

SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales · Charity number 506895

Details

Other names SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE SCOUTS

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1977-11-15

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

Contact

Address 12 Brereton Drive
Nantwich
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Phone 01270610401

Email secretary@swcscouts.org.uk

Website <http://www.southwestcheshirescouts.org.uk/>

Activities

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

Activities: Training of young People in Accordance with the Scout Association stucture and activities

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED. IN PRACTICE SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE
- Cheshire East
- Cheshire West & Chester

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£31,773	£28,771	-	-
2023-12-31	£49,680	£39,937	-	-
2022-12-31	£37,642	£54,850	-	-
2021-12-31	£25,552	£25,971	-	-
2020-12-31	£52,924	£42,383	-	-

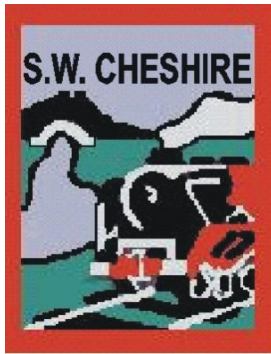
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jane Smart	Chair	2024-04-12
Amelia Leather		2026-04-17
Dan Baldwin		2024-04-12
Helen Jane Dorney		2025-04-11
Jamie Barlow		2018-04-06
Lise Grasmeder		2022-06-07
Mark Rowe		2018-04-06
Reece Ashley		2025-04-11
Richard Bennett		2017-04-07
Ryan Lee Wright		2026-02-13
Sharon Joyce		2025-04-11

SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 506895

Accounts



**SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 11TH 2025

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

South West Cheshire Scout Council

April 11th 2025

- 1 Welcome by the District Lead Volunteer Dan Baldwin
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Governance Matters
 - a. Approve the minutes of AGM held on 12 April 2024
 - b. Re Adopt the model constitution from POR
 - c. Note the District's financial year (January 1st 2024 to 31st December 2024)
 - d. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
 - e. Agree the quorum for any future meetings of future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)
- 4 Membership of the District Trustees Board
 - a Appointment of the Chair
 - b Appointment of other members of the trustee's board
- 5 Appointment of the Auditor
- 6 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council
- 7 Approval of the 2024 Annual Report of the District Trustees and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024
- 8 Explorer Scouts Presentation
- 9 The District Lead Volunteer report for 2024
- 10 The County Lead Volunteer
- 11 Awards

DISTRICT OFFICERS 2024

<p>Life President Mr P F Taylor</p> <p>President Vacant</p> <p>Vice Presidents Mr P Kent,</p> <p>Office Holders Chairperson Mrs J Smart Treasurer Mr R Bennett</p> <p>District Trustee Board Chairperson Treasurer District Lead Volunteer Ms D Blurton Ms L Grasmeder Ms I Shaw Mr T Austin Mr J Barlow Mr J Bennett Mr D Brough Mr J Ellam Mr M Rowe</p> <p>Co Opted Member Mr C Shore Mr A Whalley</p>	<p>District Lead Volunteer Mr D Baldwin</p> <p>Team Leader Programme Mr C Shore</p> <p>Team Leader 14 to 24 years Mr T Austin</p> <p>Youth Team Leader Mr R Ashley</p> <p>Team Leader Network Mr J Whalley</p> <p>Team Leader Activities Rob Galloway</p> <p>Team Leader Volunteer Development Mr T Owen</p> <p>District Chaplain Vacant</p> <p>Registered Charity No: 506895 Scout Association Registered No: 10808</p>
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South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 12th April 2024 Nantwich Civic Hall

1.0 Welcome

The outgoing District Commissioner, Ian Potts, took the Chair. There were 48 members and 3 guests present.

Ian opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, including the county Lead Volunteer Dave Hopley, Val Thomason, and Graham Phillips. Ian then welcomed the new District Volunteer Dan Baldwin. In particular Ian welcomed our Life President Peter Taylor who had celebrated his 100th birthday the day before the AGM, he was accompanied by his wife Peg who was due to celebrate her century later in the year.

At this point Dane Chaplow took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2.0 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Katrina and Stephanie Fearn, Donna and Andy Whalley, Roy Chetwood, Gill Evanson, Greta Piasecka, Dawn Davies, Teresa Shaw

3.0 Governance Matters

3.1 Minutes of AGM held on 12th March 2023

Proposed, seconded and accepted as a true record.

3.2 Re Adopt the Model Constitution from POR

At this time the current constitution was readopted but it was noted that a much changed POR is to be introduced later in 2024 and as a consequence the constitution will be amended and submitted to the Group Council at the next AGM for ratification.

3.3 Note the District's Financial year.

Noted that this is January 1st to December 31st

3.4 Agree the Numbers of Members to be appointed to the Trustees Board

Agreed that this would total 12.

3.5 Agree the Quorum for any Future Meetings of the Group Scout Council

This was set at 20.

4.0 Membership of the District Trustees Board

4.1 Appointment of the Chair

Dan announced that the new chair would be Mrs Jane Smart. In doing so he thanked Dane for all his work as District Chair over a number of years. Dane continued to chair the meeting to its conclusion.

4.2 Appointment of Other Trustees

This AGM was being held almost immediately after the new processes for the Trustee Board were introduced and there had not been time to advertise posts and conduct elections. It was agreed that the following would serve as trustees until April 2025 when a full election would take place:

Dan Baldwin	DLV
Jane Smart	Chair
Richard Bennett	Treasurer
Tom Austin	18/25 rep
Diane Blurton	
Ingrid Shaw	
Jake Ellam	
Mark Rowe	
Jamie Barlow	
David Brough	
John Bennett	Secretary
Carl Shore	Co Opted (Camp Site)
Andrew Whalley	Co Opted (Scout Shop)

5.0 Appointment of the Auditor

Will continue to be David Taylor, an accountant from Middlewich.

6.0 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for Nomination to the County Scout Council.

Reece Ashley and Jack Whalley volunteered to take this on, there being no other nominations both were elected.

7.0 Approval of the 2024 Annual Report of the District Trustees Board and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024.

The annual report had been previously circulated and was also displayed on the screen.

Dane went through the report, no questions were raised and Dane thanked the contributors for a report detailing an excellent years scouting in SWC The report was proposed, seconded and approved.

The Annual Accounts were then displayed on the screen and Richard Bennett went through them in details, no questions were asked. Dane thanked Richard for another excellent set of accounts.

The meeting approved both the annual report and the Financial Report.

8.0 World Scout Jamboree 23

Emily Taylor and Ellie Woodcock gave an excellent audio/visual presentation of their experiences at WSJ23 in South Korea. They were thanked for an excellent presentation about an experience they will never forget.

9.0 The District Lead Volunteer

Ian Potts gave his report on his final year in office;

Looking back on what I said at last years AGM many of the same themes still applied in 2023. There have been challenges but also lots of achievements to look back on with pride. Obviously the World Scout Jamboree was, as we have just heard, one of the highlights of the year with seven of our young people and 2 leaders attending along with a number of adults providing support in various roles at the event. We also had 5 people take part in the County run Explorer Belt Expedition.

The District Camp at the end of April was attended by well over half of the young people in the District. It took a similar format to previous years with a wide variety of activities and lots of opportunities for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers from across the District to interact with each other. On the whole the weather was reasonably kind, the few showers not dampening enthusiasm or spoiling the enjoyment. I'd like to thank Tice and Carl, and their team, for their hard work over several months to put on the camp.

The District continues to provide a wide variety of adventurous activities, from climbing and kayaking to hillwalking and shooting. We have a good team of permit holders, both at group and District level but could always do with more to meet the demand for these activities.

The numbers of young people involved in Scouting across the District fell slightly in 2023, due mainly to one group suspending meetings after a number of adult volunteers left. Work has been going on over the last few months to recruit new volunteers and restart the meetings later this year. For much of the year some of the District Team were running meetings at another group while new volunteers were sought and I would like to thank them for their support. Unfortunately, too few volunteers were found so places were found for the young people at other local groups. The District team continue to actively support groups where we can.

Safe Scouting remains a priority which is why there will be a continued focus on ensuring that every volunteer has up to date Safety and Safeguarding training. While there are currently too many adults who have not completed them this is going to be a focus in the coming weeks.

We have a lot of very dedicated volunteers in our District and a number of them reached some significant milestones in the last 12 months. These are shown in the Annual Report but I want to mention a special award that was presented earlier this

year. In the King's Birthday Honours, John Bennett was awarded the MBE for services to young people in Cheshire. This was for his work in Scouting over many years and I would like you to join me in congratulating him on his well-deserved award.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every adult who supports Scouting in South West Cheshire for all that they do.

Before I hand over to Dan to say a few words I would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has worked with me over the last 10 years. I can honestly say I have enjoyed leading this District through the many highlights and few challenges and have learnt a huge amount. Most of all I want to thank my wife for supporting me throughout, hopefully she will be seeing a bit more of me now.

I usually finish with a quote from BP but this year I will just finish by saying in response to one of his quotes, I did my best.

Dan spoke very briefly to the meeting to introduce himself and to say how excited he was to stepping into the role of District Lead Volunteer.

10.0 The County Lead Volunteer

Dave began by thanking Ian for all his hard work over the last ten years and he went on to thank Stephanie for the support she had given Ian.

He then went on to talk about the previous twelve months Scouting in the County. He used a series of slides to highlight "Celebrating Success" In particular he mentioned:

- Awarded Charity of the Year 2023
- Sell-out Cheshire Hike
- 275 Cubs slept under the GAIA
- Skills Day for 120 Young Leaders
- First King's Scouts on Parade at Windsor
- 560 Scouts & Explorers achieved Top Awards (including 60 Explorer Belts, 130 YouShape)
- A different World Scout Jamboree
- Community Impact Days at Tatton Park
- King's Coronation and Big Help Out.

He then mentioned the changes coming about as a result of the Transformation Project.

Finally he thanked Dane and Ian (again) along with Emily and Ellie.

11.0 Awards

A number of awards were presented to groups and then a presentation was made to Ian and Stephanie to thank them for their service

The evening concluded with a very special presentation to the District Life President and Peter Taylor his wife Peggy.

Peter spoke to the meeting with a look back on his life and in particular scouting. This speech was received with a standing ovation and concluded the evening.

Dane closed the meeting at 21.25.

John Bennett

District Secretary, South West Cheshire Scouts. June 2024

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

This year's report has a slightly different layout to those in the past. This reflects the changes to the district teams as a consequence of the Transformation Project. The report has three sections Support Team, Programme Team and Volunteer Development Team.

TRUSTEE BOARD

District Secretary's Report

The District Trustee Board met on four occasions in 2024, using the facilities at 35th SWC and 17th SWC due to the ongoing accessibility issues at District HQ. Work continues on the refurbishment of District HQ, the priority is to replace the staircase and then to rewire the building. This is work in progress.

Submission of the annual census return was completed on time. The submission of the district accounts and annual report to the Charity Commission was also completed on schedule.

The Trustees were pleased to note the number of awards presented during 2024 in South West Cheshire.

Member of the British Empire

Michael Bennion

Silver Wolf

John Bennett MBE

Bar to the Silver Acorn

Graham Shaw

Silver Acorn

Andrew Whalley

Jen Wilkinson

The Award for Merit`

Alex Smith

Chris Wood

Andrew Edwards

Stephanie Potts

Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service

Jill Taylor
Cathie Wainwright
Melanie Braviner
Matthew Griffiths
Dan O'Driscoll
Aaron Baxter

Long Service Awards

Chief Scout's 30 years Service Award

Jen Wilkinson
Donna Whalley
Frank Woodall

Chief Scout's 25 years Service Award

Robert Cave

Chief Scout's 20 years Service Award

Stephanie Potts
Matt Warren
Christopher Booth
Andrew Fairclough

Kings Scout Awards

Tom Austin
Harriet Faulkner
Lucy Landolt

Youth Awards

108 Chief Scouts Bronze Awards
87 Chief Scouts Silver Awards
55 Chief Scouts Gold Awards
15 Chief Scouts Platinum Awards
18 Young Leader Belt Buckles



It is with great sadness that we record the deaths, since the last District AGM, of former leaders and supporters of Scouting in South West Cheshire:

Geoff Whiston Ray Stafford Robin Christian
 Brian Jones Bill Elliott Kevin Duckett
 Paul Spencer Ray Salisbury

CENSUS RETURN COMPARISON

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Groups	23	22	22	22	21	20
Squirrels						33
Beaver	385	255	313	336	343	331
Cub	301	346	346	344	362	357
Scout	422	371	344	363	333	328
Explorer*	138	120	122	123	134	150
Network	102	90	25	10	6	2
Adults	612	513	505	341	418	396
Total	2089	1978	1578	1476	1596	1544

*The Explorer figure includes members of the Explorer Young Leader Unit

John Bennett
District Secretary

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

District Lead Volunteer

Since taking on this role last April, I've had the privilege of engaging with numerous volunteers and young people across South West Cheshire through meetings, events, and visits to Groups.

As you'll see when you read through the various reports from around the District, 2024 has been a year of growth, challenges, and fantastic achievements. Some personal highlights of the year included our Chief Scout's Bronze Award presentations at Milldale, watching our outstanding 2024 Gang Show, attending the District Cub Camp in September, and seeing 88 Scouts and Explorers from South West Cheshire recognised for achieving their Top Awards at the 'Celebrating Success' event in November. These experiences have been humbling and inspiring, showcasing the immense dedication of our volunteers right across the District.

As part of the Scouts' "Transforming the Volunteer Experience" project, 2024 saw the structure of the District Team evolve considerably, and as a result we've been able to welcome a significant number of new Team members. I'm very grateful to all those who have offered their help and support as part of the new team structure and looking forward to seeing what we can achieve together in 2025 and beyond.

I know at times Scouts can ask a lot of us, so I'd just like to say a heartfelt thank you to our exceptional volunteers in South West Cheshire for their outstanding commitment to delivering the programme and keeping our young people safe.

Dan Baldwin

District Lead Volunteer

Safety

The Coroners inquest into the tragic death of an Explorer Scout, from Greater Manchester, whilst on the Great Orme during a Scouting activity was finally concluded in 2024. HM Coroner was very critical of the Scout Association and this has had a dramatic impact on everything we do. A new Safety training module which has been put together with assistance from outside bodies and was introduced in late 2024. Every leader within the movement must have completed this new mandatory module by July 2025 and it is renewable every three years.

Also following on from the Coroner's report I have started to produce a quarterly digest on all reportable incidents and near misses in the district, to be shared with every adult involved in Scouting in SWC. The details are anonymised, the aim being to share information as a learning process and not to point the finger. This has been well received around the County as well as SWC and from Q1 2025 it now includes all reportable incidents and near misses in Cheshire.

Safety must be a standing agenda item on all trustees and leaders meeting.

John Bennett
District Safety Lead

SUPPORT TEAM

Scout Shop

The Scout Shop had another good year in 2024, thanks to the fantastic team of dedicated Scouts and Guides volunteers who help to run and staff it. In a world where people increasingly turn to online retailers, I'm proud that we can keep running the shop. It continues to be a valuable source of advice for parents bringing their children to Scouts for the first time, helping them to purchase the right uniform in the right sizes and providing great customer service.

Turnover has been reasonably consistent over recent years, and was slightly up in 2024 over 2023. In part this is due to rising prices of our biggest selling items (uniform and badges) rather than seeing significantly more footfall through the shop.

Margin on the items sold in the shop was under pressure in 2024, particularly due to a mid-year increase in shipping costs on our purchases from Scout Stores who are the sole supplier for all Scouts uniform and badges across the UK. This looks set to continue in 2025, with the wholesale discount for uniform purchases being reduced. This will be partially offset by a greater discount on our badge purchases, but we'll need to keep a close eye on the impact as 2025 unfolds. The shop makes a vital contribution to District finances, so any reduction in margins may ultimately lead to the District Levy needing to be increased, or alternative sources of fundraising being identified.

Dan Baldwin
District Lead Volunteer

Milldale Campsite Report 2024

Milldale continues to be a popular location for daytime and evening visits within the district, with overnight numbers now growing. In 2024, the site welcomed **1,270 day visitors**, **3,053 evening visitors**, and **1,258 individuals camping**.

945 individuals camped from outside the district, representing a **40% increase** compared to 2023, when there were 673 out-of-district campers. In contrast, **313 individuals** from within South West Cheshire camped at the site, an increase of **47%** from the 213 recorded in 2023. These figures highlight the ongoing growth of Milldale's popularity and the importance of encouraging even greater participation from within the district.

Financial Position

The campsite remains financially sound, maintaining a positive cash flow throughout the year. This has enabled continued reinvestment into the site and its facilities. At the end of 2024, there were approximately **76 outstanding invoices**, with an estimated total value of **around £4,000**. These are all from in-district bookings and are difficult to finalise due to some bookings lacking confirmed participant numbers.

To address this, a new internal process has been introduced for 2025, including the addition of a dedicated team member responsible for chasing invoices and confirming final numbers. The Treasurer will continue working on closing off 2024 invoices in the coming month.

Activities and Site Usage

Activity participation remained steady throughout 2024:

- **248 individuals** took part in Archery (compared to 246 in 2023, showing little change)
- **236 individuals** engaged in Climbing (compared to 229 in 2023, again showing a consistent level of participation)

We successfully delivered our **third Mini-Mudder** event for Cubs and Scouts, which continues to be a highlight in the campsite calendar. In addition, several **instructor training courses** were held for Archery, Shooting, and Crossbow. These courses were extremely popular, particularly among leaders from out-of-district groups.

However, we are facing challenges due to a shortage of qualified activity leaders. This has led us to pause evening sessions and instead focus on designated activity days, where groups can pre-book specific sessions. Permit availability is also becoming a concern, as a small number of leaders currently hold the required qualifications to run these activities.

Site Maintenance and Improvements

This year, the team made a significant effort to manage the Himalayan Balsam problem. The invasive plant has been difficult to control since the site went unused during the COVID-19 pandemic, and chemical treatments are not an option. Manual removal remains challenging, but the team has cleared large areas of brambles and branches that had been hampering progress. In addition, the site has now invested in a new **flail machine** that will help cut back the balsam before it can seed.

The site also had to respond to numerous storms this year, which brought down several trees mostly willow and cherry. Managing this damage has required substantial time and effort from the team.

We have a small team of volunteers who continue to support the site on weekends and weekdays with general maintenance and site improvements. Their contribution is invaluable in keeping the site in the excellent condition you see today.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the campsite team and every volunteer who has helped maintain and run the site over the past year.

If you are interested in getting involved, please speak to me or a member of the campsite committee. There is always a warm welcome and a biscuit or two waiting for you.

Carl Shore

Milldale Campsite Chairman

PROGRAMME TEAM REPORT 2024

I began my role as Programme Team Leader in November and have started to make progress in implementing the new structure for the Programme Team. For those unfamiliar, the Programme Team consists of the following sub-teams:

- **Section Support Sub-Team** (formerly ADC - Beavers, Cubs & Scouts)
- **Adventurous Activities**
- **Stage Performances**
- **Nights Away**
- **International Events Organising Team**
- **Top Awards**

Each of these sub-teams plays a crucial role in supporting and enhancing the Scouting experience across the District.

Section Support Sub-Team

The Section Support Sub-Team operates differently from the previous ADC structure. Instead of visiting and working with a single section within a group, each Section Support member now supports all sections within a designated group. This reduces travel across the District, allowing members to build stronger connections with the sections they support. This approach also improves the support for transition between sections and enhances overall group support. Each Section Support member retains their specialist role (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, or Scouts) and remains available for any specialist queries.

Section Support Team Members

- **Chris Wood** (12th, 14th, 28th, 22nd, 41st)
- **Jamie Barlow** (3rd, 35th, 18th, WH, 1st)
- **Neil Tomlinson** (16th, 25th, 26th, 38th)
- **Pending Appointment** (16th, 23rd, 39th, 17th, 40th)

The team's initial goal is to have visited every group section by Easter to assess areas requiring support. This will help ensure we deliver a safe and balanced programme that provides every young person with the opportunity to attain top awards. Once this feedback has been gathered, the team will develop a comprehensive district programme to support groups delivering the programme.

Nights Away

Across the District, the number of nights away remains lower than pre-COVID levels. A significant barrier to participation is the lack of permitted leaders, with some groups having no permit holders at all.

The Nights Away Team, led by Ingrid Shaw now includes four Nights Away Assessors and three additional leaders are currently in training to attain their Nights Away Assessor permits. This strengthens the team's capacity to support leaders in obtaining

their permits and assist groups without permit holders in delivering nights away experiences. The team has also begun planning for an international camp in 2027.

I have included some section reports below from the old structure as a number of activities took place before the new structure was introduced. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has directly supported me, as well as all the volunteers who have and continue to deliver some of the best Scouting opportunities in the country.

Stage Performances

A hugely successful Gang Show took place at the Lyceum Theatre in April/May 2024, the show involved a cast of some 80 young people supported by a few adults. The show was very well received and financially successful.

Now, Craig Chaplow (Producer), Graham Proctor (Creative Director), and Dave Brough (Technical Director) are leading the Stage Performance Sub-Team to deliver a spectacular Gang Show for 2026.

The team is actively finalising some key changes to ensure the show's future success. The plan and scripts are ready to go, and the team will kick off visits in the autumn to recruit budding actors, singers, comedians, and dancers from across the District to participate in the show. Will you be the next star of the show?

Event Organising Team

The team has been focusing on preparing for District Camp, which is planned for May 2025. Planning is well on track, with 35 activities planned with 600 Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers booked

Carl Shore, Programme Team Leader

SECTION REPORTS

The District had an incredibly active year for Sectional events, offering camping, climbing, water sports, shooting, the Swympic event, Mini Mudder and a whole host of other activities. A special thanks must go to all leaders and volunteers who supported these events.

Award Successes

In 2024, we recognised the success of those Beavers who had achieved their Chief Scout's Bronze Awards in 2023 with a presentation of certificates and BBQ, held at Milldale on a lovely sunny evening in May.

70 Cubs received their Chief Scout's Silver Award certificates at a ceremony held at St Thomas More High School. Cubs from the following groups received awards: WH 1st, 3rd, 7th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 26th, 28th, 35th R, 35th S, 38th,

39th, and 41st. This marks a 10-award increase from the 2023 event —a fantastic achievement.

50 of our Scouts achieved their Chief Scout Gold Award, with 8 Scout YouShape awards also achieved. The recipients were put forward to attend the County's Celebrating Success event at Parr Hall, Warrington.

Squirrels Go Nuts!

We were delighted to be able to open our first two Squirrel Dreys in 2024, with the 3rd SWC starting up early in the year, followed by the 14th SWC's Drey in September. In September, the 3rd joined Squirrels from across Cheshire at Tatton Park for the County's first ever Squirrel Event, "Squirrels Go Nuts!"

District Beaver Challenge

The District Beaver Challenge held in early 2024 saw entries from a number of Beaver Colonies from around the District, with the event ultimately won on this occasion by the 16th SWC.

Beaver and Cub County Funday

As a District, we took 201 Beavers, Cubs, and leaders to the County Funday at Forest Camp. Activities included climbing, caving, branding, slacklining, shooting, and fencing. Thanks to the District Trustees for their financial support, which covered transport costs and ensured more Cubs could participate.

District Cubs Craft Competition

The district craft competition was hosted by 17th SWC. Cubs showcased their creativity by designing models of their ideal town centre. Nine teams participated, with the 41st emerging as the worthy winners.

Cub and Scout Mini Mudder at Milldale

Cubs and Scouts attended the Mini Mudder, organised by the campsite team. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event, with many looking forward to the next one.

