and others, for which we must all be grateful. As we transition into new national county and district structures it is a chance for change to harness the enthusiasm of our younger adults and balance it with the sensible and perhaps more risk adverse older leaders.

These younger adults must be nurtured and allowed to grow Scouting today, which is different from scouting in 1907, 1957 and 2007, and maybe even since 2020, we are custodians of scouting in the future and must drive forward a youth led organisation whilst ensuring the core scouting values of Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Cooperation are maintained.

I believe the new structures gives us as adults, being all of those over 18 years old, a fresh way of thinking about how we deliver our scouting. We should embrace it, and ensure when our time in scouting is done our legacy to scouting is to have always held the best interests of the young people in our hands, driving them to be the best that they can be. – whatever role title we may have.

Chris Turnbull District Commissioner

Financial Review

The accounts have been drawn up on the Receipts and Payments basis, which is consistent with previous years.

The major part of our income is derived from the subscriptions we raise from our Groups using the annual census return before paying County so that in 2022 the surplus was £3,477.50 increased from £1,641.50 in 2021.

Regular income includes interest which was only £46.40 last year as against £130.69 the year before.

Diane Rogers does a sterling job as **Badge Secretary** where the funds raised amounted to £1,106.56 significantly up from the year before at £225.

Barry Hulin scrutinised these accounts in February 2023 & found them in perfect order. These accounts are held & operated separately from District and monies are held on behalf of Groups & a stock of badges is also held.

Exceptional income included £1,335.54 following the closure of the **72nd Group**. We also received £17,951.30 following the closure of **2nd Bushey & Oxhey Group** but in the following year we transferred £13,257.53 of that sum to the new combined **2nd/14th Group**.

We subsidise **District Events** where we do charge a modest amount for participation so in the year that income was £156.33 against costs of £620.68. We held serious discussions in the year as to how much we charge for events bearing in mind price rises particularly for energy costs. The Executive wanted to be flexible in this with the aim that events should try and break even but with District making up any shortfall.

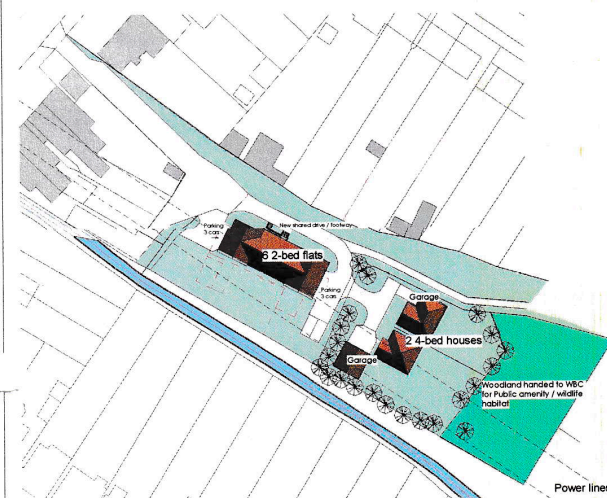
We operate the accounts for our two **Explorers** sections: **Apollo & Excalibur**.

Their income was £4,844.04 & £5,987.04 respectively against expenses of £6,320.11 and £6,297.80. At the year end their funds in hand were £4,329.60 and £922.35 reduced from £5,805.67 & £1,233.11 the year before.

Moreton Hall site proposal



Aerial View



Site Plan
1:500

- the rear of the site & edge of the footpath is allocated as 'open space & green infrastructure'
- the access drive has a pinch point which could reduce the number of properties allowed to be built
- high voltage wires laid over the site which could reduce the height of buildings &/or attractiveness for residential development
- sight lines when leaving the driveway

David's advice which we have accepted is to engage the Borough Council at an early stage by way of a pre-app consultation. This is now underway against which the Executive set a budget of £2,500. We have so far paid £1,049.46.

He has sent a drawing to the Council of his proposal shown here. We are a long way off from disposal of the property. The deeds are held by **The Scout Association Trust Corporation** which have yet to obtained due to the outstanding appointment of a new District Commissioner.

It is understood that the site was originally donated to the Scout movement by a teacher/headmaster for the sole use of Scouting so there will be a restrictive covenant to consider/overcome if we are to successfully dispose of the property. **Jenny Stromberg** when DC completed the **Herts County** initiative to ensure all leases, agreements, licences & property were registered with the **Scout Trust**. **Paul Chambers** paid the required fees for this in 2014.

For now we are paying insurance, gas, electricity and water rates at an annual cost of around £2,500 which is a drain on funds.

We are also subsidising the Jamboree 2023 and in the last year we paid £13,350 and collected £6,455.97 although £2,444.03 was due in the year but was paid after the year end. The World Jamboree is accounted for over a period of up to four years has long been supported using a recommended formula between County, District and applicant Group.

In summary we ended the 2021 year with total funds of £42,660.33 and in 2022 there was a surplus of £10,488.52 taking the total to £53,148.85.

However, certain transactions that occurred after the year end need to be taken into account to get a true understanding of our finances. These included the transfer of £13,257.53 to the new **2nd/14th Group**, £639.96 paid for heaters and an £80 refund for the Wales trip.

In addition monies that should have been paid in the 2022 year were paid after the year end namely £2,444.03 for the Jamboree, £588.00 old subs due and a late payment of £1,127.50 for capitation.

These late entries would reduce our current account by £9,817.96 and our General Fund to £36,436.94 although that is still an increase in the previous year of £31,979.55.

Neither of the years 2021 nor 2022 have been scrutinised yet although in practice since I have been operating as Treasurer I can confirm that the figures shown here were prepared by **Paul Chambers** are accurate and can be relied on. The correct documents needed by **CAF Bank Ltd** for our general account and **Santander** for the Badge account have yet to be produced to formally complete this change of treasurer although I am authorised on the former to make payments & access details.

Financial Result

	2021	2022
Excess or (deficit) of receipts over payments	(£ 6,970.24)	£10,488.52
Balance of funds at 1st January	£49,630.57	£42,660.33
Balance of funds at 31st December	£42,660.33	£53,148.85

Balance as at 31st December 2022 made up as follows:

Current account	£34,214.65
Investment Account	£18,622.80
Cash in hand	£ 311.40
Total	£53,148.85

The current account is held with **CAF Bank Ltd** in Kent and the investment account is held via a deposit account with the **Scout Association**.

The total is made up of the following funds:

Designated Funds

Jamboree Reserve	£ 1,000.00
Apollo Explorers	£ 4,329.60
Excalibur Explorers	£ 922.35
General Fund	£32,997.37
2nd/14th R	£13,257.53
Kenya Fund Bushey & Oxhey R	£ 412.00
Tony Smith Memorial Collection R	£ 230.00
Total	£53,148.85

The Funds marked **R** are Restricted Funds being funds where the money is committed to be spent on specific items.

Moreton Hall site

Following closure of the **15th Group** in 2019 the site reverted to the District. The site comprises land of approximately 100 meters by 50 metres with a Scout building, garage, store and garden shed on it. There are some contents which **Barry Hulin** is slowly sorting out during his weekly visits to comply with the insurance condition for same. We are insuring the property at an annual cost of £1,412.91.

The main building is in poor condition with Acrow props holding up one wall & roof which is also leaking. There was a burst pipe when the stop tap failed and has been temporarily fixed but it does mean the water is turned off. The electrics have not been checked and no asbestos survey has been carried out. The site is overgrown and the garage is full of a kitchen which was intended for this site but is allegedly in poor condition. This has not been seen because of the undergrowth in front of the garage it is housed in.

We have not been able to find leaders to operate a new group here and we do not have the funds to renovate the buildings or site. We have started the process of disposing of the site and have engaged the services of **David Parry** of **AD Practice Ltd** who is a scouter himself and has been used successfully elsewhere in the District so came highly recommended. He is also discounting his usual fees.

He tells us that the site is situated in the Watford Borough council area and is bounded by a stream putting this in Flood Zone 2 although the Environment Agency does not show any flood risk. Development of the site could have some difficulties because:

Key Team Purpose

Programme Team

This Team helps every section in the District to run a safe, enjoyable & high-quality programme. To help do this, they bring Section Team volunteers together with activity experts.

Volunteering Development Team

Makes sure all volunteers in their District have a positive & enjoyable volunteering experience. Make it easy for people to join & learn new skills.

Leadership Team

Leads & inspires volunteers to give young people great experiences & skills for life. They make sure the teams in their District are organised, have enough volunteers, & can deliver a great programme.

14-24 Team

Helps all volunteers in Explorer including Young Leaders & Network Sections. They help Section teams plan & deliver great programmes for young people.