District Cub Camp – Back to Basics

Held at the end of September, despite initial concerns about the weather, the camp proceeded successfully. Activities included backwoods cooking, tie-dye, pioneering, branding, pond dipping, mini raft building, plaster cast tracking, orienteering, and tree identification. The event concluded with a campfire on Saturday and an athletics badge session on Sunday.

Cubs Christmas Party

On 1st December, Cubs celebrated Christmas at the Lifestyle Centre with games, activities, and a visit from Santa, who provided gifts for all. A huge thank you to all the leaders who made this event a success.

Looking ahead to 2025, we have an exciting programme planned, including the Craft Competition, District Camp, Sports Day, and the Christmas party.

Cheshire Hike

A calendar change due to wet weather in the Spring meant Cheshire Hike happened in September of 2024 rather than April. District was represented by 20 teams from 6 Groups and 3 ESUs. A special mention must go to the Pathfinder+ team from the 16th SWC who won the overall County prize for the age group.

Future Plans

Under our new structure, the Programme Team aims to host regular opportunities for Leaders from all Sections to network with one another and input on how the district supports Squirrel, Beaver, Cub and Scout sections.

There's also a healthy pipeline of Programme events in the planning for 2025 and 2026. Some plans so far include:

- District Camp (May 2025)
- Mini Mudder
- District Scouts First Aid Competition
- Chief Scout Gold Award BBQ at Milldale
- Christmas Events
- A District Scout Camp (2026)
- District Cheshire Hike Training Programme (for the 2026 event)

Any input and suggestions for additional initiatives are welcomed.

Neil Tomlinson & Chris Wood, Programme Team Members

14-24 Team Report

2024 saw the change into the new structure, with myself taking over as 14-24 Team Leader from November. I am excited by the change, with hopefully lots of exciting developments to come in 2025. I would also like to take the moment to thank and recognise the work of Ingrid as DESC over the last 10 years within the district. The job is made easier to the situation you walk into, down to her hard work previously.

Explorer Section

All 4 Explorer units hold regular weekly meeting in their respective partnership venues and are very well attended. A number of Explorers are taking the opportunity to attend more than one meeting night, with every unit meeting on a different night of the week. The programmes continue to be well planned and delivered by the leadership teams, with the majority of units offered at least one camping experience within the last 12 months. The Explorer section has also shown growth in membership in the annual census reporting figures.

The challenge however, continues to be leadership. Drake are currently well situated, and Shipton also have good support to reflect current membership being the largest unit in the district. Mallory & Fiennes have seen membership numbers grow over the

last year, which has but additional strain on the smaller leadership teams. We are looking to see if anyone is able to support these units, in particular a Team Leader for Fiennes. Thanks to all the leaders for their continued dedication to Explorers this last 12 months.

Finances continue to be a tight situation for many units. This hopefully ease as we go into 2025, with online payments now set up for subs and events through OSM. Thanks to Cathie for all of her hard work in this area. In addition, Sum Up card readers have also been purchased to assist units with their fundraising.

Young Leaders

The Young Leader unit has once again proved to be very successful, with two full sets of B-K modules run across the year. Module K continues to be the most popular with places filled quickly. Four module A courses have also been run, which demonstrates the popularity of the section.

Membership stands at 83 across the district, 53 of which are not attending another Explorer unit. 15/19 groups within the district currently have at least one young leader. Thanks to Di, Gaynor and all the able assistants who have supported the running of the provision within 2024.

Network

After a hiatus, the SWC Network section has been relaunched to steady success. We have 19 active members, with our first night in December at Crewe Tenpin bowling bringing 16 Network members for a night of information, fun, and ideas of what each member is looking to get from the Section.

A varied and interesting programme is being planned, full of potential camps, activities and days out, as well as chances for Network to become more visible through co-running a District Explorer Scouts sports day in the summer is planned for 2025, and including the sections own necker. Hopefully with a continued drive within the district and consistent nights being run through the spring and summer we can grow the numbers even more looking into the future.

Top Awards

From a Top Award perspective, the district was very well represented at the County Celebrating Success event again, with 11 Chief Scout Platinum Awards, 2 Explorer YouShape and 17 Young Leader Belt Buckles. This is one area we are really looking to target for growth over the next 12 months, following the appointments of Abi Woodcock & Alistair Williams to Top Awards & DofE coordinators, respectively.

Youth Forum

Over the last 12 months, we have held 3 District Youth Forums. These included full day forums; designing 'Outdoors In 24 activities' for the district, as well as half day

forums where we looked at how we can celebrate top awards in the district. We also had a sociable 'big breakfast' in the sunshine over the spring.

The numbers at the forum have continued to grow, with 39 members now part of the forum. What has been particularly pleasing, is the growth of Scout representatives staying on as Explorer ones as they move up the sections. This has however, left the forum rather Explorer heavy so we are looking for more Scout voices to join from a greater range of groups.

As a district, we have also attended both County Youth Forums held in February & November, including bringing representatives aged 14-18 & 18-24. In addition, the district were also key members of the Youth Forum contingent, helping to support the Cheshire Scouts Cub & Beaver fundays in July.

Through the District Youth Forums, we have pushed the YouShape Award with attendees, giving examples and ideas of how they can go back into their own sections and gain the award collectively. Which was pleasing to see at Celebrating Success, that the district was one of the highest in the number of YouShape Awards presented, with 10 in total.

Looking ahead to the next year, the Youth Forum will have a pivotal role in helping plan and deliver our next District Camp. From the theme, activity bases and the wide game on the Friday night, there will be a chance to really get their voices heard. At the end of 2024 we also appointed Reece Ashley as the next District Youth Lead for South West Cheshire. Over the first three months of the year, we will start the handover process to ensure all the work carried out to date continues.

So with that, I sign off as District Youth Lead. The role has been incredibly rewarding. Seeing the growth and impact the Youth Forum now has, compared to three years ago is fantastic. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank those who have supported me in the role over the years, especially those who gave support so the forums could run. And of course, I wish Reece and his team all the best as we hand over the baton.

Tom Austin
14-24 Team Leader

Adventurous Activities

Kayaking

- Permit training weekend (May) – 3 Young Leaders gained Leadership Permits.
- Taster weekend (May) – 70 Scouts participated in six sessions.
- Three Paddlesport Training Courses – 23 Scouts achieved Stage 2, and 7 achieved Stage 3.

Bell-Boating

- First district bell-boating taster day held at Tatton Activity Centre.
- One permit holder in place, with plans to expand in 2025.

Climbing

- Limited availability in 2024 due to instructor shortages.
- Abseiling wall repairs completed, allowing an Autumn half-term badge course.

Hill-Walking

- October half-term district walk to Moel Famau.
- Encouraging leaders to obtain Terrain 1 permits.

A huge thanks to all volunteers and permit holders for their dedication. Our volunteers have given at least 500 hours to support the 2024 kayak programme alone. I am extremely grateful. Additionally, our Adventurous Activities volunteers have worked tirelessly across multiple disciplines, ensuring that young people in the district experience a wide variety of outdoor challenges. Their time, expertise, and enthusiasm have been instrumental in making this a successful year for adventure in Scouting.

Rob Galloway, Team Leader (Activities Sub-Team)

Other Activities

Shooting Team

The district shooting team had a hectic and highly successful year, with over 1,000 participants engaging in rifle, pistol, or crossbow activities.

Shooting sessions were held each month at Milldale, with 44 different activities taking place throughout the year. Most months included one district session open to all members over 10 years old, alongside four taster sessions for various groups within SWC and other districts.

To support leader training, the team organised eight training courses to enable leaders to run shooting and crossbow events for Scouts.

Competitions and Achievements

The Waterloo Shooting Competition & Camp (June 9 -11) was a major success, with 368 participants. With no in-person national competition in 2024, this was likely the UK's largest participation event.

The team supported the National Intercounty Competition at Aldersley in May, where 80% of Cheshire's squad came from our district. Cheshire secured gold medals in all team categories and individual pistol, rifle, and overall class. At Scout Shoot (September) in Bisley, Surrey, SWC Scouts secured 13 medals.

The Cheshire Inter-District Competition saw SWC win for the second consecutive year, maintaining top placements at district, county, and national levels. Although the Scout National Competition was not held in person due to changes at the Lord Roberts

Centre, SWC had strong representation in the postal competition, with 10 Scouts securing medals in various categories.

Challenges and Future Outlook

Despite these achievements, attendance at district Saturday sessions remains low, with most Waterloo competitors coming from outside the district.

Instructor and helper availability remains a concern, with volunteers being overstretched. The team is now adapting the programme to a more sustainable format, which may impact activity levels and future competitive success. We are always in need of additional adult volunteers. If you are interested in helping, even on a small scale, please reach out to the team.

Sailing Team

Sailing remains a popular activity within the district, with almost 100 Scouts, Cubs, and Explorer Young Leaders taking part in the sailing taster sessions on 22nd June. This event showcased Scouting at its best, with participants gaining valuable experience on the water.

Another 90 young people, including many Beavers and Cubs, joined the session on 6th July. For over 50 of them, it was their first time in a sailing boat, making it a fantastic introduction to the sport. Despite challenging conditions, all participants embraced the experience, demonstrating resilience and enthusiasm.

A huge thanks goes to Winsford Flash Sailing Club for organising and running these successful events. We are also grateful to the cadets, junior and adult members, and their families, as well as our own Scouts, for their involvement and dedication in making these sessions so enjoyable.

Swimming Team

Scout Swimming in South West Cheshire continues to provide vital life skills and badge work opportunities for our young people. Between October 2024 and April 2025, 45 Cubs and Scouts achieved various staged swimming badges across different skill levels:

- 8 non-swimmers, 10 in Stage 1, 9 in Stage 2, 12 in Stage 3, 5 in Stage 4, 4 in Stage 5
- 2 working towards Lifesaving

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Scout Swimming Team made up of dedicated leaders and volunteers for their commitment, hard work, and weekly support. Their enthusiasm and reliability are fundamental to the success of Scout Swimming in SWC.

Bob Binner

VOLUNTEERING AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT

Appointments Committee / Welcome Sub-Team

During 2024 the Appointments Committee appointed 20 new Leaders and approved 2 Changes of Role and 2 Additional Roles.

We have our new digital system and a new process for welcoming volunteers and this new process should mean that roles will move from Provisional to Full in a much shorter time. There remains a small backlog of Leaders who were waiting for interview when the “old” system ended and we are working our way through these as quickly as we can.

Under the new process a volunteer is added to the system by the Lead Volunteer (or recruiter / admin person in the Group) and by the end of 6 weeks should have created an account with scouts.org, completed their Growing Roots learning, had their DBS done, their references received and had their Welcome Conversation. They will be able to track their own progress online too.

The Welcome Conversation replaces the interview with the Appointments Committee, and should feel less intimidating for the new volunteer. The Conversation takes place at the new volunteer’s HQ with their Line Manager plus a person from the District Welcome sub-team. They can also have a buddy with them if they wish. It is their opportunity to ask any burning questions, and for us to establish that they fully understand what they have signed up for and are happy with their role.

No forms to fill in! Everything online! Bonus! And this process can be more flexible as Conversations are arranged to suit all involved.

Everything is recorded in the new system. References are still required, but the system will keep chasing if they are not received, or the person asked to provide an alternative.

However... someone from each Group (Group Lead Volunteer or recruiter) will need to do some additional learning to be able to take part in the Welcome Conversation. It’s an online package and shouldn’t take more than about 30 mins. And the sooner Groups have an accredited person, the sooner we can get new volunteers welcomed. Thanks to the members of the Appointments Committee who have agreed to take part in the new Welcome Conversations, and thanks to those who have “retired” for their contributions.

Jen Wilkinson

Team Leader, Welcome Sub-Team, Volunteering Development

Adult Awards & Recognition

As part of the volunteering development task there is a piece around recognising our volunteers for the excellent work, time and commitment to Scouting.

Since the start of transition, we have been reviewing the list of all Volunteers, who have served 5 years or more, was taken off the old Compass system prior to closing. This information has been analysed to ascertain which Volunteers have been awarded and recognised with awards, and those who meet requirements for awards.

After the first run through it was noticed that the district is quite far adrift from the number of adults who have gained awards as to the number of adult volunteers that could have attained these awards.

After careful consideration, of this list, the team are in the process of requesting supporting information from District Groups, District Teams and other District Activities to be able to put forward a number of volunteers names to receive adults volunteer awards.

This process is quite long winded as each submission requires careful consideration and examination of the evidence to ensure that the awards are given due consideration.

Watch this space!!

Lise Grasmeder - Volunteering Development Team

Learning

During the past year we have seen some considerable changes to training [now learning!], both in attitude and methods. Volunteers are beginning to appreciate that not only is it a requirement and commitment but also provides a benefit to them and their sections with new skills and knowledge to achieve more balance within their programmes.

Over the year 2024 – 14 volunteers have been awarded Wood Badges across the district, this shows the commitment of our volunteers throughout the year, now we have transition Wood Badges become ‘optional’ but I hope we can maintain the number of Wood Badges being achieved over the coming year.

As part of transition the Learning provision falls within the district remit, this includes delivery of courses, so we are building a plan for courses particularly around Skills, aligning it to Residential Experiences [Nights Away], please look out for the course dates later this year.

We also need to remind all our volunteers that Core learning including mandatory learning for Safety, Safeguarding, Data Protection is now via the new learning

platform, please encourage all your volunteers within teams to check their learning status and not forgetting that Safety needs to be renewed [post transition] by July 2025. Each e-learning module should take approximately 45 minutes to complete with an assessment within the e-learning module. This can be accessed via the Scout Learning platform. <https://learn.scouts.org.uk/>

We also need to make sure our volunteers remain up-to-date with First Response Learning; this is an important skill to have, a reminder to all volunteers to check their expiry date and register for the next available course.

All face-to-face and virtual blended learning dates are currently published on the County website <https://www.cheshirescouts.org.uk/adult-support/learning>; however, we will be looking to host this on the district website later this year.

Thank you to everyone who helps support, promote, and assess learning across the district with your input; we would not be able to support our volunteers without you.

Tim Owen
Volunteering and Development Team Lead



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCHOOL COUNCIL

On accounts for the year
ended

31st DECEMBER 2024

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

1 - 3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

D Taylor

Date:

9th JULY 2025

Name:

DAVID TAYLOR

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
IN ENGLAND AND WALES

(if any):

Address:

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE

South West Cheshire District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from 1/1/24

to

31/12/24

Receipts and payments

2024

2023

Receipts

Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	£65,801	£66,615
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County)	£55,670	£53,280
Net membership subscriptions retained	£10,131	£13,335
Scout Shop	£6,000	£8,000
Sub total	£16,131	£21,335
Activities		
Beavers	-	£1,256
Cubs	£2,080	£1,978
Scouts	-	-
Explorers	-	-
Leaders	-	-
Swimming Club	£3,558	£2,193
District events, activities, training and camps	-	£419
Sub total	£5,638	£5,846
Fundraising (gross)		
World Scouting Jamboree	-	£17,257
Other fundraising activities	£558	£347
Sub total	£558	£17,604
Other receipts		
3 rd SWC share of District store insurance	£286	-
Gang Show	£6,269	£2,500
Donations	£233	-
insurance refund	-	£142
closing charity deposit account	-	£207
loan repayment from 17 th SWC	£2,000	£2,000
Sub total	£8,787	£4,848
Investment income		
Bank interest	£659	£47
Sub total	£659	£47
Total Gross Income	£31,773	£49,680
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-
Total receipts	£31,773	£49,680

Receipts and payments

2024

2023

Payments

Activities		
Beavers	£173	£2,909
Cubs	£2,904	£1,721
Scouts	-	-
Explorers	£105	-
Young leaders	£226	£218
Leaders	£68	-
District youth forum	£179	-
District events, activities, training and camps	£650	£243
Swimming Club	£2,686	£2,792
Sub total	£6,991	£7,882
District running costs		
Water and Sewerage	£315	£277
Electricity and Gas	£636	£404
Insurance	£8,176	£8,168
Accountancy	£330	£330
Bank charges	£287	£269
Repairs and Renewals	-	£103
AGM and trustee expenses	£1,649	£516
MPLC (film licence)	£692	£878
Lottery licence	-	£20
MiFi	£189	£174
Branding	-	£543
Websites	£991	-
First Aid	£623	£44
Sub total	£13,888	£11,726
Exceptional expenses		
Donation to Guides	£800	-
Donations	£500	-
Gang Show	£5,454	£2,500
Payment on behalf of 18 th SWC	£463	-
Payment on behalf of 14 th SWC	-	£382
Squirrel grants	£600	-
closing charity deposit account	-	£207
Sub total	£7,817	£3,089
Fundraising expenses		
38 th SWC fundraising	£75	-
World Scouting Jamboree instalments	-	£17,240
Sub total	£75	£17,240
Total Gross Expenditure	£28,771	£39,937
Total payments	£28,771	£39,937
Net of receipts/(payments)	£3,002	£9,743
Cash funds last year end	£90,178	£80,435
Cash funds this year end	£93,181	£90,178

Activity Accounts

Section	Receipts	Payments	Opening balance	Closing balance
Milldale	£40,047	£38,323	£63,160	£64,884
Canoe and Kayak	£2,413	£598	£4,150	£5,964
Sailing	£2,020	£1,325	£5,281	£5,976
Climbing & Hillwalking	£1,580	£1,405	£284	£459
Shooting	£23,374	£22,164	£6,676	£7,886
Scout Shop *	-	-	£11,514	£16,929
Explorers	£29,403	£25,746	£10,168	£13,825
Gang Show	£26,743	£21,973	£7,990	£12,760

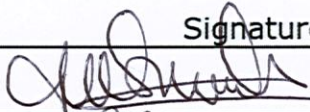
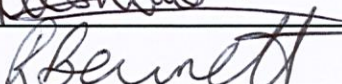
* Shop accounts done on accruals basis. Receipts & payments not available for District cash basis accounts.

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31/12/24	31/12/23
	£	£
Cash funds		
RBS current account	£10,304	£42,960
RBS Business Reserve	£15,064	-
RBS Liquidity 95	£20,229	-
NS&I investment account	£47,583	£47,218
Total cash funds	£93,181	£90,178
Non monetary assets for charity's own use (insured values)		
Land and buildings	£560,018	£523,828
Motor vehicles	£25,950	£25,950
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	£150,684	£146,440
Marine	£50,810	£50,810
Sub total	£787,462	£747,028
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	-	-
Sub total	£0	£0

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 3rd March 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Signature

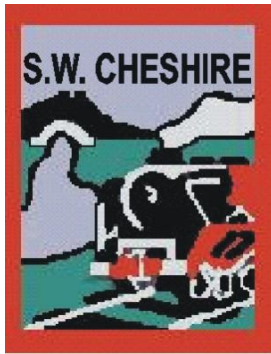
Print Name

Jane Smart Chair
 Richard Bennett Treasurer

SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 506895

Accounts



**SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 12TH 2024

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

South West Cheshire Scout Council

April 12th 2024

- 1 Welcome by the outgoing District Lead Volunteer Ian Potts and introduction of the incoming District Lead Volunteer Dan Baldwin
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Governance Matters
 - a. Approve the minutes of AGM held on 14th March 25th 2023
 - b. Re Adopt the model constitution from POR
 - c. Note the District's financial year (January 1st 2023 to 31st December 2023)
 - d. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
 - e. Agree the quorum for any future meetings of future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)
- 4 Membership of the District Trustees Board
 - a Appointment of the Chair
 - b Appointment of other members of the trustees board
- 5 Appointment of the Auditor
- 6 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council
- 7 Approval of the 2023 Annual Report of the District Executive Committee and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023
- 8 WSJ 25 presentation by participants
- 9 The District Lead Volunteer report for 2023
 - Awards
- 10 The County Lead Volunteer
- 11 Presentations

DISTRICT OFFICERS 2023

<p>Life President Mr P F Taylor</p> <p>President Vacant</p> <p>Vice Presidents Mr P Kent, Mr R Stafford</p> <p>Office Holders Chairperson Mr R Chaplow Treasurer Mr R Bennett Secretary Mr J Bennett</p> <p>District Executive Chairperson Treasurer Secretary District Commissioner Deputy District Commissioner District Explorer Scout Commissioner District Youth Commissioner</p> <p>Elected Members Mrs C Wainwright Mrs L Grasmeder Mr J Barlow Mr J Ellam Mr D Brough</p> <p>Nominated Members Mr M Rowe Miss D Blurton Mr A Whalley Mr C Shore</p> <p>County Scout Council Members Mrs I Shaw Mrs L Grasmeder</p> <p>District Chaplain Vacant</p>	<p>District Commissioner Mr I Potts</p> <p>Deputy District Commissioner Mr J Statham</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Commissioner Ms I Shaw</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Administrator Mrs C Wainwright</p> <p>District Young Leader Unit Manager Ms D Blurton</p> <p>District Network Scout Commissioner Vacant</p> <p>District Youth Commissioner Mr T Austin</p> <p>Assistant District Commissioners</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Beaver Scouts</td> <td>Miss S Fearn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beaver Scouts</td> <td>Mr L Potts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cub Scouts</td> <td>Mr N Tomlinson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scouts</td> <td>Mr T Clark</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Activities</td> <td>Mr R Galloway</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Duties</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Development</td> <td>Vacant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SAS Manager</td> <td>Mr J Wedgwood</td> </tr> </table> <p>Local Training Manager Adult Training Mrs J Taylor,</p> <p>Appointments Sub Committee Chair Mrs J Wilkinson</p> <p>District Scouters Mr A Collett, Mr B Westwood, Mrs J Shore, Mrs A Bourke, Mrs M Norbury, Ms G Evanson</p> <p>Registered Charity No: 506895 Scout Association Registered No: 10808</p>	Beaver Scouts	Miss S Fearn	Beaver Scouts	Mr L Potts	Cub Scouts	Mr N Tomlinson	Scouts	Mr T Clark	Activities	Mr R Galloway	General Duties	Vacant	Development	Vacant	SAS Manager	Mr J Wedgwood
Beaver Scouts	Miss S Fearn																
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Scouts	Mr T Clark																
Activities	Mr R Galloway																
General Duties	Vacant																
Development	Vacant																
SAS Manager	Mr J Wedgwood																

South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 14th May 2023 Nantwich Civic Hall

1.0 Welcome

The District Commissioner, Ian Potts, took the Chair. There were 48 members and 1 guest present.

Ian opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, including the county commissioner Dave Hopley.

Ian announced that his nomination for District Chair was Dane Chaplow.

Dane then took the chair for the remainder of the meeting. He began by asking those present to take a moment to reflect on those members and supporters of South West Cheshire Scout Council who had “Gone Home” since the 2019 AGM:

Dorothy Basnett Janet Green Nick Crossley

2.0 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Katrina Fearn

3.0 Minutes of AGM held on 12th March 2021

Proposed, seconded and accepted as a true record.

4.0 Reports

The Annual District Report for 2022 was considered by the meeting. Each contributor was invited to comment. The Report was accepted with special thanks from the Chair to all contributors for their efforts during the past year.

Appointments

The report was accepted, and no questions were raised.

Secretary

Nothing to add to the report, no questions were raised.

Beavers

The report was accepted, no questions were raised. Dane thanked the Beaver team for their report and asked that his thanks be conveyed to all Beaver leaders for their work.

Cub Scouts

Again, no questions were raised by the attendees and Dane asked for thanks to be passed to all Cub Leaders for their work.

Scouts

The report was accepted, no questions were raised. Dane thanked Lise and Tim for their hard work during the year.

Explorer and Network

Nothing to add to the reports which were accepted.

District Young Leaders

Dane commented on the impressive numbers of belt buckles that had been awarded in the district and thanked Di Blurton for her efforts in managing the programme.