District Support Team

Gives tools and resources to help Scouts run smoothly.

Trustees

A team of volunteers working together to make sure Scouts is run safely & legally. They make sure the charity is well managed, risks are assessed & mitigated, buildings & equipment are in good working order, & everyone follows legal requirements & the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR). Their support helps other volunteers run a fantastic programme that gives young people skills for life & experiences they'll remember forever.

Assets & Liabilities

	2021	2022
Money assets		
Cash in hand	£ 185.39	£ 311.40
Current Account	£ 23,868.46	£ 34,214.65
Investment Account	£ 18,606.48	£ 18,622.80
Total	£ 42,660.33	£53,148.85
Liabilities Restricted Funds		
Kenya Fund (Bushey & Oxhey)	£ 412.00	£ 412.00
Tony Smith Memorial Collection	£ 230.00	£ 230.00
Designated Funds		
Jamboree Reserve	£ 3,000.00	£ 1,000.00
Apollo Explorers	£ 5,805.67	£ 4,329.60
Excalibur Explorers	£ 1,233.11	£ 922.35
General Fund	£31,979.55	£46,254.90
Total	£42,660.33	£53,148.85

Notes:

When a Group closes or merges the Scout Association 'POR' gives the District responsibility for their assets & liabilities. More information is given elsewhere but included here we should list the land, buildings & contents of the 15th Scout Group which closed in 2019. As a guide to value the buildings are insured in the sum of £237,219.

We should also note that we own a minibus for use by Groups LT59RTV Citroen Relay 15 seater 2009 bought 18th November 2011. The last valuation for this vehicle was £4,000 but is now probably worth much less.

Notes to receipts

District Structure Chart

	2021	2022
1. SUBSCRIPTIONS	£24,857.00	£34,677.50
We pay Capitation to County based on the annual census return which showed 469 members in 2021 and 650 in 2022. We charged Groups £53 and paid £49.50 per member in 2021 and £53.35 and £48.00 respectively in 2022. We are liable to County for Capitation whether or not we have collected the monies from our Groups.		

2. Groups

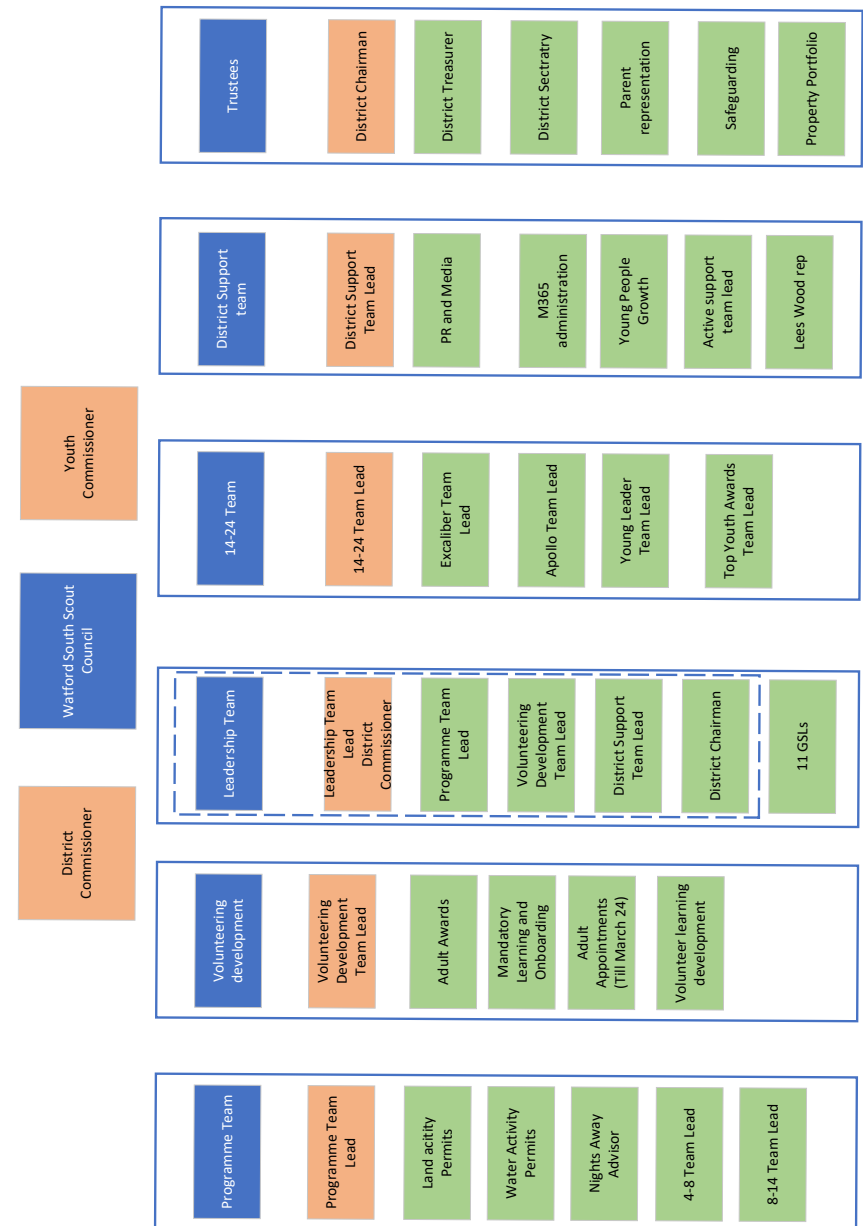
2nd Bushey & Oxhey Group	£ 939.35	£17,951.30
Final Closure of 72nd Group	£ Nil	£ 1,335.54
Income for transfer to Groups	£ 72.41	£ Nil
Total	£1,011.76	£19,286.84

3. Events

Beaver Section	£ Nil	£ Nil
Cub Section	£ Nil	£ 82.83
Scout Section	£ Nil	£ 73.50
Apollo Explorer Section	£3,743.50	£ 4,844.04
Excalibur Explorer Section	£1,611.03	£ 5,987.04
Total	£5,354.53	£10,987.41

4. Miscellaneous

Scout Assoc. Investment Account	£ 130.69	£ 16.32
CAF Bank Current Account	£ Nil	£ 30.08
Refund Eurojam Poland 2000	£ 200.00	£ Nil
Totals	£ 330.69	£ 46.40



Our New Principles Page two

As we build a new **District Team** we need to look forward, not back, so we are going to work with the new principles and structures as much as we can, which may need some tweaks over the next year or so as some roles will no longer exist. For example, in the new world **Appointment Committees** will not exist, it will be the responsibility of the “**Group Team Lead**”, similar to the GSL role, to bring new adult team members on board and “induct them into scouting”, supported by a member of the volunteering development team.

There is a diagram of the set up of the new district on the next page. One of the key changes you may notice is there is no longer a **District Executive** but will have a small **Trustee Group** with responsibility for keeping us safe and compliant and then functional teams. All of these roles are open to anyone who feels they may have the skill set and/or drive to help.

Perhaps you are a parent who could help drive our volunteer experience or maybe you have MS admin skills or PR skills. Maybe you think you could help and allow the leaders to focus on running awesome activities for the young people, the new structure is based around teamwork so many of the roles can be done as a small team with a lead.

Notes to payments

	2021	2022
5. Event Expenses		
Beaver Section	£ Nil	£ Nil
Cub Section	£ 3,179.12	£ 497.18
Scout Section	£ Nil	£ 123.50
Apollo Explorer Section	£ 2,324.06	£ 6,320.11
Excalibur Explorer Section	£ 2,050.58	£ 6,297.80
Totals	£ 7,553.76	£13,238.59
6. Administration		
Insurances	£ 224.40	£ 157.20
Administration/donation	£ 179.88	£ 298.65
Bank Charges	£ 96.50	£ 81.00
Data Protection registration	£ 40.00	£ 40.50
Web Site & e-mail server	£ 35.95	£ 35.95
Bury Lake Membership	£ Nil	£ 75.00
Training	£ Nil	£ 85.00
Miscellaneous	£ 27.50	£ Nil
Badges	£ 491.28	£ Nil
Totals	£ 1,095.51	£ 773.30
7. Group payments		
2nd Bushey & Oxhey	£ 3,540.62	£ 864.54
Transfers for Groups	£ 31.85	£ Nil
15th Group	£ 1,143.20	£1,632.31
Totals	£4,715.67	£2,496.85

Independent Examination

As a local Scout District we are an unincorporated body and as such there are no legal requirements regarding format and auditing of accounts.

On advice from the HQ who would have drawn on the legislation for limited companies and charities we have prepared this receipt & payments account based on the guidelines they have recommended.