Milldale

Carl thanked everyone for their input and support, a lot of hard work on the site had been achieved.

Dane also thanked the Milldale team for their efforts and stated that in Milldale the district had a fantastic facility.

Activities

Sailing

The report was accepted Carl commented on the successful taster sessions run during the year.

Canoeing

The report was accepted.

Shooting

Given the huge success of Shooting in the district Ian recommended the use of the facilities at Milldale to all sections.

The DC commented on the need for additional instructors across the whole field of activities. Any offers of help please direct them to the DC.

Swimming

The report was accepted, Dane thanked the swimming team for their continuing work with the section.

Scout Shop

The report was accepted, Dane thanked everyone involved in the shop for the excellent work and reminded everyone that the income from the shop helps to sustain the district financially, without it the District Levy would increase. Please continue to use the shop. Ian commented on the work Andy Whalley had put into getting the shop back up and running after Covid. Thanks also to Rosemary Schofield and her team of guiders.

The meeting approved the annual report.

5.0 Financial Report

The annual accounts for 2022 were circulated, A number of questions were asked by members which the treasurer answered. The report as approved by the meeting.

6.0 Election of District Secretary

John Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Secretary.

7.0 Election of District Treasurer

Richard Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Treasurer.

8.0 Election of Members of the District Scout Council to the District Executive Committee.

Andy Evans and Jake Ellam were elected to the District Executive. Tom Austin, recently in post as the District Youth Commissioner was also approved as an 18 to 25 year old representative on the executive.

9.0 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee.

Ian Potts nominated the following:

Beavers: Mark Rowe

Cubs: Helen Dorney

Scouts: Lisa Gamble

Explorers & Young Leaders: Diane Blurton

10.0 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council.

John Whittingham was willing to continue in this role, the meeting agreed to this. There were no other volunteers

11.0 World Scout Jamboree 25

Emily Taylor, Ellie Woodcock and Gareth Jones gave a presentation about the forthcoming WSJ due to be held in South Korea later in the year. The presentation

was very well received and Dane wished them "Bon Voyage" and looked forward to hearing from them again in twelve months time

11.0 District Commissioner

11.1 While the effects of Covid were by no means forgotten in 2022, Scouting returned to something more familiar as the year progressed. There were plenty of challenges and lots to celebrate and be proud of in what was achieved.

The numbers of young people involved in Scouting across the District has started to recover although overall we are still below the numbers in 2020. However, the number of adults involved has fallen, particularly in certain groups. Despite this we have continued to deliver high quality Scouting, as shown by the number of top awards achieved.

From the Gang Show in the first half of the year to Christmas Events at the end our young people have had a wide range of opportunities and seeing the numbers involved in them it was clear that they took full advantage of them. As a District we continue to support groups by putting on events and activities where groups can get together and activities which require trained instructors to deliver. We are always looking for new instructors so we can offer those activities to as many young people as possible.

As I said at the start there have also been challenges, in particular in terms of recruiting and retaining adult volunteers. We have been supporting several groups in a variety of ways including having sections meeting together and District Leaders attending meetings to support new leaders. I would like to thank all those who have assisted in keeping those groups going. We have made some good progress in getting on top of outstanding mandatory training although there is still work to do. There have been issues with District Headquarters which is in need of renovation and we are working with Reaseheath College to develop suitable plans to make best use of the space for the shop, as a meeting or training space and for storage.

We have a lot of very dedicated volunteers in our District and a number of them reached some significant milestones in the last 12 months.

Our District President, Peter Taylor, will be 99 years old in the next couple of weeks. He still takes an active interest in the District, regularly attending the District Lunches.

I want to mention a special award that I had the privilege of presenting recently. For only the second time while I have been DC I presented one of our Cub Scouts, Edey Wells, with a Meritorious Conduct Award. It was awarded for her quick thinking in recalling the first aid she had learned in Cubs and saving her teachers life when she started choking in class. What makes it even more remarkable is that

Edey has a number of medical conditions, including Global Developmental Delay which means she had the learning age of a four year old at the time. If any volunteer doubts the value of what they are doing in Scouting this is just one example of that value.

I would like to thank each and every adult who supports Scouting in South West Cheshire for all that they do.

As we move into a new year there will be further challenges ahead. There is still a focus on mandatory training and we are embarking on a transformation which will see some changes to how we are structured in Groups and the District as well as changes to the volunteer journey and to learning. Whilst none of this change will alter what we deliver to young people, it will better reflect how we do things already and make it more straightforward to volunteer.

Our challenges in Scouting are still minor compared to those being faced by many others at the moment and we should bear this in mind when assessing them. Instead we should focus on the successes we see each week, whether it is a nervous Beaver being left by a parent at a Beaver meeting for the first time or a Meritorious Conduct Award for a Cub Scout. It is why I will continue to work with you to ensure Scouting continues to be available for those already involved and to make it available to those who are not.

Any of you who have been to one of our recent AGMs will know that I usually finish with a Baden Powell quote. When I read this years quote it made me think more positively about what we have achieved over the last few years despite the challenges we have been faced with and gave me renewed energy to do my best for Scouting in the coming year.

Life would pall if it were all sugar; salt is bitter if taken by itself; but when tasted as part of the dish, it savours the meat. Difficulties are the salt of life. (In other words, without the challenges the successes wouldn't feel as good).

12.0 The County Commissioner

12.1 Dave spoke about the recovery in Cheshire of scouting post pandemic. He used a slide presentation to highlight the areas which we are addressing to increase membership, community involvement and diversity

12.2 He spoke about the Transformation Project and some of challenges we are all likely to face

12.3 Dave talked about the Scouting events that were due to take place in the coming year. He congratulated the WSJ participants on the presentation they gave on the

forthcoming WSJ and looked forward, in 2024, to hearing about their exploits in South Korea.

Dane closed the meeting at 21.25.

John Bennett

District Secretary, South West Cheshire Scouts. June 2023

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT

The District Executive met on four occasions in 2023, using the facilities at 35th SWC due to the ongoing accessibility issues at District HQ. The Executive is working on options for DHQ. one proposal being to convert upstairs to a store principally for Gang Show costumes. Downstairs would be redeveloped so that the shop could continue to function and there would be improved meeting facilities. This is work in progress.

Submission of the annual census return was completed on time. The submission of the district accounts and annual report to the Charity Commission was also completed on schedule.

The Executive was pleased to note the number of awards presented during 2023 in South West Cheshire.

MBE

John Bennett for Services to Young People in Cheshire.

Bar to the Award for Merit

Tim Owen

The Award for Merit`

Dan Baldwin

Graham Proctor

Simon Piasecki

Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service

Abi Woodcock

The following Scouting awards were awarded:

Long Service Awards

50 years	Victor Ward
40 years	Wayne Davies
30 years	Andrew Collett Graham Shaw Neil Tomlinson
25 years	Mark Gidlow
20 years	Duncan Batty Ian Potts Kevin Yates Philip Edwards David Brough

99 Chief Scouts Bronze Awards
47 Chief Scouts Silver Awards
45 Chief Scouts Gold Awards
10 Chief Scouts Platinum Awards
2 Chief Scouts Diamond Award
6 Young Leader Belt Buckles
3 You Shape Scout Awards
8 You Shape Explorer Awards
5 Explorer Belts

CENSUS RETURN COMPARISON

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Groups	23	23	22	22	22	21
Beaver	390	385	255	313	336	343
Cub	427	301	346	346	344	362
Scout	413	422	371	344	363	333
Explorer	116	138	120	122	123	134
Network	105	102	90	25	10	6
Adults	564	612	513	505	341	418
Total	2111	2089	1978	1578	1476	1596

*The Explorer figure includes members of the Explorer Young Leader Unit

John Bennett
District Secretary

DISTRICT APPOINTMENT TEAM'S REPORT

The Appointments Committee met on 6 occasions in 2023. The first one was held on Zoom, but the rest were face-to-face meetings. We approved 25 new Scouting roles, 3 changes of role and 4 existing Leaders took on additional roles.

The hardest part of the whole process is chasing for references! We are constantly asked when new leaders will be interviewed, and the answer is usually "when we have received their references". And frequently we are interviewing Leaders who have been doing the job for months if not years!

Thanks to all Committee members for their continuing support and contribution to this role. It is a privilege to meet with new prospective Leaders, find out a little about them, and ensure they know what they have let themselves in for!

The process of approving roles is due to change with the Transformation, and the Appointments Committee as we know it will cease to exist. The aim is to speed up the Appointments process and to make it less intimidating for the candidates. But until this takes place we will continue to meet and interview new Leaders.

Jen Wilkinson

Appointments sub-committee chair

Cathie Wainwright

Appointments Secretary

BEAVER SCOUT SECTION REPORT

"Every child has a right to have an adventure. Life is about grabbing opportunities." – Bear Grylls, Chief Scout. 2023 saw our young people continue to conquer challenges, grow and develop traits of bravery, resilience and teamwork. However, none of this could have been achieved without the dedication of their sectional leadership team, parents and helpers, so we would like to start by thanking them for all they have done over these past 12 months and the commitments they make each week to support the development of our young people.

Bronze Awards

This year, 52 young people achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Award, from 10 different groups. After the success of our ceremony last year, we decided to return to Milldale where we celebrated their achievements. The event was attended by over 50 parents, children and leaders and was a lovely evening for all in attendance.

We would also like to say a huge congratulations to all those Beaver scouts who have achieved their Chief Scouts Bronze awards within the past 12 months. We are looking forward to celebrating this outstanding achievement with you all soon.

Beaver Challenge

Beavers joined forces again this year and, in teams of up to 6, completed a variety of different activities set by their leaders. By completing these challenges, the Beavers scored points – all trying to be crowned the Beaver Challenge Champions of South West Cheshire! Activities included a ping-pong challenge, identifying fruit/veg and trying to work out what the names of the different Beaver Badges were. It was very close this year, and the teamwork shown was phenomenal, but in the end, the 23rd Beaver Colony were crowned our winners and represented the district at the County Beaver Challenge.

However, not only were the 23rd our District winners, but their dedication, hard work and teamwork paid off as they also won the County Beaver Challenge too! We are incredibly proud of you all – well done!

Christmas Trip

This year we decided to take a different trip with the Beavers and visited Chester Zoo for their Lantern spectacular. With almost 100 Beavers and Leaders descending upon Chester Zoo, they experienced a magical evening and were mesmerized from start to finish. It was thoroughly enjoyed by those in attendance and the awe and excitement coming from the Beavers was amazing to see. We would like to thank all the leaders who gave up their time to bring their colony and provide them opportunity to take part in this fantastic event.

Once again, we would like to thank the Beavers, Parents, Leaders, Young Leaders and other helpers in enabling scouting this year. 2023 has been another successful year for Beaver Scouts in South West Cheshire Scout District and it could not have been achieved without your support. We look forwards to another 12 months of Beaver Scouts in South West Cheshire District, and all the fun events it brings.

Stephanie Fearn

Liam Potts

ADC Beavers

CUB SCOUT SECTION REPORT

What a great year the Cubs had in 2023, which was filled with groups being very active and being out and about, Camping, Climbing, Sailing to name a few; thanks must go to all the leaders and those that support these activities.

Chief Scout's Silver Award evening,

In 2023, there were 60 Silver awards certificates presented at a special event held at St Thomas More High School. We had Cubs from 1st, 3rd, 7th, 12, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 23rd, 26th, 28th, 35th R, 35thS, 38th,39th, 40th and 41st. With 8 awards up on 2022, this a fantastic achievement. We would like to say well done to all the Cubs and their Leaders for all the hard work that has gone into achieving this, the highest award for Cubs, it was great to see that the Cubs continued to complete badge work at home.

District Craft Competition

It was a pleasure to hold the district craft competition, this year Wilson House were kind enough to host the event. It is amazing to see how creative the Cubs are when they work as a team to create a model. This year it was how they wanted the new town centre to look. We had 9 teams take part, and to select a winner was not easy and the 16th won.

District Camp

238 Cubs joined Beavers, Scouts and Explorers for our first District camp in 6 years. During the weekend they took part in lots of different activities including archery, shooting, climbing, pond dipping and many more. This was an experience that will be remembered by all for a long time. Thanks to everyone involved that made this an amazing event

County visit to Chester Zoo

53 Cubs and leaders attended the County organised visit to Cheshire Zoo. Packs had a lot of fun seeing all the animals and meeting Cubs from around the district.

Sports & Tough Mudder

On September 30th we held a Sports day; during the morning the Cubs took part in a range of sports including Running, Throwing the Cricket ball, Jumping, Bean bag races and a few more which allowed them to gain their Athletes badge. This was followed by our Tug of War competition.

In the Afternoon we had a Tough Mudder race that involved teams going over the assault course, under the water poles and slide down into the stream, run through the stream and then around the field. All the Cubs were very wet and muddy but had a great time. Thanks again to the Campsite team for their great support and work in making this event memorable for all.

Christmas Party on Saturday 9th December,

The Cubs held their Christmas celebration on 9th December with over 100 Cubs attending the event at the campsite. All had great fun with Camp Fire Songs, Wide Game, Circus Skills, Craft and Hot Chocolate and a visit from Santa who fitted us into his very busy schedule. Cubs all went home with a gift from him. Thanks again to all leaders that supported the event and made it a great success.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank-you to all Leaders, Young Leaders and helpers for all the time and effort that went into 2023.

I know 2024 is going to be a great year with lots of great activities going ahead; the District Cub team is certainly planning to make this another brilliant year. A Tough Mudder in June, a County fun day In July, District camp, including Sports in September and then our Christmas party in December.

Neil Tomlinson
ADC Cubs

SCOUT SECTION REPORT

The 19 active Scout Troops in the South West District continue to deliver a diverse and challenging Scout programme despite still dealing with the longer-term effects of covid on Leader numbers.

The Scout programme covers the 9 Challenge Badges as a minimum and I am proud to say that 34 Scouts were presented with their Chief Scouts Gold Award at the County Celebrating Success event in November. In addition 3 Scouts achieved their You Shape Award.

Many Troops across the District held Summer camps and a few also held Winter camps with the Scouts enjoying the outdoors experience and learning #skillsforlife. Scouts from across the District attended the District Camp in May last year, enjoying a wide range of activities along with the Beavers, Cubs and Explorers.

Ian Potts
District Commissioner

DISTRICT EXPLORER REPORT

Meetings:

All 4 units hold regular weekly meeting in their respective partnership venues and are very well attended. With 3 different nights available to Explorers, units are finding that a number of Explorers are taking the opportunity to attend more than one meeting night. Explorers are encouraged to take part and integrate within the SWC Explorer areas, with positive vibes being received.

Awards:

Explorers were well represented at Parr Hall Awards Celebrations in 2023, with many achieving Platinum, Diamond and YL Buckle.

Fiennes:	2 Platinum Awards
Shipton:	4 Platinum Awards
	1 Diamond Award
	5 Young Leaders Explorer Buckle
	1 DofE Bronze
	1 DofE Silver

Units:

Drake:

Drake now has three new wonderful Leaders and are gaining in strength and numbers. They now have 19 members all fully participating in a varied and engaging programme. In 2023, they attended both District Camp and Summer Camp with the 35th SWC. A number of unit members took part in both the Liverpool Treasure Hunt, organised by DESC and the Manchester Monopoly Run in Manchester. Capitation was high for 2024 (£847.50) and has depleted their funds accordingly but the new leadership team have got on top of the subs issue and started fund raising to increase their working capital.

Fiennes:

As with all sections in Scouting, Fiennes do suffer from Explorer Leadership issues and rely on Scout Leaders from Wilson House to support their weekly meeting. At present Fiennes have 16 members. In 2023, they attended District Camp, and a number of unit members took part in both the Liverpool Treasure Hunt, organised by DESC and the Manchester Monopoly Run in Manchester. Fiennes have been particularly affected by the increase in Capitation for 2024 (£904.00) and have used a substantial amount from their working capital. Fiennes finances have been significantly affected by the number of non paying members, who though being chased, are still failing to pay subs.

Mallory:

Mallory like all the units are rather short on leaders, only having two, both of whom are unable to commit to being available each week due to work commitments. Mallory is running a varied explorer lead programme which is engaging and fun. In 2023, they

attended District Camp. A number of unit members took part in both the Liverpool Treasure Hunt, organised by DESC and the Manchester Monopoly Run in Manchester .

Shipton:

Shipton has the largest Explorer membership in the District and continue to grow and develop. They run a wide and varied programme and work with the local community in Sandbach, having helped out on many local charity events over the past year. Shipton had a number of different camps from Scotland, Gladstonbury (Hawarden), District Camp and winter camping. Shipton are 40 members strong and so incurred the highest proportion of capitation (£1695.00). They have a strong and forward thinking leadership team that encourage the personal development of the young people in their care.

Capitation:

Capitation has taken a toll on all units in 2024, (£4802.50) over half of their membership funds having to be used to pay their Capitation fees. An increase in subs from £104.00 to £140.00 and more focus on non paying members will, hopefully alleviate this situation in 2025.

Network:

The lack of a Network Commissioner has hampered our recruitment in this area. With no Network Commissioner, we are losing many Explorers/YL's at 18. If we are to retain Explorers/YL's, then a Network Commissioner needs urgently appointing.

Ingrid Shaw

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Cathie Wainwright District Explorer Scout Administrator

YOUNG LEADER EXPLORER SCOUTS

It has been a very productive year for the Young Leaders in South West Cheshire. Young Leaders are a great asset to any group. They are very supportive in running the weekly programme and can take a lot of pressure of the leaders.

We have been very proactive within the district with the Young Leaders and have awarded 6 Young Leader Belt Buckles. This is an amazing achievement and gives me great pleasure to award these Young Leader Belt Buckles as I know how much had work the Young Leaders have put into completing this.

All Young leader modules can be accessed via face to face or via the Cheshire Scouts Website

<https://www.cheshirescouts.org.uk/youth-programme/young-leaders-14-17/yltraining>

All Young leaders are encouraged to complete their training and obtain the Young Leader Belt buckle but also the only requirement is for them to complete Module A and attend their section meetings and help out as a leader.

We have found that a Young Leader in a section brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the section and I know a lot of leaders who have Young leaders in their sections wouldn't do without them

Many thanks to all the Leaders of the District who have supported these Young Leaders throughout their journey. I look forward to presenting many more Young Leader Belt Buckles in the near future.

Diane Blurton and Gaynor Bracey

DISTRICT YOUTH FORUM

Update on progress in the last year:

- Over the last year we have held 3 district youth forums. With each, the numbers have increased and return rate have been very good, they have gone from strength to strength.
- Explorer numbers were initially low at the forums, but this has since changed as several Scouts have moved up sections and more explorers coming in. Only 6 Scout troops are currently represented so it would be great to get this number doubled.
- The first forum looked at district camp feedback, the second was held at Milldale, with activities in the afternoon after the forum in the morning. The third focussed on planning for a district youth led event within the next year.
- County youth forums have also restarted with a new county youth lead in place, the district have attended both, with x2 14-18 year old reps also in attendance.
- As well as the forums, I have also attended 3 Team Cheshire meetings, including the strategy weekend.
- It was also really pleasing to see a number of the youth forum presented with their YouShape awards at the County Celebrating Success in event back in November. Hopefully this continues.

Issues/concerns:

- Adult support for youth forums is vital. The last forum was run purely on the minimum number of adults required. If you are willing to help out, please let me know, youth forums will roughly be 3/4 times a year.

- Recruiting on 18-24 year old reps for the county youth forum. This will also be equally concerning in 12 months time when looking for a new youth lead if there is no interest from the age group which would be applying for the role.

Plans for the next year:

- Next District youth forum is planned for 11th May & next County youth forum is 17-18th July.
- Youth forum event - Red vs Blue (vs Green) District Scout & Explorer Competition.
- Youth Shaped Support Event – I want to run a support morning across the district for ADC's, GSL's & SL's initially to help everyone understand what youth shaped Scouting actually is, and how to support running it within their own groups. This would be a pilot to then hopefully go county wide, showing South West really taking the lead with it.

Tom Austin

District Youth Commissioner

@SWC_DYC dyc@swcscouts.org.uk

SCOUT NETWORK REPORT

A new District Scout Network Commissioner was not found in 2023 and as a result there were no Network events. The restructuring of support for the 14 – 25 age group should see support for this section increased.

Ian Potts

District Commissioner

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Our District activities have built on the successes of previous years. The water remains as popular as ever, so the Swimming Club Is proving Its worth In teaching this vital life skill as well as preparing our youngsters for other activities. The Club has been well attended with a waiting list - thanks to Bob Binner for organising it, as well as to all the other Instructors.

KAYAKING got underway again In April with sessions for Permit holders and other more experienced Scouts from 2022, followed by a Taster week-end In May when nearly 60 Scouts & Explorers were able to have a go - a new experience for many.

Three Paddlesport Badge training courses took place In June and July, all fully subscribed, with many Scouts attending multiple sessions to enhance their skills and gain further badges.

Our September training session included a trip on the River Weaver, where all acquitted themselves well, despite a strong head-wind that made conditions quite challenging.

OPEN CANOEING has been rather dormant for the past few years, but we managed to run a training session for Kayak Permit holders in October, and hope that we'll gain more permits in 2024 to allow more use of our canoe fleet (which are also Ideal for Cub taster sessions).

SAILING - unfortunately our first Taster day In July had to be cancelled at short notice due to a forecast of strong winds and thunderstorms. Even more regrettably the already busy programme at Winsford Flash Sailing Club meant that we were unable to arrange a replacement, so many missed out.

However at least some amends were made on the 2nd day In September which coincided with a hot spell and saw around 110 of our young people (plus a few more leaders and helpers) out on Winsford Flash. Conditions were ideal, apart from a shortage of wind at times.

CLIMBING -The Milldale team continue to run frequent popular taster sessions - which we supplemented with 3 CLIMBING BADGE courses. leading to the awarding of over 35 Scout badges, The courses also cover most of the Explorer badge, and around 6 awards were completed after an additional visit to North West Face In Warrington to complete the higher & tougher walls there.

HILL WALKING - unfortunately It proved Impossible to find any suitable dates to offer full District days out on the hills, however a couple of Troops have managed to get Scouts out walking - particularly the 14th SWC who completed a Terrain 1 route over Stanage Edge & High Neb In the Peak District and the 3rd SWC who tackled a couple of Terrain 1 routes In Cumbria.

We still desperately need more leaders to gain Activity Permits to satisfy demand for adventures in hills and mountains.

I am always happy to offer help or advice for any Group or Section wishing to run their own activities - but regrettably few take It up (the notable exception being the 14th where I was able to provide Permit cover for their Terrain 1 walk)

My thanks, as always, goes to all our Permit holder and others who support activities on both land and water. We continue to be reliant on the leadership skills of our Young

Leaders, particularly for kayaking and climbing. Several have gained their own Permits and watching a teenager competently instruct a group of Scouts In a complex adventurous activity is particularly rewarding.

Rob Galloway
ADC (Activities)

MILLDALE CAMPSITE REPORT

Milldale continues to be popular for daytime and evening visits from within the district. Although the number of campers is still low compared to previous years, we have seen a notable increase in out-of-district groups using the site for camping.

We continue to be financially sound, maintaining a positive cash flow throughout the year and generating sufficient income to reinvest in the site. Outstanding invoices from our district have reduced significantly compared to the previous year; the new booking system is working well for us and helping keep the invoicing up to date; groups with overdue invoices are now put on stop until they settle up.

All our activities continue to be popular. We ran our second mini-mudder for the cubs, with plans to open it up to scouts this year. We ran several instructor courses throughout the year for Archery, Shooting and Crossbow (extremely popular with out-of-district leaders). We are really struggling for activity leaders, which could result in fewer evening activity sessions being run this year; depending on availability, we may have to stop evening sessions in favour of activity days, where groups can book a session but on a specific day.

A number of volunteers continue to support the site during the weekends and weekdays working on a variety of projects from widening paths through the woods for wheelchair access, pruning trees, mowing grass and refurbishing the campfire circle there are always jobs to do suiting anyone's skill level.

Looking forward, we have an extensive work schedule for 2024 including emergency bridge repairs and a new shelter with equipment that will make it easier for scout leaders to camp.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the campsite team and all the helpers for all their hard work over the past year. If you would like to get involved at the campsite, then please ask myself or a member of the campsite committee for more information. We always have the kettle on and biscuits available.

Carl Shore.
Milldale Campsite Chairman.

SHOOTING

A hectic and very successful year for the district shooting team. The overall activity was somewhat lower than in 2022 in terms of the number of events. However, participation was up by 10% with almost 1,500 people taking part in some form of activity.

Shooting has been run each month at Milldale with 35 different activities taking place. Most months we have managed to run 2 district sessions, open to all over 10 years old as well as 4 taster sessions for various groups both within SWC and from other districts.

Rifle Shooting at the District camp in April proved to be hugely popular, with 650 people having a go (many had more than one go) and 13,000 pellets being shot.

We have held 7 training courses in order to train leaders to be able to run shooting and crossbow for scouts.

The Waterloo Shooting competition & camp in June (9-11) proved to be very popular and saw 316 people take part across the weekend. Preliminary expressions of interest for 2024 shows a similar level of interest.

Support for competitions continued with the group supporting the running of the national Intercounty competition at Aldersley in May. At the competition itself 10 of the squad representing Cheshire were from the district, with Cheshire winning overall combined team gold, as well as individual medals. Scout Shoot in September at Bisley (Surrey) brought more success with 9 from SWC attending. Team overall gold was won by the SWC team, with a further 10 medals of various colours.

The Scout National Championships in October had the team support the attendance of 60 scouts and leaders from across Cheshire. The district teams won both the gold and silver medals in the Senior Connaught and retaining the trophy. The team and individuals from SWC won a further; 5 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze medals.

The year's competitions ended with the SWC team winning the Cheshire Inter District Competition. So, for the second year running that's the best teams at District, County and National levels.

We received a note of thanks from one of our former scouts Joe Baker who after representing GB at the ISSF World Championships, thanked the district team for all their support & help in getting him started in the sport.

Similarly, to the comment in last year's report it would be great to see more support from the district groups at the Saturday sessions & most of the competitors for Waterloo are from outside of the district.

The resource pool of instructors and helpers is limited, and they are overstretched. Hence, we are now needing to look at adapting the program to a more workable format, which will sadly have an impact on the levels of activity and overall success. **We are also, as always, short of adult help, so if anyone wants to dip their toe in the water and help, please let us know.**

Aaron Baxter
District Shooting Team



GANG SHOW

As you read this we are less than three weeks away from what, if rehearsals are anything to go by, will be another outstanding show. So if you haven't already done so please, please buy your tickets from the Lyceum Box Office £15 per head all areas. [Book Crewe Gang Show 2024 tickets | Lyceum Theatre Crewe \(trafalgartickets.com\)](https://trafalgartickets.com)

John Bennett
Secretary Crewe Gang Show

SCOUT & GUIDE SHOP REPORT

The Scout and Guide Shop continues to contribute significantly to District funds, although 2023 was a difficult year with costs rising. Turnover was slightly down on 2022 with all categories of sales falling. Sales of uniform and badges again contributed almost 90% of sales. In December a new card reader was purchased as the one supplied by the Guides has been withdrawn.

The continued hard work of the shop team has ensured that the shop remains open for as much of the year as possible but without groups supporting it by buying badges and encouraging parents to buy uniform it will continue to contribute less to the District financially and the District Levy may have to rise.

The small but dedicated team of Scouting and Guiding volunteers would welcome anyone who would like to join the team.

Ian Potts
District Commissioner

South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from 01/01/2023

to

31/12/2023

Receipts and payments

	2023	2022
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	£66,615	£59,617
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National / County)	£53,280	£48,289
Net membership subscriptions retained	£13,335	£11,328
Scout Shop	£8,000	£8,000
Sub total	£21,335	£19,328
Activities		
Beavers	£1,256	-
Cubs	£1,978	£639
Scouts	-	-
Explorers	-	-
Leaders	-	-
Swimming Club	£2,193	£1,276
District events, activities, training and camps	£419	£156
Sub total	£5,846	£2,071
Fundraising (gross)		
World Scouting Jamboree	£17,257	£12,204
Other fundraising activities	£347	-
Sub total	£17,604	£12,204
Other receipts		
Emptying 9 th SWC bank account	-	£2,451
3 rd SWC share of District store insurance	-	£209
Gang Show	£2,500	-
Donations	-	£300
insurance refund	£142	-
closing charity deposit account	£207	-
Electricity (DHQ) refund	-	£532
loan repayment from 17 th SWC	£2,000	-
Shipton reimbursing District for payment	-	£360
Sub total	£4,848	£3,851
Investment income		
Bank interest	£47	£8
Sub total	£47	£8
Total Gross Income	£49,680	£37,462
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-
Total receipts	£49,680	£37,462

Receipts and payments

	2023	2022
Payments		
Activities		
Beavers	£2,909	£615
Cubs	£1,721	£678
Scouts	-	-
Explorers	-	£211
Young leaders	£218	£8
Leaders	-	-
District youth forum	-	-
District events, activities, training and camps	£243	£1,330
Swimming Club	£2,792	-
Sub total	£7,882	£2,842
District running costs		
Water and Sewerage	£277	£360
Electricity and Gas	£404	£683
Insurance	£8,168	£8,112
Accountancy	£330	£300
Bank charges	£269	£268
Repairs and Renewals	£103	-
AGM and trustee expenses	£516	£1,055
MPLC (film licence)	£878	£798
Lottery licence	£20	£20
MiFi	£174	£148
Branding	£543	-
First Aid	£44	£206
Sub total	£11,726	£11,950
Exceptional expenses		
Donation to Guides	-	£1,000
Donations	-	£450
Gang Show	£2,500	£215
Payment on behalf of 14 th SWC	£382	-
Explorer Belt	-	£1,063
Paying bill for Shipton	-	£360
closing charity deposit account	£207	-
Loan to 17 th SWC	-	£12,000
Sub total	£3,089	£15,088
Fundraising expenses		
Eurojam (including refunds)	-	£1,707
World Scouting Jamboree instalments	£17,240	£23,263
Sub total	£17,240	£24,970
Total Gross Expenditure	£39,937	£54,850
Total payments	£39,937	£54,850
Net of receipts/(payments)	£9,743	-£17,388
Cash funds last year end	£80,435	£97,823
Cash funds this year end	£90,178	£80,435

Activity Accounts

Section	Receipts	Payments	Opening balance	Closing balance
Milldale	£58,407	£43,639	£48,392	£63,160
Canoe and Kayak	£1,997	£2,205	£4,358	£4,150
Sailing	£1,730	£1,290	£4,841	£5,281
Climbing & Hillwalking	£669	£551	£166	£284
Shooting	£30,189	£24,956	£1,443	£6,676
Scout Shop	£28,071	£39,839	£23,281	£11,514
Explorers	£14,522	£19,484	£15,131	£10,168
Gang Show	£7,549	£3,903	£4,343	£7,990

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31/12/2023	31/12/2022
	£	£
Cash funds		
RBS current account	£42,960	£33,058
NS&I investment account	£47,218	£47,174
The Scout Association Charity Deposit Account (closed)	-	£204
Total cash funds	£90,178	£80,435
Non monetary assets for charity's own use (insured values)		
Land and buildings	£523,828	£461,406
Motor vehicles	£25,950	£25,950
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	£146,440	£119,899
Marine	£50,810	£56,715
Sub total	£747,028	£663,970
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	-	-
Sub total	£0	£0

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 4th March 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Signature

<i>R Bennett</i>

Print Name

Richard Chaplow	Chair
Richard Bennett	Treasurer



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name

SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

On accounts for the year ended

31st DECEMBER 2023

Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages

1 to 3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

D Taylor

Date:

10 Sept 2024

Name:

DAVID TAYLOR

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

ICAEW

(if any):

Address:

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

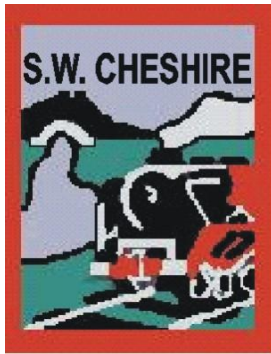
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE

SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 506895

Accounts



**SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 24th 2023

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

South West Cheshire Scout Council

March 24th 2023

- 1 Welcome by the DC
- 2 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of the District Chairman
- 3 Apologies for absence
- 4 Minutes of previous AGM held on 14th March 25th 2022
- 5 Approval of the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021
- 6 Approval of District Secretary
- 7 Approval of District Treasurer
- 8 Membership of the District Executive Committee
- 9 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee
- 10 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council
- 11 WSJ 23 presentation by participants
- 12 The District Commissioner
 - Awards
- 13 The County Commissioner

DISTRICT OFFICERS 2022

<p>Life President Mr P F Taylor</p> <p>President Vacant</p> <p>Vice Presidents Mr R Ellwood, Mr P Kent, Mr R Stafford</p> <p>Office Holders Chairperson Mr R Chaplow Treasurer Mr R Bennett Secretary Mr J Bennett</p> <p>District Executive Committee Ex-officio Chairperson Treasurer Secretary District Commissioner Deputy District Commissioner District Explorer Scout Commissioner District Network Scout Commissioner District Youth Commissioner</p> <p>Elected Members Mr A Whalley (to 2025) Mrs C Wainwright (to 2025) Mr J Barlow (to 2024) Mr D Brough (to 2026) Mrs L Grasmeder (to 2025) Mr A Evans (to 2025)</p> <p>Nominated Members Mr M Rowe Mrs L Gamble Ms D Blurton</p> <p>Co-opted Member Mr C Shore Camp Site Chair</p> <p>County Scout Council Members Mr J Whittingham</p> <p>District Chaplain Vacant</p>	<p>District Commissioner Mr I Potts</p> <p>Deputy District Commissioner Mr J Statham</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Commissioner Ms I Shaw</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Administrator Mrs C Wainwright</p> <p>District Young Leader Unit Manager Ms D Blurton</p> <p>District Network Scout Commissioner Vacant</p> <p>District Youth Commissioner Mr T Austin</p> <p>Assistant District Commissioners Beaver Scouts Miss S Fearn Beaver Scouts Mr L Potts Cub Scouts Mr N Tomlinson Scouts Mr T Clark Activities Mr R Galloway General Duties Vacant Development Vacant SAS Manager Mr J Wedgwood</p> <p>Local Training Manager Adult Training Mrs J Taylor,</p> <p>Chair Appointments Sub Committee Mrs J Wilkinson</p> <p>District Scouters Mr A Collett, Mr B Westwood, Mrs J Shore, Mrs A Bourke, Mrs M Norbury, Ms G Evanson</p> <p>Registered Charity No: 506895 Scout Association Registered No: 10808</p>
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South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 14th May 2022 Nantwich Civic Hall

1.0 Welcome

The District Commissioner, Ian Potts, took the Chair. There were 48 members and 1 guest present.

Ian opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, including the deputy county commissioner (performance) Val Thomason .

Ian announced that his nomination for District Chair was Dane Chaplow. Dane then took the chair for the remainder of the meeting. He began by asking those present to take a moment to reflect on those members and supporters of South West Cheshire Scout Council who had "Gone Home" since the 2019 AGM:

Graham Cookson Tony Stockton John Pennington Peter Norbury

2.0 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Katrina Fearn and Dave Hopley the county commissioner

3.0 Minutes of AGM held on 12th March 2021

Proposed, seconded and accepted as a true record.

4.0 Reports

The Annual District Report for 2021 was considered by the meeting. Each contributor was invited to comment. The Report was accepted with special thanks from the Chair to all contributors for their efforts during the past year.

Appointments

The report was accepted, and no questions were raised.

Secretary

Nothing to add to the report, no questions were raised.

Beavers

The report was accepted, no questions were raised. Dane thanked the Beaver team for their report and asked that his thanks be conveyed to all Beaver leaders for their work.

Cub Scouts

Again, no questions were raised by the attendees and Dane asked for thanks to be passed to all Cub Leaders for their work.

Scouts

The report was accepted, no questions were raised. Dane thanked Lise and Rob for their hard work during the year.

Explorer and Network

Nothing to add to the reports which were accepted.

District Young Leaders

Dane commented on the impressive numbers of belt buckles that had been awarded in the district and thanked Di Blurton for her efforts in managing the programme.

Milldale

Carl thanked everyone for their input and support, a lot of hard work on the site had been achieved.

Dane also thanked the Milldale team for their efforts and stated that in Milldale the district had a fantastic facility.

Activities

Sailing

The report was accepted Carl commented on the successful taster sessions run during the year.

Canoeing

The report was accepted.

Shooting

Given the huge success of Shooting in the district Ian recommended the use of the facilities at Milldale to all sections.

The DC commented on the need for additional instructors across the whole field of activities. Any offers of help please direct them to the DC.

Swimming

The report was accepted, Dane thanked the swimming team for their continuing work with the section.

Scout Shop

The report was accepted, Dane thanked everyone involved in the shop for the excellent work and reminded everyone that the income from the shop helps to sustain the district financially, without it the District Levy would increase. Please continue to use the shop. Ian commented on the work Andy Whalley had put into getting the shop back up and running after Covid. Thanks also to Rosemary Schofield and her team of guiders.

The meeting approved the annual report.

5.0 Financial Report

The annual accounts for 2021 were circulated, A number of questions were asked by members which the treasurer answered. The report as approved by the meeting.

6.0 Election of District Secretary

John Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Secretary.

7.0 Election of District Treasurer

Richard Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Treasurer.

8.0 Election of Members of the District Scout Council to the District Executive Committee.

Andy Evans and Jake Ellam were elected to the District Executive. Tom Austin, recently in post as the District Youth Commissioner was also approved as an 18 to 25 year old representative on the executive.

9.0 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee.

Ian Potts nominated the following:

Beavers: Mark Rowe

Cubs: Helen Dorney

Scouts: Lisa Gamble

Explorers & Young Leaders: Diane Blurton

10.0 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council.

John Whittingham was willing to continue in this role, the meeting agreed to this. There were no other volunteers

11.0 District Commissioner

11.1 Ian gave the following report:

As we all remember Scouting in 2021 started the way much of 2020 had been with virtual meetings and thinking of new, imaginative ideas for how to keep young people and adults engaged.

The impact of the lockdown in the early part of the year was, arguably, greater than in the whole of 2020, particularly in terms of young people leaving Scouting, possibly due to an element of Zoom fatigue.

However, we had plenty of feedback from young people and parents alike on how much Scouting activities meant to them at such a difficult time.

As the year progressed and Scouting moved back to face-to-face meetings again, there was a steady flow of groups restarting meetings and activities became more ambitious and adventurous. District events were organised and while the focus was on the outdoors that wasn't a problem for us in Scouts. In late November we held our selection event for the World Scout Jamboree in 2023 and welcomed 3 candidates from other Districts who had been unable attend their own events, an example of co-operation across the County.

I would like to thank each and every adult who supports Scouting in South West Cheshire for all that they do. The efforts of a number of Leaders were recognised by the High Sherriff of Cheshire during the year and at a ceremony at the end of November awards were presented to Andy Whalley, John Bennett, Bob Humphries, Lisa Evans, and Sue Edwards.

Our experiences during 2020 may have made looking on the bright side a difficult thing to do for many people. However, despite the challenges Scouting faced in 2020 there have been plenty of examples of our Leaders and Young People making 'the best of it'.

We have risen to the challenge of running meetings on-line, learned that Zooming isn't just a description of a group of Beavers running around a field and found out that Teams are not just what we split groups of Scouts into to play a wide game. I have been impressed by the range of activities that groups across the District have been able to run on-line, the imagination that has gone into devising new ways to achieve badges and the number of different ways that have been found to continue to deliver Scouting when we have not been able to meet face to face. From 'Bob's Badges' and OSM's Badges Online to virtual camps and Zoom meetings Leaders have covered the A to Z of how to deliver Scouting in 2020.

As a District our priorities had to change in mid-March and we had to find ways to respond to the challenges of running Scouting virtually, the issue of buildings being locked up and empty for long periods and the financial impacts posed by reduced income. With monthly District Executive Committee, GSL and ADC meetings we

rose to these challenges, sharing ideas and best practice and taking advantage of support from outside Scouting where it was available. Planned activities and events were postponed and then cancelled, including the Gang Show and Eurojam, and eventually thoughts turned to how to return to face to face Scouting safely. Just as we were starting to get back to face to face Scouting, with the appropriate adjustments and Risk Assessments in place, we were then hit with a further Covid lockdown and had to return to virtual Scouting.

Unfortunately, one of the consequences of the changes to the delivery of Scouting has been a reduction in the number of members, especially young people, many of whom have found that spending time on Zoom school lessons followed by a Zoom Scout meeting has not been enjoyable. However, one thing I am confident of is that if we can rise to the challenges 2020 presented us, we can bounce back in 2021 and beyond.

The number of people across the District who deserve thanks for their efforts over the last 12 months are too numerous to mention here but I would particularly like to thank our District Secretary, John Bennett, for his hard work and support.

Our founder once said 'A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room'. Having personally run just one face to face meeting between March and December last year this could be re-phrased as 'An hours face to face Scout meeting is worth six months of Zoom meetings'.

As we move into a new year there will be further challenges ahead. Whilst we seem to be past the worst, the pandemic is not over and we are all still taking additional precautions. Based on recent experience we can't say what might happen next.

We have seen adults at a number of groups leave the movement and the recruitment of new Leaders has been slow but is moving in the right direction.

We will need to pull together as a District to find creative ways to keep sections and groups running as we continue the recovery from the effects of Covid.

Our challenges in Scouting pale into insignificance when compared to what the residents of many Ukrainian cities are facing.

A Cub in one of our groups recently approached their Leader to say that they wanted to do something to help children in Ukraine and asked if it would be possible to ask the rest of their Pack to donate colouring books, pencils, crayons and small toys and games.

It is thoughtful acts like this that can make a real difference to people lives and remind me why I'm involved in Scouting. It is why we should be working together

to ensure Scouting continues to be available for those already involved and to make it available to those who are not.

Any of you who have been to one of our recent AGMs will know that I am fond of a Baden Powell quote. However, this year my quote is from Bear Grylls and encapsulates why I will continue to work with all of you to grow Scouting in our District.

'Every child has the right to an adventure. Life is about grabbing opportunities. The prizes don't always go to the biggest, the best and the strongest – they go to those who persevere. These are simple life lessons that Scouting teaches

12.0 The County Commissioner

12.1 Val Thomason spoke about the recovery of scouting in general in particular the recovery in South West Cheshire

12.2 She referred to the changes which are due to be implemented by 2020. One of the next changes is the replacement to Compass and how important it is for everyone to check that their personal information on Compass is accurate and up to date ahead of the proposed migration in Spring 2023

12.3 Val closed by thanking everyone involved in the delivery of scouting in the district and wished everyone continued success for the coming year.

Dane closed the meeting at 20.25.

John Bennett

District Secretary, South West Cheshire Scouts. June 2020

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT

The District Executive met on four occasions in 2021, two of these meetings were held via Microsoft Teams. Two were held at 35th premises due to accessibility issues at District HQ. The executive is working on options for DHQ. one proposal is to convert upstairs to a store principally for Gang Show costumes. Downstairs would be redeveloped so that the shop could continue to function and there would be improved meeting facilities. This is work in progress and we are working with the construction department at Reaseheath College who are providing their help free of charge.

Submission of the annual census return was completed on time. The submission of the district accounts and annual report to the Charity Commission was also completed on schedule.

The Executive was pleased to note the number of awards presented during 2022 in South West Cheshire including:

- 56 Chief Scouts Bronze Awards
- 59 Chief Scouts Silver Awards
- 30 Chief Scouts Gold Awards
- 9 Chief Scouts Platinum Awards
- 1 Chief Scouts Diamond Award
- 18 Young Leader Belt Buckles
- 4 DoE Bronze
- 2 DoE Silver

And long service Awards to:

25 years

- Ingrid Shaw
- Jacqueline Barrow
- Angela Moses
- Chard Spicer
- Heather Lightfoot
- Paul Fricker

30 years

- John Wedgwood
- John Whittingham

40 years

- Robert Galloway



It is with great sadness that we record the deaths, since the last District AGM, of former leaders and supporters of Scouting in South West Cheshire:

Nick Crossley Sandra Sandbach Alan Brereton
 Darren Raine Terry Grazier Bob Spargo

CENSUS RETURN COMPARISON

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Groups	23	23	23	22	22	22
Beaver	429	390	385	255	313	336
Cub	456	427	301	346	346	344
Scout	412	413	422	371	344	363
Explorer	104	116	138	120	122	123
Network	27	105	102	90	25	10
Adults	500	564	612	513	505	341
Total	1941	2111	2089	1978	1578	1476

*The Explorer figure includes members of the Explorer Young Leader Unit

John Bennett
District Secretary

DISTRICT APPOINTMENT TEAM'S REPORT

The Appointments Committee met on Zoom in February, April, July, October and November 2022.

A total of 30 new Scouting roles were approved. 9 changes of role were also approved, plus 1 renewal of role following a break in service, and 13 existing Leaders were approved to take on additional roles.

3 new Appointments Committee members were recruited and trained and are now active in the interview process.

Thanks to all Committee members for their continuing support and contribution to this role. It is a privilege to meet with new prospective Leaders, find out a little about them, and ensure they know what they have let themselves in for!

Changes are to be introduced in 2023 which will speed up the process of approval for new appointments and make for a much more welcoming experience for new volunteers.

The role of the Appointments Committee will change, but we will continue to function as normal until the new changes are implemented.

Jen Wilkinson
Appointments sub-committee chair

Cathie Wainwright
Appointments Secretary

BEAVER SCOUT SECTION REPORT

“The most worthwhile thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others” – Lord Robert Baden-Powell. 2022 saw our return to normality, as we were able to offer many more activities compared with recent years. This increase of activities and events meant that our Beaver scouts were able to experience all that scouting has to offer again, but none of it could have been achieved without the dedication of their sectional leadership team, parents and helpers, so we would like to start by thanking them for all they have achieved over these past 12 months.

Bronze Awards

56 young people achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Award in 2021, from 12 different groups, and so we decided to revitalise our Bronze Award ceremony and celebrate these achievements in 2022. The ceremony took a different form this year, with our

usual venue out of commission, and so we decided to embrace the outdoors and host a small ceremony at Milldale. It was attended by over 60 parents, children and leaders and was a lovely evening for all who attended. The evening ended with the opportunity for everybody to relax and catch up over bacon and hotdogs.

We would like to say a huge congratulations to all those Beavers who achieved their Chief Scouts Bronze awards in the past 12 months and we are looking forward to celebrating these achievements soon.

Fun Day

Beavers and Cubs joined forces in June as we hosted a joint fun day. Over 200 Beavers, Cubs and leaders descended on Milldale to experience a wide range of activities including the Assault Course, Crafts, Backwoods Cooking, Nerf Guns, Water Rockets, Drums, Archery and much more. The air was buzzing with excitement from start to finish.

The event was only able to take place due to the support and work from many Leaders. Thanks go to everyone involved; from the campsite team, to the District Leaders and the Car Park Team, the event could not have happened without their dedication and hard work, with many hours given up to help ensure that the site was ready before the event took place.