Whilst it is not necessary for the accounts to be audited, we have also adopted the recommendation that these accounts be independently examined which involves the following procedures:

- comparison of these accounts with the accounting records;
- inspection of all accounting records for material errors;
- analytical review of the accounts to identify problems;
- review of accounting policies, material assumptions & judgements;

and the examiner has also obtained an understanding of our activities & accounting systems, the nature of our assets, liabilities, income & expenditure to be able to plan this work properly.

Signed:.....

Barry Hulin FCII

Our New Principles

Thank you to the Interim district chair who picked up the mantle last summer and to the district treasurer who at the last AGM agreed to pick up the challenge.

These are both re-standing tonight and to the members of the district exec who have supported these roles a big THANK YOU, the **District Executive** doesn't exist in the new structure so please consider which role might suit you in the new world.

Its now time to refresh the district many of you who are leaders or group executive members will have heard that the Scouts are changing the recommended structures at all levels and whatever we think of being Team leads and team members, not section Leaders, its about sharing the load making the volunteer experience more positive and helping to grow adult numbers,

Our new principles

- **We volunteer flexibly as part of a team with a shared purpose.**
- **Our teams and titles are easier to understand and more appealing to new volunteers.**
- **Teams agree how to share tasks between them and this can change over time.**

New Structure

For those who don't know me I am **Christine (Chris) Turnbull** and your **DC** for the next 5 Years.

I believe it is fair to say the District has been in a holding pattern for the last 4 years, a number of people remained through Lockdown despite giving notice to want to step down for which we must be extremely grateful.

Thanks to the Interim **District Chair** who picked up the mantle last summer and to the **District Treasurer** who at the last AGM agreed to pick up the challenge. To the members of the **District Executive** who have supported these roles a big **THANK YOU** and of course thanks to all the other leaders and adults in the district who are helping to get us back to delivering the excellent programme that encourages not only young people to join but adults too.

Our Young People Numbers dropped dramatically in Covid and we lost 2 groups – **2nd & 72nd** . Our total Young people membership numbers in January 21 dropped to around 425 jumped back to around 625 in January 22 has stabilised in January 23, I think however all our waiting lists are growing so its time to reflect, but not for too long and move forward.

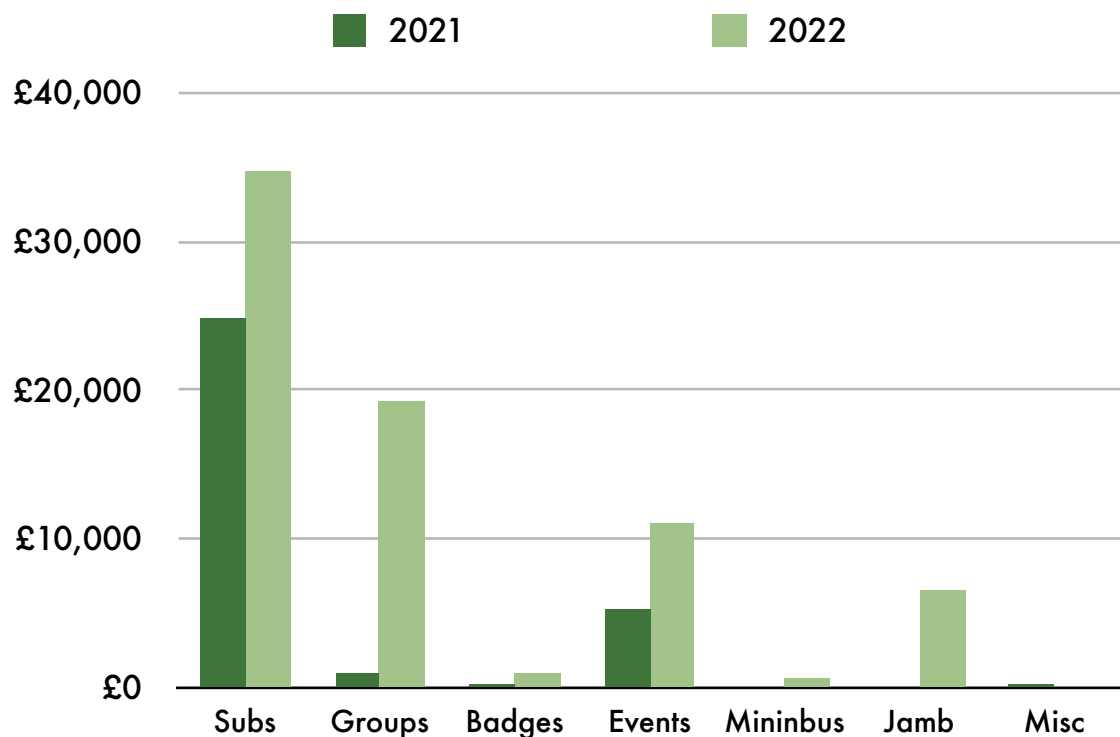
So Whats Next?