Special thanks must go to the Explorers and leaders who supported the event. Without their much-needed support the day would not have gone ahead as they provided support to facilitate all the different activities.

Beaver Challenge

Our Beaver Challenge returned face-to-face this year and Beavers joined forces in teams of 6 to complete a variety of different activities set by their leaders. The activities included a ping-pong challenge, identifying fruit/veg and trying to work out what the names of the different Beaver Badges were. All the Beavers worked very hard and the teamwork shown was phenomenal. In the end, the 23rd Beaver Colony were crowned our 2022 Challenge winners and represented the district at the County Beaver Challenge.

Christmas Trip

This year we returned to Amerton Farm. During the visit, the Beavers got to take part in a tractor ride, a trip through Santa's grotto guided by his elves, a visit to see the reindeer and even got to speak to Father Christmas! They were mesmerized from start to finish and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The awe and excitement were amazing to see. We would like to thank all the leaders who gave up their time to bring their colony and provide them opportunity to take part in this fantastic event.

Once again, we would like to thank the Beavers, Parents, Leaders, Young Leaders and other helpers in enabling scouting this year. Your dedication and resilience have allowed 2022 to be another successful year for Beaver Scouts in South West Cheshire Scout District. Thank you!

We cannot wait for the next 12 months as we offer even more activities and events that the Beavers will remember for years to come.

Stephanie Fearn

Liam Potts

ADC Beavers

CUB SCOUT SECTION REPORT

What a year getting back to face-to-face scouting has been. It has been great to hear about all the activities that have taken place over the last year including the Camps, outdoor adventures, and visits to numerous places. I know that the Cubs and Leaders have all enjoyed the last year.

Chief Scout's Silver Award evening,

In 2022, there were 55 Silver awards certificates presented at a special event held at St Thomas More High School. We had cubs from 1st, 3rd, 7th, 14th, 16th, 23rd, 26th, 28th, 35th R 35th S and 41st. To see this number of awards in a year of getting back to normal was a fantastic achievement. We would like to say well done to all the Cubs and their Leaders for all the hard work that has gone into achieving this, the highest award for Cubs, it was great to see that the Cubs continued to complete badge work at home.

District Craft Competition

It was a pleasure to hold the District craft competition, this year the 17th SWC were kind enough to host the event. It is amazing to see how creative the Cubs are when they work as a team to create a model. This year it was how they wanted the new town centre to look. We had 9 teams take part, and to select a winner was not easy but the 22nd SWC won and went on to represent the District at the County competition.

Chamboree

It was fantastic to see the return of the County camp, The Cubs from SWC joined Cubs from the rest of the County for two days of the international camp. I was able to visit on one of the days and saw how much the Cubs were enjoying the event; I am sure they will return as Scouts when it is held again in 2026.

Cub and Beaver Funday

In June we held a fantastic joint fun day at Milldale, over 180 Cubs and Beavers along with Leaders and Explorers and supporters attending the day. The Cubs and Beavers took part with much excitement in a range of activities including, Sports, Assault course, Crafts, Backwoods cooking, Garden games, Nerf guns, Water rockets, Spider's web, Blind trail, Beat the goalie, Drums and Orienteering. The event was only able to take place due to the support and work from many Leaders. Thanks go to everyone involved this included the camp site team, who spent many hours prior preparing for the event. The District Leaders and the Car Park Team. Special thanks must go to the Explorers and leaders.

Sports and Tough Mudder

On September 10th we held a Sports day; during the morning the Cubs took part in a range of sports including Running, Throwing the Cricket ball, Jumping, Bean bag races and a few more. This allowed them to gain their Athletes badge. This was followed by our Tug of War competition which was won by the 16th SWC. In the Afternoon we had a tough Mudder race that involved teams going over the assault course, under the water poles and slide down into the stream, run through the stream and then around the field. All the Cubs were very wet and muddy but had a great time. Thanks again to the Camp team for their great support.

Christmas Party on Saturday 4th December,

The Cubs held their Christmas celebration with over 100 Cubs attending the event at the Lifestyle Centre in Crewe. All had great fun with music, games, a fancy-dress competition and even a visit from Santa who fitted us into his very busy schedule. Cubs all went home with a gift from him. Thanks again to all leaders that supported the event and made it a great success.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank-you to all Leaders, Young Leaders and helpers for all the time and effort that went in to 2022. I know 2023 is going to be a great year with lots of great activities going ahead; the District team is certainly planning to make this another brilliant year. Hope to see you soon.

Neil Tomlinson
ADC Cubs

SCOUT SECTION REPORT

There are over 20 active Scout Troops in the South West District – however the longer-term effects of covid have seen a drop in Leader numbers but Scout numbers remain constant with several Troops having healthy waiting lists. The Scout section continues to grow across the District with an increase of 19.

Troops in the District continue to deliver the diverse Scout programme – compiling a programme that covers the 9 Challenge Badges as a minimum provides just as much of a challenge to the Leaders as it does to the Scouts who complete it!

Many Troops across the District have held Summer camps and Winter camps this year with the Scouts enjoying the outdoors experience and learning #skillsforlife.

Scouts from across the District were there in numbers at the annual Remembrance Parade in Crewe on 13th November – luckily it was a dry sunny day.

South West Scouts were again very well represented at the Celebrating Success event at Parr Hall in Warrington in November those who attended heard a fantastic motivational speech from Steve Hill MBE ‘Dream Big, Aim High and Never Give Up’. It was great to see so many SWC Scouts accept their Chief Scouts Gold Award.

The main event in 2023 will be District Camp at Milldale over the May Day bank holiday weekend in April – I’m looking forward to seeing as many Scouts and Groups there as possible – it looks like being a fantastic fun filled camp!

The New Year looks promising 😊

Tim Clark
ADC Scouts

DISTRICT EXPLORER REPORT

Meetings:

All 4 units hold regular weekly meeting in their respective partnership venues and are very well attended. With 3 different nights available to Explorers, units are finding that a number of Explorers are taking the opportunity to attend more than one meeting night. Explorers are encouraged to take part and integrate within the SWC Explorer areas, with positive vibes being received.

Awards:

Explorers were well represented at Parr Hall Awards Celebrations in 2022, with many achieving Platinum, Diamond and YL Buckle.

- Drake: 2 Young Leader Explorer Buckle
- Fiennes: 1 Young Leader Explorer Buckle
- Mallory: 4 Platinum Awards

1 Young Leader Explorer Buckle

- Shipton: 8 Platinum Awards
2 Diamond Awards
4 Young Leaders Explorer Buckle

Units:

Drake:

Drake are struggling with lack of Explorer Leaders having lost their primary Explorer Leader in January due to work commitments. Drakes remaining Explorer Leader cannot commit to weekly session, again due to his work rota commitments and usually only managers to attend once a month. Drake is at the moment staying afloat by the kind intervention of three Scout Leaders from the 35th SWC, who have committed to running the unit until September, by which time new Explorer Leaders need to be in place. A meeting was held with parents to explain the situation Drake are finding themselves and while the response was positive, no solution was found. We have reached out to Scouts ADC to see if there are any Scout Leader who maybe able to offer help, with as yet we have not been successful.

Fiennes:

After a successful early part of 2022 with Mallory ESU, Fiennes made the move to Wilson House in September. From here they have seen their numbers steadily grow and have new leaders in place to support the Explorer Leader who took the discussion to take up Wilson House offer of a Friday night meeting venue. As with all sections in Scouting, Fiennes do suffer from Explorer Leadership issues and relay on Scout Leaders from Wilson House to support their weekly meeting.

Mallory:

Mallory are now settled at the 26th SWC HQ and continue to grow, They are like all the units rather short on leader with one of their 3 leaders stepping away due to other commitments. Mallory are running a varied explorer led programme which is engaging and fun.

Shipton:

Shipton have the largest Explorer membership in the District and continue to grow and develop. They run a wide and varied programme and work with the local community in Sandbach, having helped out on many local charity events over the past year. They have a strong and forward thinking leadership team that encourage the personal development of the young people in their care.

Capitation:

Capitation has taken a toll on all units in 2022, with more than half of their membership funds having to be used to pay their Capitation fees.

Network

The lack of a Network Commissioner has hampered our recruitment in this area. With no Network Commissioner, we are losing many Explorers/YL's at 18. If we are to retain Explorers/YL's, then a Network Commissioner needs urgently appointing.

Future Events:

The District Explorers are putting on a number of events this coming year, a treasure hunt in Liverpool and Manchester Monopoly, aimed at both Explorers and Young Leaders, so along with District Camp they are appearing to be very well received.

Ingrid Shaw

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Cathie Wainwright District Explorer Scout Administrator

YOUNG LEADER EXPLORER SCOUTS

It has been a very productive year for the Young Leaders in South West Cheshire. Young Leaders are a great asset to any group. They are very supportive in running the weekly programme and can take a lot of pressure of the leaders.

We have been very pro active within the district with the Young Leaders and from July 2021 until the award Ceremony deadline in October 2022 we awarded 9 Young Leader Belt Buckles.

All Young Leader modules can be accessed via face to face or via the Cheshire Scouts Website

<https://www.cheshirescouts.org.uk/youth-programme/young-leaders-14-17/yltraining>

Young leader modules are run as follows:

Module A - 3 times a year – Module A is mandatory for all young leaders and D of E participants.

Modules B-I -2 times a year these are not mandatory but must be completed to achieve the young leader belt buckle.

Module K – First Aid level 4 and above –2 times a year.

All Young leaders are encouraged to complete their training and obtain the Young Leader Belt buckle but if they only want to do the minimum of training then they only have to complete Module A and attend their section meetings and help out as a leader. I would like to see every group if not every section in the district have a young leader within.

DISTRICT YOUTH FORUM

The past year has been more about me trying to understand the role of district youth commissioner and exploring different avenues to how to successfully bring that to groups.

I have had the chance more recently over the past few months to meet the other youth commissioners from around Cheshire at Team Cheshire events to help develop those connections and share ideas together.

I have developed a Youth Shaped guide, which hopefully is also distributed out, to give sections ideas on how they can integrate youth shaped Scouting easily to their programs, as its more than just getting a handful of program ideas once a term. I would encourage everyone to take time to read through it and would be happy to any questions or to offer any support to groups, my contact details are below.

We did have plans for a district camp youth forum but unfortunately due to a clash of dates and availability that was unable to happen. Future forums are planned for June, September & December in 2023. I would welcome people's thoughts on possible topics to cover during the latter two and would also welcome support from people in order for the sessions to run. The plan for the forums so far would just be for half days, but would happily extend these to full day sessions if the support and ideas for them was there. Potentially I would like to explore the possibility of organising one of the autumn sessions at Milldale to hopefully make the sessions different so the attendees feel more relaxed rather than being confined to tables and chairs in a hut.

As with most things Scouting, in order for the forums to run, additional leader support will be required, so if you are able to support in any way, please again contact me on the below and I'd be very grateful.

Tom Austin

District Youth Commissioner

@SWC_DYC dyc@swcscouts.org.uk

SCOUT NETWORK REPORT

A new District Scout Network Commissioner was not found in 2022 and is still being sought. As a result there were no Network events in 2022.

Ian Potts

District Commissioner

ACTIVITIES REPORT

KAYAKING built on the successful foundations from 2021, with many Scouts returning to enhance their skills and gain further Staged badges. Although the Taster Day was not as well attended as we'd hoped, we still had 50 Scouts having a go and all who came had a great time. Over 30 returned to join further training sessions. Achievements included:

- Around 100 of our young people paddled kayaks
- 5 week-end Paddlesport Badge Courses (all fully booked)
- 30 Scouts achieved Stage 2 badge
- 11 Scouts achieved Stage 3 badge
- Various Taster sessions for Scouts and Cubs
- An expedition down the River Dee in July with an opportunity to practise 'moving water' skills on Chester Weir
- An afternoon spent on Winsford Flash and exploring parts of the River Weaver
- A River trip down the Severn from Shrewsbury to Atcham.

A good year was rounded off when one Explorer and one Scout successfully passed an assessment to gain their Activity Permits which will enable them to join our instructor team in the coming year.

SAILING back for the first time since 2019. Unfortunately we do not have any qualified Scout instructors of our own at the moment, so we joined forces with Winsford Flash Sailing Club (WFSC) to enable all our young people to try this exciting activity.

The first Taster session took place on a very hot day in July and proved hugely enjoyable. Although the wind was a little light at times, it did provide an opportunity to have a lot of fun with water pistols and not many ended up dry.

Over 100 of our Scouts and Cubs took part over 6 sessions with each having almost an hour on the water. An excellent BBQ put on by the Club rounded things off nicely. The second session in late September was rather cooler – but no less successful. We opened this one up to Beavers and it was good to see our youngest members enjoying themselves too. Again all places were fully booked and the day saw around 105 of our youngsters on the water.

My thanks go to WFSC and their Cadet section for their help with these events which have been run most professionally. We have a couple of Scouts / Explorers who have been Club members for some years (and who helped to 'helm' the boats for our Taster sessions), and other families have now joined the Club as a direct result of the Taster days.

CLIMBING during the October half-term we ran a full day Climbing Badge course at Milldale where Scouts & Explorers were given a full grounding in:

- Safety aspects of climbing
- How to fit harnesses and helmets correctly
- Explanation and care for ropes and all other equipment
- Belaying techniques

And of course they had loads of opportunities to practise on all the routes of our Climbing and Abseiling walls, their ability and confidence grew dramatically during the course of the day and we ended up with some competent climbers, belayers and abseilers all wanting to try higher and more difficult routes.

Unfortunately a second course planned in December had to be cancelled at short notice due to poor weather.

HILLWALKING our first SWC District Day in the hills saw 2 groups exploring the Peak District around the Goyt Valley (not far from the 'Cat & Fiddle'). The route included 2 Trig points in "Terrain 1" (i.e. higher than 500 metres). Unfortunately the cloud descended as they reached the summit of Shining Tor, but the weather improved later and they were rewarded with some great views at the top of Burbage Edge.

SWIMMING CLUB another welcome return for the first time since the Pandemic. Thanks go to Bob Binner for taking on the organising and it has been wonderful to see good numbers of Scouts and Cubs enthusiastically wanting to improve their swimming. Several had gained new badges by the end of the year with lots more progressing well.

So it has been a busy year and with every activity fully booked, it remains clear that our Young People are still attracted by exciting traditional activities that take them away from electronic devices and often far out of their comfort-zones.

The only regret is that there are still some Groups where we have had no youngsters applying to take part at all – and fear that information about opportunities is not reaching everyone.

I continue to be immensely impressed by the ability of our Young Leader Permit holders who show maturity and leadership skills that would be the envy of many adults. They form a key part of our instructor teams allowing more of our Young People to take part in activities.

2023 will continue to build on what has already been achieved, but as usual the limiting factor is leader / instructor availability. My sincere thanks go to all who have helped this year. From a quick calculation I'd estimate that Permit Holders and helpers have given up a combined total of at least 450 hours of their time to provide this year's fun!

Rob Galloway
ADC (Activities)

MILLDALE CAMPSITE REPORT

Milldale has had a successful year, with the number of people using the site slowly returning to pre-pandemic levels. Daytime and evening visits improved significantly; the number of campers is still down however; we are hopeful this will improve in the coming year.

We continue to be financially sound, maintaining a positive cash flow throughout the year, and generating sufficient income to reinvest into the site. However, we have ~5k of outstanding invoices from our district, and we are in the process of launching a new booking system that will help elevate this in the future. The booking system will allow users to book online and see availability.

All our activities continue to be popular. We ran our first mini mudder for the cubs, with plans to open it up to others later this year. We ran several instructor courses throughout the year for Climbing, Pizza Oven, Shooting and Crossbow (All well attended with leaders from afar as Scotland, however, we only had a few from our district that then support the activities team at the site.

A number of volunteers continue to support the site during the weekends and weekdays working on a variety of projects from widening paths through the woods for wheelchair access, pruning trees, mowing grass and refurbishing the campfire circle there are always jobs to do suiting anyone's skill level.

Looking forward, we have an extensive work schedule for 2023 everything from replacing the grass cart track to bridge repairs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the campsite team and wardens for all their hard work over the past year and a special thank you to the 3 young people that come down to the site come rain or shine almost every Sunday to help. If you would like to get involved at the campsite, then please ask myself or a member of the campsite committee for more information. We always have the kettle on and biscuits available (you will have to fight the for the Jaffa Cakes)

Carl Shore
Milldale Campsite Chairman.

SHOOTING

A really hectic and very successful year for the district shooting team. Shooting has been run every month at Milldale with 61 different activities taking place. Most months we have run 2 district sessions at Milldale open to all over 10 years old as well as 20 taster sessions for various groups both within SWC and from other districts. Some new equipment has been purchased and other facilities improved.

We have supported cub camps, Milldale leader's taster days, Milldale activities and leader events at County level. 6 courses have been held to train leaders to be able to run shooting and crossbow for scouts and we have attended 4 competitions away from Milldale as well as running the Waterloo Shooting Competition in June with over 250 competitors attending (9-11 June for the 2023 event).

On the competition front we organised and ran the Intercounty event at Aldersley and 6 of the team of 8 representing Cheshire were from SWC. This team successfully won the event for the county.

The Scout shoot at Bisley was won by Hannah Evans (as well as Hannah winning 4 other trophies) and the best team was from SWC. The National event again at Bisley held in October was again a clean sweep for SWC with a team from the 1st winning the Junior Connaught Shield and the 28th Wybunbury achieving 6th place and the district team winning the Senior Connaught Trophy with the Fiennes ESU in second place.

The year's competition ended with the SWC team winning the Cheshire Inter District Competition. So that's the best teams at District, County and National levels.

In total this was about 1400 people who attended shooting sessions in the year. It would be great to see more support from the district groups at the Saturday shooting sessions, only 2 groups have many people attend these, and at Waterloo and the National events. Most of the competitors at Waterloo are from out of the district with only 6 district groups supporting the event and at the Nationals we only entered teams from 2 groups and one team representing the district.

As with anything the small number of instructors and helpers who run the shooting squad are overstretched and this level of activity, and success will not be sustainable without more help, and it may be necessary to adapt it to a more workable format. We are also, as always, short of adult help, so if anyone wants to dip their toe in the water and help, please let us know.

Andrew Brookes
District Shooting Advisor

GANG SHOW

After a four year, Covid enforced, break the show came back at the end of April with a bang and a big one at that. It was not without its problems some of them financial, including ticket sales and a reduction in cast numbers which in turn affected ticket sales. We just broke even in 2022, the aim is not to make a profit but we do need to

break even and therefore have enough in reserve to cover the set up costs of the following show. Discussions with other shows around the country reveal that they were suffering the same issues undoubtedly a knock on from Covid.

After a lot of hard work by the cast and support team we put on a top class show, new friendships were forged, new skills were developed and everyone benefited from the experience of performing in a "real theatre" Everyone is now looking forward to doing it all again in 2024. The Lyceum Theatre is booked from 29th April until 4th May (Two shows on 4th May). The management team will be visiting all groups in early September to promote the show and we hope that group leaders will encourage their beavers, cubs and scouts to sign up for the show. Similarly we are keen to recruit behind the scenes personnel (over 18's) to help with a myriad of jobs. Please contact me if you want more information.

After the 2018 show there was a widely expressed view that this was the best show we had ever put on. The 2020 show was pulled less than 6 weeks before we were due to go into the theatre. A lot of hard work had gone into 2020 and the signs were it would surpass 2018. Despite the trials and tribulations of the Covid years everyone was keen to better the 2018 show. In the event the 2022 show was very well received with standing ovations very night. The challenge now will be to promote 2024 in terms of cast/crew recruitment and thereby improve ticket sales.

John Bennett
Secretary Crewe Gang Show

SCOUT & GUIDE SHOP REPORT

The Scout and Guide Shop was open all year again in 2022 after 2 years of disruption. Turnover in 2022 was up on 2021 but still below pre-pandemic levels in 2019. There have continued to be supply issues with both uniform and badges but the continued hard work of the shop team has ensured that orders have been filled as soon as possible. Almost 90% of sales are of uniform and badges continuing the trend in recent years towards these two lines. The shop team continue to sell old hardware stock and have successfully sold the last water carrier after a couple of years of trying.

The sterling efforts of Rosemary Schofield, Andrew Whalley, Abi Woodcock and Chris Wood have ensured that the shop has continued to flourish and they have been ably supported by a small but dedicated team of Scouting and Guiding volunteers. If you would like to join the team, I know you would be welcomed.

Ian Potts
District Commissioner

South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from 01/01/2022

to

31/12/2022

Receipts and payments

	2022	2021
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	£59,617	£48,331
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National / County)	£48,289	£42,142
Net membership subscriptions retained	£11,328	£6,190
Donations	£0	£0
Network	-	-
Gift Aid	£0	£0
Scout Shop	£8,000	£0
Sub total	£19,328	£6,190
Activities		
Beavers	-	-
Cubs	£639	£753
Scouts	-	-
Explorers	-	-
Leaders	-	-
Swimming Club	£1,276	£964
District events, activities, training and camps	£156	£460
Sub total	£2,071	£2,177
Fundraising (gross)		
World Scouting Jamboree	£12,204	-
Eurojam (including refunds)	-	£3,770
Other fundraising activities	-	£525
Sub total	£12,204	£4,295
Other receipts		
Business grants	-	£11,002
Emptying 9 th SWC bank account	£2,451	-
3 rd SWC share of District store insurance	£209	-
Donations	£300	£80
38 th SWC refunding payment	-	£1,472
Maintenance	-	-
Electricity (DHQ)	£532	-
10 th SWC	£0	£0
loan repaid by Milldale	£0	£0
Shipton reimbursing District for payment	£360	-
Sub total	£3,851	£12,554
Investment income		
Bank interest	£8	£337
Sub total	£8	£337
Total Gross Income	£37,462	£25,552
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-
Total receipts	£37,462	£25,552

South West Cheshire District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from 01/01/2022

to

31/12/2022

Receipts and payments

	2022	2021
Payments		
Activities		
Beavers	£615	-
Cubs	£678	£824
Explorers	£211	-
Young leaders	£8	-
District events, activities, training and camps	£1,330	£764
Sub total	£2,842	£1,588
District running costs		
Water and Sewerage	£360	£166
Electricity and Gas	£683	£582
Insurance	£8,112	£8,087
Accountancy	£300	£300
Bank charges	£268	£149
AGM and trustee expenses	£1,055	£588
CVS Licence	-	£45
MPLC (film licence)	£798	£688
Lottery licence	£20	£20
MiFi	£148	£138
First Aid	£206	-
Sub total	£11,950	£10,762
Exceptional expenses		
Donation to Guides	£1,000	£1,800
Donations	£450	£200
Gang Show (including loan)	£215	£5,203
Payment on behalf of 38 th SWC	-	£1,472
Explorer Belt	£1,063	-
Paying bill for Shipton	£360	-
Loan to 17 th SWC	£12,000	-
Sub total	£15,088	£8,675
Fundraising expenses		
Distributed proceeds of fundraising	-	£162
Eurojam (including refunds)	£1,707	£4,784
World Scouting Jamboree instalments	£23,263	-
Other fundraising costs	£0	£0
Sub total	£24,970	£4,946
Total Gross Expenditure	£54,850	£25,971
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-
Total payments	£54,850	£25,971
Net of receipts/(payments)	£-17,388	£-418
Cash funds last year end	£97,823	£98,241
Cash funds this year end	£80,435	£97,823

Activity Accounts

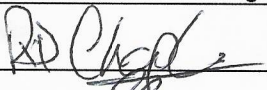
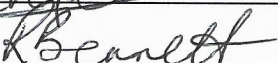
Section	Receipts	Payments	Opening balance	Closing balance
Milldale	£23,259	£23,267	£48,401	£48,392
Canoe and Kayak	£2,584	£446	£2,219	£4,358
Sailing	£2,300	£1,270	£3,811	£4,841
Shooting	£28,589	£28,833	£1,687	£1,443
Scout Shop	£36,130	£36,560	£23,711	£23,281
Explorers	£9,339	£12,614	£18,406	£15,131
Gang Show	£12,637	£15,854	£7,560	£4,343

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	£	£
Cash funds		
RBS current account	£33,058	£50,453
NS&I investment account	£47,174	£47,169
The Scout Association Charity Deposit Account	£204	£201
Total cash funds	£80,435	£97,823
Non monetary assets for charity's own use (insured values)		
Land and buildings	£461,406	£422,783
Motor vehicles	£25,950	£25,950
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	£119,899	£103,449
Marine	£56,715	£56,715
Sub total	£663,970	£608,897
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	-	-
Sub total	£0	£0

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 7th March 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Signature

Print Name

Richard Chaplow	Chair
Richard Bennett	Treasurer



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name

SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SLOUT COUNCIL

On accounts for the year ended

31st December 2022

Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages

1 to 3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

D Taylor

Date:

19 September 2023

Name:

DAVID TAYLOR

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

ICAEW

(if any):

Address:

Section B	Disclosure	
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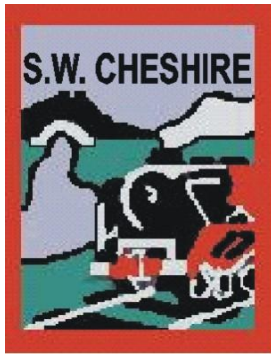
Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 506895

Accounts



**SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 25th 2022

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

South West Cheshire Scout Council

March 25th 2022

- 1 Welcome by the DC
- 2 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of the District Chairman
- 3 Apologies for absence
- 4 Minutes of previous AGM held on 14th May 2021
- 5 Approval of the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021
- 6 Approval of District Secretary
- 7 Approval of District Treasurer
- 8 Election of Members of the District Scout Council to the District Executive Committee
- 9 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee
- 10 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council
- 11 The District Commissioner
 - Awards
- 12 The County Commissioner

DISTRICT OFFICERS 2021

<p>Life President Mr P F Taylor</p> <p>President Vacant</p> <p>Vice Presidents Mr R Ellwood, Mr P Kent, Mr R Stafford</p> <p>Office Holders Chairperson Mr R Chaplow Treasurer Mr R Bennett Secretary Mr J Bennett</p> <p>District Executive Committee Ex-officio Chairperson Treasurer Secretary District Commissioner Deputy District Commissioner District Explorer Scout Commissioner District Network Scout Commissioner District Youth Commissioner</p> <p>Elected Members Mr A Whalley (to 2022) Mrs C Wainwright (to 2023) Mr J Barlow (to 2024) Mr D Brough (to 2023)</p> <p>Nominated Members Mr M Rowe Mrs L Gamble Ms D Blurton</p> <p>Co-opted Member Mr C Shore Camp Site Chair</p> <p>County Scout Council Members Mr J Whittingham</p> <p>District Chaplain Vacant</p> <p>Registered Charity No: 506895 Scout Association Registered No: 10808</p>	<p>District Commissioner Mr I Potts</p> <p>Deputy District Commissioner Mr J Statham</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Commissioner Ms I Shaw</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Administrator Mrs C Wainwright</p> <p>District Young Leader Unit Manager Ms D Blurton</p> <p>District Network Scout Commissioner Vacant</p> <p>District Youth Commissioner Vacant</p> <p>Assistant District Commissioners Beaver Scouts Miss S Fearn Beaver Scouts Mr L Potts Cub Scouts Mrs J Carlin Cub Scouts Mr N Tomlinson Scouts Mr T Clark Scouts Mrs L Grasmeder Activities Mr R Galloway General Duties Vacant Development Vacant SAS Manager Mr J Wedgwood</p> <p>Local Training Manager Adult Training Mrs J Taylor,</p> <p>Chair Appointments Sub Committee Mrs J Wilkinson</p> <p>District Scouters Mr A Collett, Mr B Westwood, Mrs J Shore, Mrs A Bourke, Mrs M Norbury, Ms G Evanson</p> <p>District Advisers Archery Ms D Blurton Mountaineering Vacant Shooting Mr A Brookes Sailing Mr I Brown Canoeing Mr A Sutton DOE Scheme Mrs R Edwards Swimming Mr R Binner</p>
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South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 14th May 2021 Online Via Microsoft Teams

1.0 Welcome

The District Commissioner, Ian Potts, took the Chair. There were 42 members and 1 guest present.

Ian opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, particularly the new County Commissioner Dave Hopley. Ian proposed a change to the district constitution to enable this meeting to take place online. The proposal had already been agreed by the district exec. The meeting agreed to the change.

Ian announced that his nomination for District Chair was Dane Chaplow. Dane then took the chair for the remainder of the meeting. He began by asking those present to take a moment to reflect on those members and supporters of South West Cheshire Scout Council who had "Gone Home" since the 2019 AGM:

Graham Cookson. Les Davidson and Kath Titley.

2.0 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Amanda Harris, Andy Whalley, Steve Bullock, and Tim Clark.

3.0 Minutes of AGM held on 12th June 2020

Proposed, seconded and accepted as a true record.

4.0 Reports

The Annual District Report for 2020 was considered by the meeting. Each contributor was invited to comment. The Report was accepted with special thanks from the Chair to all contributors for their efforts during the past year.

Appointments

The report was accepted, and no questions were raised.

Secretary

Nothing to add to the report, no questions were raised.

Beavers

The report was accepted, no questions were raised. Dane thanked the Beaver team for their report and asked that his thanks be conveyed to all Beaver leaders for their work.

Cub Scouts

Again, no questions were raised by the attendees and Dane asked for thanks to be passed to all Cub Leaders for their work.

Scouts

The report was accepted, no questions were raised. Dane thanked Lise and Rob for their hard work during the year.

Explorer and Network

Nothing to add to the reports which were accepted.

Milldale

Carl thanked everyone for their input and support, a lot of hard work on the site had been achieved.

Dane also thanked the Milldale team for their efforts and stated that in Milldale the district had a fantastic facility.

Activities

Sailing

The report was accepted Carl commented on the successful taster sessions run during the year.

Canoeing

The report was accepted.

Shooting

Given the huge success of Shooting in the district Ian recommended the use of the facilities at Milldale to all sections.

The DC commented on the need for additional instructors across the whole field of activities. Any offers of help please direct them to the DC.

Swimming

The report was accepted, Dane thanked the swimming team for their continuing work with the section.

Scout Shop

The report was accepted, Dane thanked everyone involved in the shop for the excellent work and reminded everyone that the income from the shop helps to sustain the district financially, without it the District Levy would increase. Please continue to use the shop.

The meeting approved the annual report.

5.0 Financial Report

The annual accounts for 2020 were circulated, these were approved without comment from members

6.0 Election of District Secretary

John Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Secretary.

7.0 Election of District Treasurer

Richard Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Treasurer.

8.0 Election of Members of the District Scout Council to the District Executive Committee.

Marilyn Norbury, Cathie Wainwright and David Brough were elected to the District Executive.

9.0 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee.

Ian Potts nominated the following:

Beavers: Mark Rowe

Cubs: Helen Dorney

Scouts: Lisa Gamble

Explorers & Young Leaders: Diane Blurton

10.0 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council.

John Whittingham was willing to continue in this role, the meeting agreed to this. There were no other volunteers

11.0 District Commissioner

11.1 Ian gave the following report:

My report last year ended with a quote from our Founder, Lord Baden Powell: 'Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.'

Our experiences during 2020 may have made looking on the bright side a difficult thing to do for many people. However, despite the challenges Scouting faced in 2020 there have been plenty of examples of our Leaders and Young People making 'the best of it'.

We have risen to the challenge of running meetings on-line, learned that Zooming isn't just a description of a group of Beavers running around a field and found out that Teams are not just what we split groups of Scouts into to play a wide game. I have been impressed by the range of activities that groups across the District have been able to run on-line, the imagination that has gone into devising new ways to achieve badges and the number of different ways that have been found to continue to deliver Scouting when we have not been able to meet face to face. From 'Bob's Badges' and OSM's Badges Online to virtual camps and Zoom meetings Leaders have covered the A to Z of how to deliver Scouting in 2020.

As a District our priorities had to change in mid-March and we had to find ways to respond to the challenges of running Scouting virtually, the issue of buildings being locked up and empty for long periods and the financial impacts posed by reduced income. With monthly District Executive Committee, GSL and ADC meetings we rose to these challenges, sharing ideas and best practice and taking advantage of support from outside Scouting where it was available. Planned activities and events were postponed and then cancelled, including the Gang Show and Eurojam, and eventually thoughts turned to how to return to face to face Scouting safely. Just as we were starting to get back to face to face Scouting, with the appropriate adjustments and Risk Assessments in place, we were then hit with a further Covid lockdown and had to return to virtual Scouting.

Unfortunately, one of the consequences of the changes to the delivery of Scouting has been a reduction in the number of members, especially young people, many of whom have found that spending time on Zoom school lessons followed by a Zoom Scout meeting has not been enjoyable. However, one thing I am confident of is that if we can rise to the challenges 2020 presented us, we can bounce back in 2021 and beyond.

The number of people across the District who deserve thanks for their efforts over the last 12 months are too numerous to mention here but I would particularly like to thank our District Secretary, John Bennett, for his hard work and support.

Our founder once said 'A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room'. Having personally run just one face to face meeting between March and December last year this could be re-phrased as 'An hours face to face Scout meeting is worth six months of Zoom meetings'.

12.0 The County Commissioner

- 12.1** Dave Hopley gave a slide presentation and discussed a number of topics:
- 12.2** He started by echoing everything Dane and Ian had said and commented that Scouting was more important than anything.
He referred to the four priorities of Scouting:
Delivering the Programme
Recruiting and Motivating Volunteers
Funding Scouting
Keeping Everyone Safe
- 12.3** In referring to Home Scouting Dave said that he was humbled by the way leaders had continued to deliver Scouting during lockdown. He thanked Craig Shaw for the series of “How to” videos.
- 12.4** Speaking about a slide entitled Be Kind. Dave said there was evidence of kindness in buckets. He gave a shout out to Joshua from Wistaston who had cycled at least 10 miles every day for 26 days to raise money for the NHS
- 12.5** The census figures for Cheshire are broadly in line with the national trends and we have retained 80% of our membership during the pandemic, He congratulated those groups who have shown growth during the last year.
- 12.6** In looking at the year ahead he mentioned Cheshire Hike which is planned for 2nd and 3rd April 2022
- 12.7** Dave finished by saying that you are amazing and paid tribute to Ian, the district exec and everyone in SWC for keeping Scouting going.

Dane closed the meeting at 20.25.

John Bennett

District Secretary, South West Cheshire Scouts. June 2020

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT

The District Executive met on four occasions in 2021, all the meetings were held via Microsoft Teams.

Submission of the annual census return was completed on time. The submission of the district accounts and annual report to the Charity Commission was also completed on schedule. In addition, the district submitted an interim report to HQ on youth membership numbers in October 2021.

The Executive was pleased to note the number of awards presented during 2020 and 2021 in South West Cheshire including:

- 72 Chief Scouts Bronze Awards
- 61 Chief Scouts Silver Awards
- 25 Chief Scouts Gold Awards
- 2 Chief Scouts Platinum Awards
- 2 Chief Scouts Diamond Awards
- 18 Young Leader Belt Buckles
- 4 DoE Bronze
- 3 DoE Silver

Award for Merit

Jacqueline Bloor

Paul Goodwin

Elizabeth Hough

Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service

Catherine Jones

Tina Jones

Long Service Awards

2020

Peter Taylor - 60 Years

Michael Bennion - 50 Years

Jim Thompson - 50 Years

Olive Ward - 50 Years

2021

William Elliot - 60 Years

Gillian Evanson - 40 Years

Martyn Booth - 30 Years

Carl Shore - 30 Years

Jacqueline Shore - 30 Years



It is with great sadness that we record the deaths, since the last District AGM, of former leaders and supporters of Scouting in South West Cheshire:

David Ballard John Pennington Tony Stockton
 Colin Germain Bob Jones Peter Norbury
 Rev. Ken Sambrook Ian Russell

CENSUS RETURN COMPARISON

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Groups	24	24	23	23	23	22	22
Beaver	404	416	429	390	385	255	313
Cub	466	480	497	456	427	301	346
Scout	453	400	412	413	422	371	344
Explorer	103	118	104	116	138	120	122
Network		27	105	102	90	25	10
Adults	414	500	564	612	513	505	341
Total	1840	1941	2111	2089	1978	1578	1476

*The Explorer figure includes members of the Explorer Young Leader Unit

John Bennett
District Secretary

DISTRICT APPOINTMENT TEAM'S REPORT

The Appointments Committee has continued to meet on Zoom throughout 2021. Using this technology means that candidates can be interviewed wherever they are, a bonus when it comes to interviewing University students!

There were 6 interview meetings in 2021, during which a total of 37 new Section Leaders, Assistant Section Leaders and Sectional Assistants were appointed. The Committee also considered and approved additional roles for 8 Leaders, and 16 changes of role.

We recruited and trained 3 new members for the Committee. They are all now active on the interviewing panel.

My thanks, as ever, to our committee members for their continued support and for contributing to this very important part of the selection process for new prospective Leaders.

We are often asked why there is a long wait for interviews after the forms have been submitted. The most common reason is that we wait for the references to be received before the candidate is added to the list for interview. Cathie spends a great deal of her time chasing references! Candidates can help speed up the process by just asking their referees to respond to our request at their earliest convenience, and GSLs can help too with regular reminders to candidates to ensure their references have been submitted. Candidates can begin their Getting Started training before they have been interviewed, but their appointment will remain provisional until that training is completed, and they have been approved by the Appointments Committee.

Jen Wilkinson
Appointments Sub-Committee chair

Cathie Wainwright
Appointments Secretary

BEAVER SCOUT SECTION REPORT

Resilience. Fortitude. Gratitude. These are some of the key strengths we have seen displayed this year by our fantastic leaders and helpers, all of whom have been there to support Beaver Scout's on their journeys of success. 2021 was filled with many mixed emotions due to the pandemic, but we are fortunate to have had such dedicated individuals pioneering the scouting vision. Without the hard work of the Parents, Leaders and Young Leaders during this difficult time, we would not be here today.

For the first time since we can remember, we were unable to hold a Bronze Award ceremony. Despite this, we were still able to celebrate the fact that 72 Beavers completed their Bronze Awards during this difficult period. This is further testament to the hard work of the Leaders and Parents in providing opportunities to still thrive despite numerous lockdowns. Each Bronze Award recipient was sent a personalised letter and a certificate to commemorate their achievement.

We moved our Beaver Challenge online this year, where we challenged Beavers to complete in four weeks a wide variety of tasks including making a jam sandwich with one hand, climbing through a piece of A4 paper and, a Beaver favourite, balancing as many biscuits on your head as possible. Many groups took part in this and we had lots of positive feedback. This then became inspiration for our celebration of the Beaver 35th Anniversary.

In July, we extended the number of challenges to 35 different fun and unique tasks, designed to promote investigation, puzzle solving and a love of the outdoors. This was well received during the summer holidays, with parents and leaders commenting about how it had given families things to do whilst stuck at home.

Unfortunately, Sports Day was also unable to be held this year – but that did not stop us! Each group was invited to partake in 7 different sports day races. We had several groups partake, with Beavers from across the county competing for the fastest times. The 23rd SWC (Wheelock) Beaver Scouts became the 2021 Sports Day champions.

Our year ended with a trip to Milldale for a Christmas celebration. Beavers took part in a scavenger hunt, fire-lighting, pedal kart racing and had a special visit from Santa. The Beavers had a fantastic time, and we are thankful for all the leaders and helpers who gave up their time to enable us in being able to hold this event.

Once again, we would like to thank the Beavers, Parents, Leaders, Young Leaders and other helpers in enabling scouting this year. It has been difficult for many people, but with your dedication and resilience, 2021 has been another successful year for Beaver Scouts in South West Cheshire Scout District.

We are now looking forward to the next 12 months; the return of face-to-face events and the continuation of providing life-long skills for all Beaver Scouts in the district.

Stephanie Fearn
Liam Potts
ADC Beavers

CUB SCOUT SECTION REPORT

2021 did not start the way we had hoped, and we had to work a bit differently beginning of the year although the later part of the year has turned out better for us all and we could get back to some normality.

We have continued to catch up on Zoom for our Leaders' meetings during the year. It was good to hear about everything the packs had been up to. Although more recently we have been able to catch up face to face at the events we have held. It has been great to see people and share ideas and support each other as well as hear about all the great things Cub Leaders have achieved with their Cub packs.

We know how much hard work the Leaders have continued to do and working on Teams, Zoom, Face to Face indoors and outdoors and this has been great.

Silver Awards

In February, we were not going to allow Covid to stop the Chief Scout's Silver Award evening, we had a special guest speaker, Megan Giglia Para Olympian and Pam Owen (Assistant County Commissioner Cubs). A bit of extra planning took place and certificates were sent out in advance to 61 Cubs from fourteen packs who had achieved their award in 2021: 1st, 3rd, 7th, 14th, 17th, 18th, 22nd, 23rd, 26th, 28th, 30th, 38th, 39th, and 41st.

To see this number of awards in a tough year was a fantastic achievement. We would like to say well done to all the Cubs and their Leaders for all the hard work that has gone into achieving this, the highest award for Cubs, it was great to see that the Cubs continued to complete badge work at home. A fantastic achievement to all.

Funday

In October we held a fun day at Milldale, although a little cold and damp this did not stop over 160 Cubs, Leaders and Explorers and supporters attending the day.

The Cubs took part with much excitement in a range of activities including, Sports, Assault course, Crafts, Backwoods cooking, Garden games, Nerf guns, Water rockets, Spider's web, Blind trail, Beat the goalie, Drums, Orienteering, Circus skills and much more.

The event was only able to take place due to the support and work from many Leaders. Thanks go to everyone involved this included the camp site team, who spent many hours prior preparing for the event due to the site not been in use for a long period due to Covid restrictions. The District Leaders and the Car Park Team.

Special thanks must go to the Explorers and leaders who supported the event and without their much needed support the day would not have gone ahead as they provided support to facilitate activities and they also enjoyed a well-earned evening

camping after the event the first night camping for many of them for some time. All in all, the day was a great success and enjoyed by all, thanks again.

Christmas Party

On Saturday 4th December, The Cubs held their Christmas celebration over 100 Cubs attended the event at the Lifestyle Centre in Crewe, all had great fun with music, games a fancy-dress competition and even a visit from Santa who fitted us into his very busy schedule. Cubs all went home with a selection box. Along with this we have donated 50 Selection boxes split between the Food bank at St Pauls, The Rotary Club and the Children's Ward at Leighton Hospital. Thanks again to all leaders that supported the event and made it a great success

Thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank-you to all Leaders, young Leaders and helpers for all the time and effort that went in to 2021. We know 2022 is going to be a great year with lots of great activities going ahead the district team is certainly planning to make this a great year. Hope to see you soon.

Jenny Carlin

Neil Tomlinson

ADC Cubs

SCOUT SECTION REPORT

The start of the year saw us all still in lockdown and the Troops who had been meeting on Zoom continued to do so.

March found some Troops starting to get back to Face to Face Scouting on a tentative level. By the summer half term more Troops had started to meet and were planning more outdoor activities. However, many Troops have experienced a loss of several Leaders, as well as Scouts. This is now being reversed with very healthy waiting lists.

Since troops have been back to normal meetings, they have been taking part in regular Scouting activities including Science Badge, International Cooking, Night Hikes, JOTA/JOTI, Climbing, Wild Swimming, Museum Visits, Manchester Monopoly Run and many others both interesting and varied.

Summer camps and Winter camps were back on the agenda for a couple of Troops with the Scouts enjoying the outdoors experience again.

September saw Milldale host the World Scout Jamboree Selection, which was well represented by the Scouts section and was a good experience for all.

November was the month that saw the District Scouts being able to resume their annual Remembrance Parade in Crewe and what a great turn out we had.

The New Year looks promising

Lise Grasmeder

Tim Clark

ADC Scouts

EXPLORER REPORT

Having weathered the first year of the pandemic with minimal loss of membership, our second year has been just as positive for our units.

As we moved to face to face meeting, the units continued to develop a successful set of engaging and enjoyable programmes. Programmes are predominately developed through the units 16 plus youth forums and are Explorer run. These programme activities range from kayaking, international nights, student cooking, drag and casino nights to helping with the local Santa float and attending a Promise night with local Cubs.

While membership at the units continues to flourish, leadership issues remain problematic. Mallory and Fiennes continue to hold joint meeting at the 26th SWC HQ due to leadership issues. Drake again lacking in leaders rely on continued support from Scout leaders at the 35th SWC. Recruitment and retention must be our goal for 2022-2023 and a way found to increase the leadership provision of our units.

The units are in the process of developing ties within their own Scout group localities, meeting with specific assigned groups with the hope of running sessions for the Scouts to develop an understanding of what Explorers can offer the 14 – 18 age group.

It was with pride that a member of Shipton was asked to represent Explorers at Crewe Remembrance Service, Cerys had also been named Shipton Explorer of the year.

District Explorer accounts are again still healthy, with provision in place to ease membership payments for 2022 and 2023. All but Shipton are now under one account umbrella, with provision for Shipton to move funds this Spring. Next on our agenda is to organise top up debit cards for each section, allowing for easier payments of general expenses.

With no Network Commissioner, currently, in SWC and a large number of Explorers turning 18, we have spoken with Ian Turnbull (ACC Explorers), who has suggested that we set up a network section on OSM, to store what would be Network members

information. Ian also suggested that we look at the use of Social Media to engage with Network aged membership. This again is on our agenda for the coming year.

Ingrid Shaw
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Cathie Wainwright
District Explorer Scout Administrator

YOUNG LEADER EXPLORER SCOUTS

It has been a very productive year for the Young Leaders in South West Cheshire. Young Leaders are a great asset to any group. They are very supportive in running the weekly programme and can take a lot of pressure of the leaders.

We have been very proactive within the district with the young leaders and from January 2020 until the award Ceremony deadline in July 2021 we awarded 18 Young Leader Belt Buckles. This is an amazing achievement through a very difficult 18 months with Covid and the pandemic. Well done to all the Young Leaders who gained their Young Leader Belt Buckle in this time.

The Young Leaders have completed their training during the pandemic online and via modules on the Cheshire Scouts Website. All Young leader modules can be accessed via face to face or via the Cheshire Scouts Website;
<https://www.cheshirescouts.org.uk/youth-programme/young-leaders-14-17/yltraining>

All Young leaders are encouraged to complete their training and obtain the Young Leader Belt buckle but also the only requirement is for them to complete Module A and attend their section meetings and help out as a leader.

We have found that a Young Leader in a section (Maximum 3 per section this is to ensure that they get the best out of their experience it is also the guidance from Scout HQ that 3 be the maximum) brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the section and I know a lot of leaders who have young leaders in their sections wouldn't do without them

I look forward to presenting many more Young Leader Belt Buckles in the near future.

Diane Blurton
Young Leader Explorer Scout Leader

SCOUT NETWORK REPORT

Unfortunately due to the pandemic there haven't been any Network events in the past year. A new District Scout Network Commissioner is being sought to reinvigorate the section in the coming years.

Ian Potts
District Commissioner

DISTRICT YOUTH FORUM

Unfortunately, again, due to the pandemic there haven't been any Forums in 2021. A new District Youth Commissioner is being sought to restart youth engagement in the District in 2022.