At the commencement of my appointment in June 2023 the district team could be said to be sparse, it doesn't mean lots of good stuff wasn't happening just that people were doing what they normally do keeping us afloat, helping each other to deliver exciting, good quality scouting.

Place for your notes

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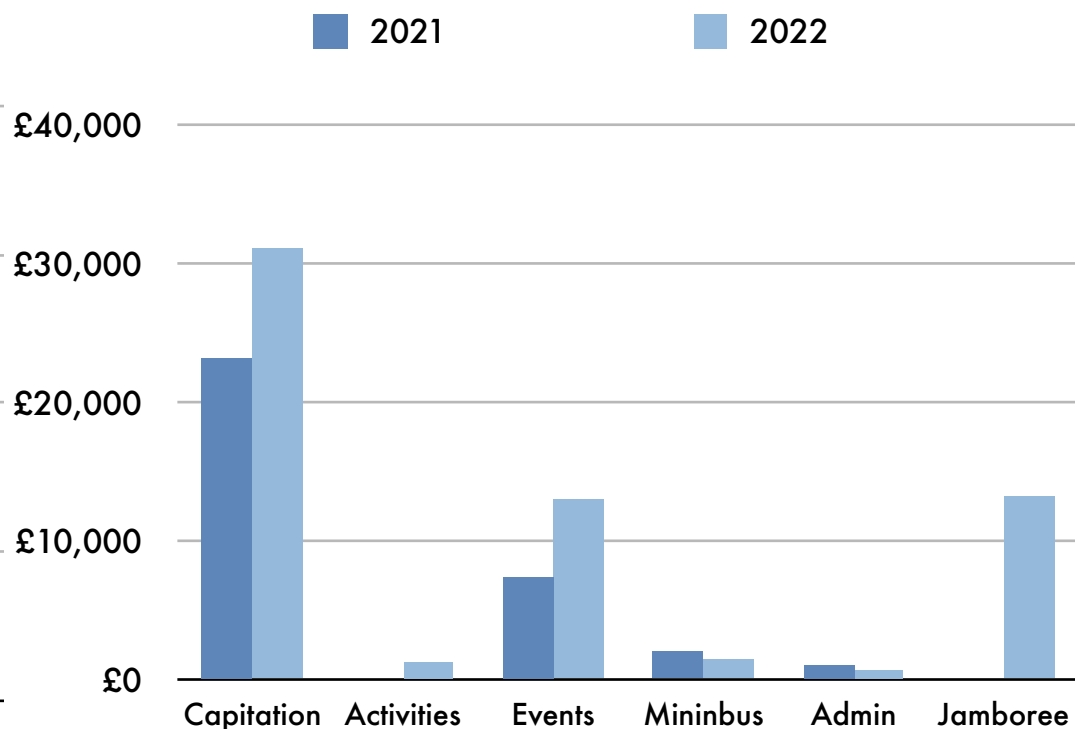
Receipts



Receipts

	2021	2022
Subscriptions See note 1	£24,857.00	£34,677.50
Groups See note 2	£ 1,011.76	£19,286.84
Badge Secretary	£ 225.00	£ 1,016.56
Events See note 3	£ 5,354.53	£10,987.41
District Minibus	£ Nil	£ 605.00
Jamboree 2003	£ Nil	£ 6,455.97
Miscellaneous See note 4	£ 330.69	£ 46.40
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£31,778.98	£73,075.68

Payments



Payments

	2021	2022
Subscriptions to County Note 1	£23,215.50	£31,200.00
Event Expenses See note 5	£ 7,553.76	£13,238.59
Group payments See note 7	£ 4,715.67	£ 2,496.85
Minibus LT59RTV	£ 2,168.78	£ 1,528.42
Administration See note 6	£ 1,095.51	£ 773.30
Jamboree	£ Nil	£13,350.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£38,749.22	£62,587.16