Ian Potts
District Commissioner

ACTIVITIES REPORT

The periodic lifting of restrictions in late 2020 and the progress made on risk assessments had lifted hopes for a good start to the New Year, but it was not to be, and Scouts once again found themselves locked out of the face-to-face meetings that are so essential to activities.

As the weeks stretched on, over half term we challenged all our young people to "Dare to be Different" and find ways or places to sleep, eat and exercise that they hadn't done since the start of the pandemic. Although the response wasn't huge, those who did have a go clearly had a great time and it gave us an incentive to find other activities that could be done within the restrictions.

The staged badges provided sufficient inspiration and we found 3 that we thought worked well via Zoom:

Navigator Stages 1&2 for Cubs, Scouts & Explorers – run over 2 Zoom sessions covering the theory and with the practical hike completed by a walk with their families (with requirement for lots of photographic evidence)

Musician Stage 1 – run over a Saturday morning, with separate sessions for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts (many thanks to Graham Proctor). Much fun was had, though their neighbours may not have been too appreciative....

Nautical Skills Stages 1&2 – another 2 zoom meetings covered the theory and practical parts of knot tying. A couple of participants had already completed the

practical parts by kayak or sail, but the others were offered priority places on the first Kayak training courses as soon as they could resume.

All sessions were filled to capacity and the photos and videos that were sent back clearly showed everyone had a lot of fun.

With all our Risk Assessments already approved, the eventual move back to Amber at the end of March meant that we could make a rapid start in offering 'proper' activities. Those who had taken part in the Navigator badge sessions were offered of a chance of a hike without parents in tow, and many of them joined in a walk from the 18th SWC in Gresty Road to Weston on a gloriously sunny morning in late April. The Cubs were accompanied by leaders, but the Scouts walked in small groups by themselves – and nobody got lost!

Adventurous activities rely heavily on the willingness and availability of Instructors with appropriate Scout Activity Permits – so it was a huge relief that appeals to our kayak team from 2019 received an enthusiastic response, all keen to get back on the water. Over the next 3 months we held 4 week-end training courses covering Paddlesport Stages 2&3 plus a "Taster" weekend. Over the year we had well over 100 of our Young People in kayaks (all gaining Paddlesport Stage 1) with around 45 achieving Stage 2 or 3.

We finished the season in September with a flat-water trip along the Weaver Navigation and games on Winsford Flash.

Covid risk assessments for Climbing proved slightly more challenging but were eventually approved and it was good to see the Milldale Climbing and Abseiling walls back in action – now complete with floodlights which has proved an added attraction on dark evenings. In addition to the normal Milldale sessions, we piloted a full day course covering all parts of the Scout Climber badge. This is now available to all.

Offers to help leaders organise Hillwalking for their Sections remain – but have not as yet been taken up; however it is good news that several leaders in SWC have undertaken Terrain 1 training with the County team and we wish them good luck in achieving their Permits soon.

It has become clear that Sailing cannot continue in the same way as it has done in the past as we no longer have sufficiently qualified instructors. We have started discussions with Winsford Flash Sailing Club on a new approach and are hopeful that some sailing will be possible in 2022.

As mentioned earlier, Permit Holders are the key to successful and active programme – Kayaking and Climbing are definitely 'success stories' this year. My sincere thanks go to all who dusted off previous skills and permits and those who have come forward

to achieve new permits for the first time. Special mention should also be made of the Explorer Scouts who have applied for and achieved Activity Permits, with some showing particularly inspirational leadership skills – they too are an invaluable part of our teams.

Wild Swimming and Cycling are 2 activities popular with Scouts that I'm keen to add to our options this year. Whilst I can offer advice and some help to leaders wanting to run events for their own Sections, we'll need more volunteers before we can offer them as District events.

Rob Galloway
ADC (Activities)

MILLDALE CAMPSITE REPORT

2021 again saw Milldale heavily impacted by Covid-19. During the various lockdowns when the site remained closed to visitors, the Service Team continued to perform ongoing maintenance. The site reopened to visitors after Easter with bookings gradually increasing throughout the remainder of the year.

We continue to be financially sound, maintaining a positive cashflow throughout the year, mainly due to several Covid-19 related grants.

Not all of our activities have been available throughout the year due to Covid restrictions although most are now back up and running, with additional risk assessments and minor changes to the operating procedures for some of the activities.

The first part of the year was heavily focused on removal of fallen trees. Power and networking cables were laid to the shooting and archery range shelters with floodlighting installed together with additional CCTV. The climbing tower has been floodlit to enable night-time climbing. The roof on the Warden's cabin has been re-felted and improvements made to the pathways in the ancient woodland. The shooting container has been moved with the surrounding area landscaped as well as clearance of sections of the Millrace.

Numerous volunteers continue to support the site during the weekends and weekdays working on a variety of projects from widening and refurbishing the paths through the woods for wheelchair access to pruning trees and mowing grass; there are always jobs to do suiting anyone's skill level.

Looking forward, we have an extensive schedule of work for 2022, everything from block paving the Archery Range to organising new fundraising events. Our biggest

challenge remains fundraising circa £300k for the planned accommodation block. Planning permission had to be re-applied for due to the impact of Covid on the project timeline.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the campsite team and wardens for all their hard work over the past year and a special thank you to the 2 young people that come down to the site come rain or shine almost every Sunday to help. If you would like to get involved at the campsite, then please ask myself or a member of the campsite committee for more information. We always have the kettle on and biscuits available (you will have to fight the youngsters for the Jaffa Cakes).

Carl Shore
Milldale Campsite Chairman.

SWIMMING

The District Swimming Club was unable to run during 2021 due to Covid lockdowns and restrictions.

Ian Potts
District Commissioner

SHOOTING

Again, a very slow year within the District Shooting Team. We looked at risk assessments, did work on equipment and facilities and purchased some new equipment, but struggled to start shooting at Milldale

In September we ran a taster session at the 35th Fun Day and followed this with six open sessions through to December. We started with 8 scouts and explorers at this first session and had over 20 attending some of the later sessions, which was a fantastic start in challenging circumstances.

It has been very difficult for the small team of instructors, helpers and leaders in this period, learning how to shoot with Covid rules, getting the equipment up and running, dealing with frequent breakdowns on rifles and pistols, and remembering what we should do.

Another problem was that the majority of the older shooters have moved on, and new shooters have a lot to learn and can be very challenging!

We have put together a full program of session through to June and plan on running the Waterloo shooting competition on the weekend of the 11th/12th June.

It would be great to get some of the old shooters back and involved either as shooters or helping; they have a lot of experience to share. We are also, as always, short of adult help, so if anyone wants to dip their toe in the water and help, please let us know.

Andrew Brookes
District Shooting Advisor

SCOUT & GUIDE SHOP REPORT

The Scout and Guide Shop was unable to open until May due to the pandemic and therefore income was again reduced this year. Turnover in 2021 was up on 2020 but still more than a third down on 2019. Along with the restricted opening there have also been shortages in the supply of uniform which has restricted sales. Around 60% of sales were uniform and 25% were badges, continuing the trend in recent years towards these two lines.

The sterling efforts of Rosemary Schofield and Andrew Whalley have ensured that the shop has continued to flourish, and they have been ably supported by a small but dedicated team of Scouting and Guiding volunteers. If you would like to join the team, I know you would be welcomed.

Ian Potts
District Commissioner

South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	01/01/2021	To	31/12/2021

Receipts and payments

	2021 £	2020 £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	£48,331	£62,924
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National / County)	£42,142	£50,875
Net membership subscriptions retained	£6,190	£12,049
Network	-	-
Scout Shop	£0	£7,500
Sub total	£6,190	£19,549
Activities		
Beavers	-	£13
Cubs	£753	-
Scouts	-	-
Explorers	-	-
Leaders	-	-
Swimming Club	£964	£1,336
District events, activities, training and camps	£460	£340
Sub total	£2,177	£1,688
Fundraising (gross)		
World Scouting Jamboree	-	£1,748
Eurojam (including refunds)	£3,770	£11,354
Other fundraising activities	£525	£1,890
Sub total	£4,295	£14,992
Other receipts		
Business grants	£11,002	£11,334
Emptying Mallory bank account	-	£4,166
3 rd SWC share of District store insurance	-	£195
Donations	£80	-
38 th SWC refunding payment	£1,472	-
Maintenance	-	£29
Fiennes reimbursing District for rent payment	-	£600
Sub total	£12,554	£16,324
Investment income		
Bank interest	£337	£372
Sub total	£337	£372
Total Gross Income	£25,552	£52,924
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	£0
Total receipts	£25,552	£52,924

South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

	Year start date	To	Year end date
For the year from	01/01/2021		31/12/2021

Receipts and payments

	2021 £	2020 £
Payments		
Activities		
Beavers	-	£39
Cubs	£824	£57
Scouts	-	£943
Explorers	-	-
Young leaders	-	-
Leaders	-	-
District youth forum	-	-
District events, activities, training and camps	£764	£380
Swimming Club	-	£1,890
Sub total	£1,588	£3,309
District running costs		
Water and Sewerage	£166	£136
Electricity and Gas	£582	£577
Insurance	£8,087	£9,357
Accountancy	£300	-
Bank charges	£149	-
Repairs and Renewals	-	£387
AGM and trustee expenses	£588	£269
Legal Expenses	-	-
CVS Licence	£45	£45
MPLC (film licence)	£688	£668
Lottery licence	£20	£20
MiFi	£138	£136
Websites	-	£451
First Aid	-	£300
Sub total	£10,762	£12,346
Exceptional expenses		
Donation to Guides	£1,800	£750
Donations	£200	£50
Paying Fiennes ESU's rent	-	£600
Reimbursing Mallory ESU bank account proceeds	-	£4,166
Gang Show (including loan)	£5,203	£2,350
Payment on behalf of 38 th SWC	£1,472	-
Payments on behalf of District shop	-	£2,577
PPE	-	£362
Sub total	£8,675	£10,055
Fundraising expenses		
Distributed proceeds of fundraising	£162	£96
Eurojam (including refunds)	£4,784	£12,777
World Scouting Jamboree instalments	-	£3,000
Sub total	£4,946	£16,673
Total Gross Expenditure	£25,971	£42,383
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	£0

Total payments	£25,971	£42,383
Net of receipts/(payments)	-£418	£10,541
Cash funds last year end	£98,241	£87,701
Cash funds this year end	£97,823	£98,241

Activity Accounts

Section	Receipts	Payments	Opening balance	Closing balance
Milldale	£19,974	£11,083	£39,510	£48,401
Canoe and Kayak	£0	£0	£742	£742
Sailing	£20	£765	£4,556	£3,811
Shooting	£2,090	£3,338	£2,935	£1,687
Scout Shop	£27,118	£20,120	£16,714	£23,711
Explorers	£11,104	£4,968	£12,271	£18,406
Gang Show	£5,091	£1,873	£4,342	£7,560

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31/12/2021	31/12/2020
	£	£
Cash funds		
RBS current account	£50,453	£51,208
NS&I investment account	£47,169	£46,832
The Scout Association Charity Deposit Account	£201	£201
Total cash funds	£97,823	£98,241
Non monetary assets for charity's own use (insured values)		
Land and buildings	£422,783	£286,533
Motor vehicles	£25,950	£25,950
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	£103,449	£65,680
Marine	£56,715	£56,715
Sub total	£608,897	£434,878
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	-	£1,384
Sub total	£0	£1,384

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 7th March 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Signature

Print Name

Chair
Treasurer



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name

SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

On accounts for the year ended

31st DECEMBER 2021

Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages

1 to 3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

D Taylor

Date:

8 SEPTEMBER 2022

Name:

DAVID TAYLOR

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

ICAEW

(if any):

Address:

Section B

Disclosure

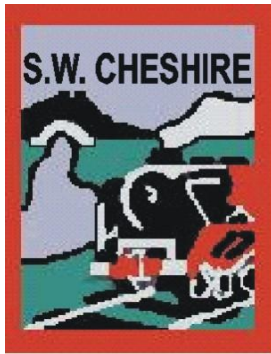
Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 506895

Accounts



**SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 14th 2021

On Line

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

South West Cheshire Scout Council

May 14th 2021

- 1 Welcome by the DC
- 2 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of the District Chairman
- 3 Apologies for absence
- 4 Minutes of previous AGM held on 12th June 2020
- 5 Approval of the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020
- 6 Approval of District Secretary
- 7 Approval of District Treasurer
- 8 Election of Members of the District Scout Council to the District Executive Committee
- 9 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee
- 10 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council
- 11 The District Commissioner
- 12 The County Commissioner

DISTRICT OFFICERS 2020

<p>Life President Mr P F Taylor</p> <p>President Vacant</p> <p>Vice Presidents Mr R Ellwood, Mr P Kent, Mr R Stafford</p> <p>Office Holders Chairperson Mr R Chaplow Treasurer Mr R Bennett Secretary Mr J Bennett</p> <p>District Executive Committee Ex-officio Chairperson Treasurer Secretary District Commissioner Deputy District Commissioner District Explorer Scout Commissioner District Network Scout Commissioner District Youth Commissioner</p> <p>Elected Members Mr A Whalley (to 2022) Mrs M Norbury (to 2023) Mrs C Wainwright (to 2023) Mr J Barlow (to 2021) Ms P Wood (to 2021) Mr D Brough (to 2023)</p> <p>Nominated Members Mr M Rowe Mrs L Gamble Mrs H Dorney Ms D Blurton</p> <p>Co-opted Member Mr C Shore Camp Site Chair</p> <p>County Scout Council Members Mr R Bracey, Mr J Whittingham</p> <p>District Chaplain Vacant</p> <p>Registered Charity No: 506895 Scout Association Registered No: 10808</p>	<p>District Commissioner Mr I Potts</p> <p>Deputy District Commissioner Mr J Statham</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Commissioner Ms I Shaw</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Administrator Mrs C Wainwright</p> <p>District Young Leader Unit Manager Ms D Blurton</p> <p>District Scout Network Commissioner Mr W Swain</p> <p>District Youth Commissioners Miss H Faulkner</p> <p>Assistant District Commissioners Beaver Scouts Miss S Fearn Beaver Scouts Mr L Potts Cub Scouts Mrs J Carlin Cub Scouts Mr N Tomlinson Scouts Mr T Clark Scouts Mrs L Grasmeder Activities Mr R Galloway General Duties Vacant Development Vacant SAS Manager Mr J Wedgwood</p> <p>Local Training Manager Adult Training Mrs J Taylor,</p> <p>Chair Appointments Sub Committee Mrs J Wilkinson</p> <p>District Scouters Mr A Collett, Mr B Westwood, Mrs J Shore, Mr C Spicer, Mrs A Bourke, Mrs M Norbury, Mr D Selley</p> <p>District Advisers Archery Ms D Blurton Mountaineering Vacant Shooting Mr A Brookes Sailing Mr I Brown Canoeing Mr A Sutton DOE Scheme Mrs R Edwards Swimming Mr R Binner</p>
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South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 12th June 2020 Online Via Microsoft Teams

1.0 Welcome

The District Commissioner, Ian Potts, took the Chair. There were 42 members and 1 guest present.

Ian opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, particularly the County Commissioner Graham Phillips.

Ian announced that his nomination for District Chair was Dane Chaplow. Dane then took the chair for the remainder of the meeting. He began by asking those present to take a moment to reflect on those members and supporters of South West Cheshire Scout Council who had "Gone Home" since the 2019 AGM: Leena Broadhead, Bob Keegan, Brenda Roberts, Geoff Hall and Kay Bennett.

2.0 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Craig Chaplow, Janet and Brian Jones, Ian and Sylvia Sowerby, Pete and Peg Taylor, Steve Bullock, John Whittingham, Helen Dorney and Cheryl Hamlyn

3.0 Minutes of AGM held on 5th April 2019

Proposed, seconded and accepted as a true record.

4.0 Reports

The Annual District Report for 2019 was considered by the meeting. Each contributor was invited to comment. The Report was accepted with special thanks from the Chair to all contributors for their efforts during the past year.

Appointments

The report was accepted, and no questions were raised.

Secretary

Nothing to add to the report, no questions were raised.

Beavers

The report was accepted, no questions were raised. Dane thanked the Beaver team for their report and asked that his thanks be conveyed to all Beaver leaders for their work.

Cub Scouts

Again, no questions were raised by the attendees and Dane asked for thanks to be passed to all Cub Leaders for their work.

Scouts

The report was accepted, no questions were raised. Dane thanked Lise and Rob for their hard work during the year.

Explorer and Network

Nothing to add to the reports which were accepted.

Milldale

Carl thanked everyone for their input and support, a lot of hard work on the site had been achieved.

Dane also thanked the Milldale team for their efforts and stated that in Milldale the district had a fantastic facility.

Activities

Sailing

The report was accepted Carl commented on the successful taster sessions run during the year.

Canoeing

The report was accepted.

Shooting

Given the huge success of Shooting in the district he recommended the use of the facilities at Milldale to all sections.

The DC commented on the need for additional instructors across the whole field of activities. Any offers of help please direct them to the DC.

Swimming

The report was accepted, Dane thanked Janet and Brian for their continuing work with the swimming section.

Scout Shop

The report was accepted, Dane thanked everyone involved in the shop for the excellent work and reminded everyone that the income from the shop helps to sustain the district financially, without it the District Levy would increase. Please continue to use the shop.

The meeting approved the annual report.

5.0 Financial Report

The annual accounts for 2019 were circulated, these were approved without comment from members

6.0 Election of District Secretary

John Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Secretary.

7.0 Election of District Treasurer

Richard Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Treasurer.

8.0 Election of Members of the District Scout Council to the District Executive Committee.

Marilyn Norbury, Cathie Wainwright and David Brough were elected to the District Executive.

9.0 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee.

Ian Potts nominated the following:

Beavers: Mark Rowe

Cubs: Helen Dorney

Scouts: Lisa Gamble

Explorers & Young Leaders: Diane Blurton

10.0 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council.

Roger Bracey and John Whittingham were both willing to continue in this role, the meeting agreed to this.

11.0 District Commissioner

11.1 Ian presented the following report:

Reviewing the annual report, it is clear that 2019 was an interesting year for our young people. Our groups continued to provide a varied programme of activity that resulted in almost 250 Chief Scouts Awards being presented. They also worked with their Young Leaders, supported by the District team, resulting in 12 of them achieving their Belt Buckles. None of it would have been possible without the dedication of their leaders, many of whom go above and beyond every week.

I would like to congratulate those Leaders who received an award for their contribution to Scouting in the District last year and to all those young people who achieved their top awards.

My personal highlights from the year were the Beaver Family Sports and Fun Day in September, enjoyed by Beavers and their parents equally, the Cub Craft

Competition where I am always impressed by the imagination and skill of the Cubs who take part, and Monopoly Live where we always get good feedback from the public on the behaviour of the Scouts and Explorers as they walk around town engaged in activities.

During 2019 the Appointments team worked hard to get 36 new adult volunteers through the appointments process, to complete DBS checks for adults in District role and support groups in this process for their Leaders. Our new LTMs have settled into their roles, providing valuable support to adults as they progress in their Scouting lives.

Last year four of our sectional ADCs finished in their roles and one of the District Youth Commissioners stepped down. I would like to thank Mel Dunn, Roger and Gaynor Bracey, Rob Galloway and Caroline Grasmeyer for everything they brought to the District in their roles. Rob has agreed to take on the vacant ADC Activities role and I wish him and the new ADCs for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Steph, Liam, Neil, Jenny and Tim well for the future. I also want to formally welcome John Statham to the team as Deputy District Commissioner.

We were hoping to have a presentation by members of the WSJ contingent but this will now be done when we are able to get together face to face, hopefully later in the year.

I have a request regarding the Scout Shop. It is an important source of funding for the District, and I would ask that all groups wait until the Shop is able to fulfil orders and not order online (although it is likely that orders placed online will not be fulfilled at the moment).

Each year I have been DC I have had priorities for what I wanted to achieve and each year has brought a set of unexpected challenges and opportunities. This year had been no exception, and then the Coronavirus pandemic started and face to face Scouting stopped. Since 17th March our world has been turned on its head and yet Scouting has continued. We have had to adapt quickly and do things in a way we never envisaged. Many of us have been busier than ever with Scouting and have learnt new skills to enable us to continue delivering activities to our young people. I am proud to say that every young person in every section in every group and unit has had the opportunity to be involved in Scouting activities since the lockdown started, whether via on-line meetings or activities sent out in emails. Executive Committee members, at a District and Group level, have assessed their individual and collective positions and made decisions appropriate for them to be able to continue to deliver Scouting once we are able to meet face to face again. Many parents have had challenges managing work, home-schooling and keeping children occupied when they can't see their friends and I have had lots of feedback

on how important Scouting has been both in terms of giving them something to do and giving them a sense of normality which helps with their mental wellbeing.

There will continue to be challenges ahead but we are ready to respond whatever happens. I would like to thank all of our adult volunteers for everything they have done in the District during the last year and for everything they are continuing to do in these unusual times. We have proven over the last few months how well we can all pull together in difficult times and I'm sure this will continue once we get back to some sort of normality. I want to make a particular mention of those Leaders who are Key Workers. The challenges many of them have faced in the last few months have been huge and I want to thank them on behalf of everyone in South West Cheshire Scouts for everything they have done.

Many of you will know that I am not known for my optimism. I have often said that I am a glass completely empty sort of person. You will also know that I like to read the things that Lord Baden Powell has said and I recently came across this one: 'Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.'

Looking back over last year and then at the last few weeks there are lots of things to be optimistic about.

12.0 The County Commissioner

12.1 Graham Phillips gave a slide presentation and discussed a number of topics:

12.2 He started by giving the census figures for the County which included a total membership of 13,517.

12.3 He then referred to compliance where there has been a big push to get leaders to complete their mandatory training. In respect of training he stated that much of this as available online and in fact wood badges could be gained during lockdown

12.4 Graham then went on to talk about Covid-19 and the county response to that. He referred to the financial support that was available from a variety of sources. He detailed the online programmes that were available for groups to use in virtual section meetings and the activities that the County was organising and available online.

12.5 Graham closed by saying thank you for all you are doing and keep going.

Dane closed the meeting at 20.25.

John Bennett

District Secretary, South West Cheshire Scouts. June 2020

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT

The District Executive met on four occasions in 2020/21, three of these meetings were held via Microsoft Teams. In addition the exec met monthly from April onwards on line to discuss all issues relating to Covid – 19.

Submission of the annual census return was completed on time. The submission of the district accounts and annual report to the Charity Commission was also completed on schedule.

A major piece of work was completed to ensure the accuracy of the District Email circulation list. That list is GDPR compliant and updated regularly.

The executive was pleased to note the number of awards presented during 2020 in South West Cheshire including:

Commissioners Commendation

Cathie Wainwright
Bob Humphries
John Bennett
Susan Edwards
Lisa Evans
James Ollier
Andy Whalley
Rosemary Schofield
Abi Woodcock

- 72 Chief Scouts Bronze Awards
- 91 Chief Scouts Silver Awards
- 39 Chief Scouts Gold Awards
- 1 Chief Scouts Platinum Awards
- 16 Young Leader Belt Buckles
- 1 DoE Bronze



It is with great sadness that we record the deaths, since the last AGM, of former stalwarts and supporters of Scouting in South West Cheshire:

Graham Cookson, Leslie Davidson, Kath Titley

	CENSUS RETURN COMPARISON						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Groups	25	24	24	23	23	23	22
Beaver	432	404	416	429	390	385	255
Cub	492	466	480	497	456	427	301
Scout	428	453	400	412	413	422	371
Explorer	123	103	118	104	116	138	120
Network			27	105	102	90	26
Adults	335	414	500	564	612	513	505
Total	1810	1840	1941	2111	2089	1978	1578

*The Explorer figure includes members of the Explorer Young Leader Unit

John Bennett
District Secretary

DISTRICT APPOINTMENT TEAM'S REPORT

The Appointments Committee met on 6 occasions in 2020 – 2 “traditional” face-to-face meetings and 4 virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams.

Virtual meetings do have some advantages! We can, for example, interview students who may be away from home. In addition no-one has to leave the comfort of their home when it's cold, dark and raining! We are likely to continue some virtual meetings in future after face-to-face contact is permitted once again.

A total of 34 Section leaders, Assistant Section Leaders and Sectional Assistants were appointed in 2020. The Committee also approved 7 Changes of Role and 3 Additional Roles.

Our Membership Secretary, Tim Owen, is in the process of handing over the role. His County Training role takes up far too much of his time and leaves little time for anything else. We thank Tim for his sterling work administering the Appointments process and chasing people for references! Cathie Wainwright, the incoming appointments secretary will have a hard act to follow! Tim will remain a member of the Appointments Committee.

My thanks go to all Committee members for their continued support. Not everyone was happy to meet virtually but will “rejoin” the team again when physical meetings are permitted.

We would also welcome younger members to the Committee. We are supposed to be representative of adult Scouting members, but we currently have only 1 Committee member who is under 40! You do not need to have a Wood Badge to be part of the Committee, and it would be nice to increase the “youthful face” of the interviewing panel for prospective new Leaders. Full training will of course be given.

Jen Wilkinson
Appointments sub-committee chair

Tim Owen
Appointments Secretary (retiring)

BEAVER SCOUT SECTION REPORT

This has been a very different year to what we both had expected, but we would like to begin by thanking everyone who has supported Beavers throughout such a difficult period. We appreciate that the coronavirus has made scouting difficult and appreciate everybody who have worked hard to give the Beavers a fun and varied programme virtually.

Our celebration awards ceremony of the Chief Scouts Bronze Awards winners in 2019 was held at South Cheshire College South and West. This year we trialled a new format where we reviewed all the badges the Beavers had achieved to lead up to their Bronze award. This new format was well received and we hope to do similar in future ceremonies. In 2020, 72 Beaver Scouts across South West Cheshire were awarded their Chief Scouts Bronze award.

This year's Beaver Challenge was at the 17th SWC scout hut. We had 7 teams of Beavers from across the district attend, taking part in 'Skills of Life' challenges. These included naming fruit/vegetables, identifying dangers around the home and stuffing sleeping bags against the clock. The winning team of Beavers were from the 17th SWC. Well done!

Unfortunately, our Beaver Family Camp was cancelled this year due to the coronavirus. Instead, we managed to offer a 'virtual camp' activity which provided Beaver's the opportunity to partake in lots of fun and interesting activities at home. This was well received by those who took part and we cannot wait to be able to offer a face-to-face Family Camp again in the future.

Without the support of our Leaders, Young Leaders and parents, Beaver Scouts could not happen in South West Cheshire. Once again, we would like to thank you for helping the Beavers grow into influential young people. We hope that all Beavers will continue to have the opportunities to take part in exciting adventures and opportunities for the years to come and we look forward to being able to offer District events once more.

Thanks

Stephanie Fearn

Liam Potts

ADC Beavers

CUB SCOUT SECTION REPORT

2020 was not the year any of us were expecting and certainly an unusual year to take over from Gaynor and Roger, who did a fantastic job providing fun district events and supporting the Cub Leader community.

On behalf of the Cubs and leaders we would like to take this opportunity say a massive BRAVO for all their work and achievements while being ADC's.

In the 1st year of taking over as ADC's we have held all our Leader meetings over Zoom. It has been great to catch up and share ideas and support each other as well as hear about all the great things Cub Leaders have achieved with their Cub packs, during what was a very challenging year for Scouting. We look forward to meeting up with Cubs Leaders face to face, as soon as the rules allow. However, in the meantime, we want to remind Leaders that we are only a call or email away if you need us.

Silver Awards

In February, Chief Scout's Silver Award Certificates were presented by Pam Owen (Assistant County Commissioner Cubs) to 91 Cubs (46 of whom attended the evening) at Cheshire College (South and West) in Crewe.

Sixteen packs were represented: 1st 3rd 7th 14th 17th 18th 22nd 23rd 26th 30th 35th(R) 35th(S) 38th 39th 40th 41st

Again, the number of Silver Awards increased over the previous year. We would like to say well done to all the Cubs and their Leaders for all the hard work that has gone into achieving this, the highest award for Cubs, a fantastic achievement by all.

We would also like to thank Steph and Liam ADC Beavers for organising this event as we were only appointed a few days before.

Craft Competition

The District annual Craft Competition was held on Saturday 29th February we had 13 team enter from the 26th, 7th, 17th, 1st, 22nd, 3rd, 35th (R&S), 15th, 23rd, 38th, The event was a great success, and all the Cubs were a credit to their leaders. As always, the decision was not an easy one, but the winners were the 22nd (Audlem), sadly there was not a county competition for them to attend but they were a well-deserved winning team.

Scouting at home

Many packs have not stopped at all over the year and have had great times continuing scouting with great activities. Cubs have earned many badges during 2020 and this is a credit to the Cubs Leaders and parents.

Camping at home

It has been lovely to hear all the stories of Cub packs camping at home and carrying on regardless with their Cubs activities, we know many Cubs have had amazing times and the bonus for the leaders has been no wet tents or sleepless nights!

Thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank-you to all leaders, young leaders and helpers for all the time and effort that went in to 2020. We know how much work normally goes into planning events and pack nights and 2020 was a challenging year which made things extra difficult - so thanks again for sticking with it!

Looking for to 2021

We know many leaders and Cubs are so looking forward to getting back out about and meeting up with friends. We are looking forward to meeting you all and supporting you with Cub Scouts. As soon as we get the green light, rest assured we will be putting on some district events. If you have any ideas for different events, please let us know.

Hope to see you soon.

Jenny Carlin
Neil Tomlinson
ADC Cubs

SCOUT SECTION REPORT

2020 started like any other year with many Troops enjoying their annual Winter Camps and regular Troop nights....., then March hit and all activities and face-2-face meetings ceased.

Many Scout Groups took to Zoom and continued Scouting in a virtual World which presented its own challenges for Leaders in terms of organising programmes and logistics.

The District Scout section set up a Facebook page to communicate with all Scout Troops within the District and to share ideas for virtual activities. Leaders were also encouraged to share ideas at the online ADC's meetings.

Not all Scout Troops have been continuing the Scouting journey through this pandemic but the ones that have, have been holding virtual camps in several different forms.

Some Troops tried to keep a level of normality and celebrated St George's Day, Remembrance Day and UK Parliament Week all in a virtual world.

A few Troops went back to face 2 face in the Summer and met outside in small numbers in accordance with Covid-19 regulations for the short period of time between lockdowns.

It's been an exceptionally hard year to keep Scouts involved & interested as more of our activities have physical and practical elements when compared to the other Sections.

In summing up, the year has been as much of a challenge to the Scouts to continue badgework etc as it has been to the Leaders & helpers who have strived to continue to provide a balanced programme that delivers skills for life – virtually!!

We'd like to say a MASSIVE THANKS to the Scout Leaders across the District for all their considerable time and effort during a very Challenging year.

Lise Grasmeder
Tim Clark
ADC Scouts

EXPLORER REPORT

Considering what an awful year it has been the numbers of Explorer members has remained surprisingly good with only a loss of 15 (17%) Explorers across the units, with Shipton increasing their numbers by 5 (20%).

Mallory and Fiennes have been holding joint zoom meetings and intend to join forces temporarily when we resume face to face as both are now struggling with lack of leaders.

Shipton have been running regular zoom meetings and have also completed some face to face outdoor meetings during the last lockdown easing.

Drake too have been holding regular zoom meetings and are hoping to start face to face outdoors as soon as the current lockdown eases.

Wilson have had little communication with their Explorers since the first lockdown in March 2020. They continue to struggle with Explorer numbers but we are hoping that once the COVID restrictions ease and we are back to amber the number of Explorers will start to increase.

The Pandemic had left us with a few less leaders but we have had two new leaders start and we are looking at recruiting more.

We have been developing literature to be sent out to 17½ year olds and over Explorers/Young Leaders as a recruitment drive into adult roles. The first of which were sent in February to 14 Explorers/Young Leaders with another 14 to be contacted in the coming months.

We have been working tirelessly attempting to centralise the Explorer Units bank accounts. It has proven to be an arduous task with little or no co-operation from the

banks, however we now see a light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully in the coming months the District will have one account for all Units. The balance for all units is looking healthy, with provision for next year's membership well in hand. We still have a lot of work to do, and our next task is to tackle the Gift Aid.

For the first time in many years the District Explorer Accounts have been audited and sent to the District Treasurer. We have had several issues with non-payment of subs, but that now appears to be under control. The only outstanding issue now being that several Explorers are still paying the old amount of subs, despite numerous reminders that subs are £26.00 per term and not £22.50.

Ingrid Shaw
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Cathie Wainwright
District Explorer Scout Administrator

YOUNG LEADER EXPLORER SCOUTS

It has been a very productive year for the Young Leaders in South West Cheshire. Young Leaders are a great asset to any group. They are very supportive in running the weekly programme and can take a lot of pressure of the leaders.

What a year we have had. When we started the year we already had awarded 2 Young leader Belt Buckles and then Covid 19 came into the world. Well I thought that would be it for your Young Leader Belt Buckles being awarded this year. But I couldn't have been so wrong. We have awarded 16 Young Leader Belt Buckles to our Young Leaders this year in South West Cheshire. To gain this award they have had to complete all module courses 6 evenings in total attend a first aid course no less than level 5, complete 4 missions from organizing games to having an input into the colony/pack/section programme and then implementing that programme.

Diane Blurton
Young Leader Explorer Scout Leader

SCOUT NETWORK REPORT

Unfortunately due to the pandemic there haven't been any Network events in the past year with Network Gathering being cancelled as the first lockdown was announced, just 3 weeks before the event was due to take place. I have made the decision to step down from the DSNC role to focus on Explorers & Gang Show and hopefully someone with a fresh look at Network will be able to restart SWC's Express Network after the pandemic.

Will Swain

District Scout Network Commissioner

DISTRICT YOUTH FORUM

The start of the pandemic in March 2020 curtailed our plans for the District Youth Forum and other priorities meant we were unable to run any virtual events with the Forum members.

Our District Youth Commissioner, Harriet Faulkner, has reached the end of her term and we will now start the process of recruiting her replacement. Harriet will be stepping down when we have recruited a new DYC and I would like to thank Harriet for her work in establishing the role of DYC in the District and wish her well in her next Scouting role.

Ian Potts

District Commissioner

ACTIVITIES REPORT

2020 started off with a certain amount of nervousness – though this was primarily directed at the plans for a completely re-vamped Cheshire Hike (which were filtering out rather late and with many questions un-answered). Nevertheless, January and February saw plenty of Scouts out and about with maps and rucksacks, eager to be the first to take part in the new-look event.

A few of the braver ones even managed to get several Nights Away camping.

And then it all stopped! Hopes of running Swympic and a District Hike remained, but gradually dwindled as the days grew longer and eventually, we had to admit defeat.

Congratulations to the Groups and leaders who managed to keep their Young People active via a mixture of rapidly learnt Zoom skills and encouragement to complete nights camping in their gardens, meals cooked on open fires, hikes with their families and other Scouting skills, whilst still keeping to the 'rules'.

The rather daunting Covid Risk Assessment process unfortunately put off many from attempting to re-start face-to-face meetings – but those who achieved it were rewarded by the return of enthusiastic youngsters who were so keen to get outside and enjoy traditional activities.

I had intended to trial a number of activities with small numbers from my own Troop before rolling them out to the rest of SW Cheshire – during August we attempted Wild Swimming, cycling, hiking and kayaking and all did prove possible with adequate social distancing. Unfortunately, the additional Risk Assessment ‘hoops’ that needed to be jumped through to get the go-ahead for District run activities took longer than anticipated and by the time they were fully approved it was too late in the year for water-based events and the 2nd lockdown put paid to the rest.

In 2021, whilst lockdown restrictions remain in place, we hope to run some Activity Badge training sessions via Zoom, whilst encouraging Scouts to complete the practical outdoor parts with their families. Risk Assessments for more traditional Scout activities are in place and we are in a good position to resume events just as soon as the rules allow.

Apart from Covid, the biggest restriction is likely to be the availability of helpers and instructors – if you know of anyone who might be interested in helping occasionally, please put them in touch. Watching our young people gain skills and confidence in the outdoors is truly one of the most rewarding aspects of Scouting.

Rob Galloway
ADC (Activities)

MILLDALE CAMPSITE REPORT

The Covid-19 lockdown was put in place before the camping season got underway, as a consequence the site was not used for any Scouting activities in 2020.

In our report for last year we reported that there were a number of outstanding fees owed by certain groups. These have now all been cleared.

Although the site has been closed for 2020 the camp site service team has continued to maintain the site, naturally observing all Covid-19 rules and social distancing. As a consequence the site is ready to reopen once restrictions are eased.

A number of major projects have been completed including:

- Drainage improvements on the main camping field, and the shooting and archery ranges.
- Additional storage facilities have been built at the rear of the Tyler Barn.
- A number of bridges across Checkley Brook have been replaced.
- The refurbishment of the climbing tower has been completed.
- A path from the barn to the toilet block has been created.
- Work continues to develop plans and raise funds for an accommodation block adjacent to the Tyler Barn.
- A full CCTV system has been installed to monitor the site and pictures from the site can be viewed remotely.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has helped on site during the last, difficult, year and add that additional help will always be welcomed by the service team, especially on Sundays.

Carl Shore
Milldale Campsite Chairman.

SAILING

The Sailing team had planned taster days over two weekends in 2020 but sadly lockdown put paid to those hopes.

As soon as restrictions ease and we are allowed back on the water we hope to run at least three taster sessions in 2021. Details will be circulated as soon as circumstances permit. They will be held at Winsford Flash Sailing Club.

The Sailing Team

SWIMMING

The District Swimming Club resumed its weekly meetings on Thursday evenings, at Crewe Lifestyle Centre, from the beginning of January 2020.

The number of Cubs and Scouts attending the Club was lower than in previous years, with a number of occasions when the takings of the Club did not cover the cost of hiring the pool.

We had cancelled the Cub and Scout Galas in 2019 due to too few Groups signing up. However, on 16th March 2020 we held a joint Cub and Scout Gala, which proved a great success, even though there were a number of last minute withdrawals due to the changing national circumstances.

The Swimming Club was suspended immediately after the Gala as the Country went into lockdown. Discussions are still to be held to decide when the Swimming Club will resume.

Bob Binner
District Swimming Advisor

CANOEING and KAYAKING.

All Canoeing and Kayaking events were cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions in force throughout 2020.

It is hoped that taster sessions will begin again in 2021 and will be available to be booked by Cub, Scout & Explorer groups, on their normal meeting nights. If you are interested in booking a session, please contact Tony Sutton. A priority waiting list is maintained for any group unable to secure one of this year's sessions.

In addition to group taster sessions, individual skills/badge courses are being planned to run during 2021. If you are a Scout or Explorer Scout and interested in attending a skills course yourself, please contact Robert Galloway in the first instance.

As an adult leader if you are interested in becoming more involved with Canoeing and Kayaking and would like to potentially help with coaching, please contact Rob Galloway.

Tony Sutton
District Canoeing Advisor

SHOOTING

The district shooting activity team had planned a varied programme in 2020 with over 50 sessions booked for the first 6 months of the year offering shooting activities for cubs, scouts, and explorers at Milldale and further afield as well as leader training.

Some sessions were held in January, February, and the start of March both at Milldale and further afield training at Mersey Weaver and Holmes Chapel.

Then Covid -19 closed scouting as well as most of the country. When the situation eased in late summer, we started to look at the possibility of running sessions but found to comply with all the different rules in place would make this exceedingly difficult, but then 2nd and 3rd lockdowns were introduced.

Some new equipment was purchased at the start of the year, and the infrastructure is still in place for when the new normal allows the activity to take place in a safe and enjoyable manner.

We foresee difficulties in the future with fewer young people wishing to carry on or take up the activity after such a long break and also the difficulty that will be presented by leaders and helpers moving to different activities away from scouts and shooting.

Andrew Brookes
District Shooting Advisor

SCOUT & GUIDE SHOP REPORT

The Scout and Guide Shop was unable to open for long periods during 2020 due to the pandemic and therefore our income was significantly reduced. Turnover in 2020 was down by over two thirds and as a result the shop returned a loss on the year.

On the positive side the shop was able to take orders for badges via email which ensured that some sales did continue and that groups were able to purchase badges earned by their young people. This would not have been possible without the efforts of Andrew Whalley and Rosemary Schofield who put the orders together and attended the shop for orders to be collected.

The pandemic has focused our thoughts on how the shop will run in the future and if you would like to join the small but dedicated team of Scouting and Guiding volunteers who continue to ensure that the shop is successful, I know you would be welcomed.

Ian Potts
District Commissioner

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REPORT

My report last year ended with a quote from our Founder, Lord Baden Powell: 'Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.'

Our experiences during 2020 may have made looking on the bright side a difficult thing to do for many people. However, despite the challenges Scouting faced in 2020 there have been plenty of examples of our Leaders and Young People making 'the best of it'.

We have risen to the challenge of running meetings on-line, learned that Zooming isn't just a description of a group of Beavers running around a field and found out that Teams are not just what we split groups of Scouts into to play a wide game. I have been impressed by the range of activities that groups across the District have been able to run on-line, the imagination that has gone into devising new ways to achieve badges and the number of different ways that have been found to continue to deliver Scouting when we have not been able to meet face to face. From 'Bob's Badges' and OSM's Badges Online to virtual camps and Zoom meetings Leaders have covered the A to Z of how to deliver Scouting in 2020.

As a District our priorities had to change in mid-March and we had to find ways to respond to the challenges of running Scouting virtually, the issue of buildings being locked up and empty for long periods and the financial impacts posed by reduced income. With monthly District Executive Committee, GSL and ADC meetings we rose to these challenges, sharing ideas and best practice and taking advantage of support from outside Scouting where it was available. Planned activities and events were postponed and then cancelled, including the Gang Show and Eurojam, and eventually thoughts turned to how to return to face to face Scouting safely. Just as we were starting to get back to face to face Scouting, with the appropriate adjustments and Risk Assessments in place, we were then hit with a further Covid lockdown and had to return to virtual Scouting.

Unfortunately, one of the consequences of the changes to the delivery of Scouting has been a reduction in the number of members, especially young people, many of whom have found that spending time on Zoom school lessons followed by a Zoom Scout meeting has not been enjoyable. However, one thing I am confident of is that if we can rise to the challenges 2020 presented us, we can bounce back in 2021 and beyond.

The number of people across the District who deserve thanks for their efforts over the last 12 months are too numerous to mention here but I would particularly like to thank our District Secretary, John Bennett, for his hard work and support.

Our founder once said 'A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room'. Having personally run just one face to face meeting between March and December last year this could be re-phrased as 'An hours face to face Scout meeting is worth six months of Zoom meetings'.

Ian Potts
District Commissioner

South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01/01/2020	To	31/12/2020
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Receipts and payments

	2020	2019
	£	£
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	£62,924	£60,456
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National / County / Area / District)	£50,875	£48,813
Net membership subscriptions retained	£12,049	£11,644
Network	£0	£0
Scout Shop	£7,500	£7,500
Sub total		
Activities		
Beavers	£13	£2,429
Cubs	-	£98
Scouts	-	£2,939
Explorers	-	£4,537
Leaders	-	£610
Swimming Club	£1,336	£1,805
District events, activities, training and camps	£340	£0
Sub total		
Fundraising (gross)		
World Scouting Jamboree	£1,748	£14,814
Eurojam	£11,354	£6,760
Other fundraising activities	£1,890	£250
Sub total		
Other receipts		
Business grants	£11,334	-
Emptying Mallory bank account	£4,166	-
3 rd SWC share or District store insurance	£195	-
Fiennes ESU reimbursing District for rent payment	£600	£0
Maintenance	£29	£382
Gang Show	-	£1,000
Loan repaid by Mallory ESU	-	£1,145
Loan repaid by 3 rd SWC	-	£3,000
Unidentified deposits	-	£3,517
Sub total		
Investment income		
Bank interest	£372	£353
Sub total		
Total Gross Income		
Asset and investment sales, etc.	£0	£0
Total receipts		

South West Cheshire District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01/01/2020	To	31/12/2020
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Receipts and payments

	2020 £	2019 £
Payments		
Activities		
Beavers	£39	£2,878
Cubs	£57	£160
Scouts	£943	£1,409
Explorers	-	£4,217
Young leaders	£0	£0
Leaders	-	£919
District youth forum	-	£410
District events, activities, training and camps	£380	£452
Swimming Club	£1,890	£2,730
Sub total		
District running costs		
Water and Sewerage	£136	£209
Electricity and Gas	£577	£1,741
Insurance	£9,357	£7,505
Repairs and Renewals	£387	£3,345
AGM and trustee expenses	£269	£846
Legal Expenses	-	£423
CVS Licence	£45	£45
MPLC (film licence)	£668	£648
Radio Licence	-	£75
Lottery licence	£20	£20
MiFi	£136	£138
Websites	£451	-
First Aid	£300	-
District shop purchases	-	£412
Sub total		
Exceptional expenses		
Loan to Fiennes ESU	-	£300
Paying Fiennes ESU's rent	£600	-
Reimbursing Mallory ESU bank account proceeds	£4,166	-
Gang Show	£2,350	£1,000
Shop stock	-	£474
Payments on behalf of District shop	£2,577	-
PPE	£362	£0
Sub total		
Fundraising expenses		
Distributed proceeds of fundraising	£96	£0
Eurojam	£12,777	£3,697
World Scouting Jamboree instalments	£3,000	£18,628
Donations	£800	£850
Sub total		
Total Gross Expenditure		
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	£0	£0
Total payments		
Net of receipts/(payments)		
Cash funds last year end	£87,701	£78,449
2 LT700002 (1st January 2017) Cash funds this year end		

Activity Accounts

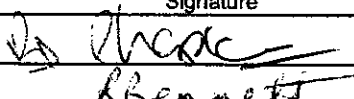
Section	Receipts	Payments	Opening balance	Closing balance
Milldale	£16,709	£23,087	£44,736	£38,358
Explorers	£12,479	£5,449	£5,441	£12,471
Canoe and Kayak	£1	£2,058	£2,799	£742
Sailing	£0	£0	£4,556	£4,556
Shooting	£9,023	£11,773	£5,684	£2,935
Scout Shop	£13,042	£17,157	£20,832	£16,717
Gang Show	£5,643	£4,673	£3,363	£4,332

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31/12/2020	31/12/2019
	£	£
Cash funds		
RBS current account	£51,208	£41,039
NS&I Investment account	£46,832	£46,460
The Scout Association Charity Deposit Account	£201	£201
Total cash funds		
Non monetary assets for charity's own use (Insured values)		
Land and buildings	£350,517	£286,533
Motor vehicles	£25,950	£25,950
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	£75,219	£65,680
Marine	£56,716	£56,716
Sub total		
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	-	£1,384
Sub total		

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 1st March 2021 (the date of the Executive Committee meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature


Richard Bennett

Print Name

RICHARD DANIEL CHALOW, Chair
RICHARD BENNETT Treasurer



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

On accounts for the year ended

31st DECEMBER 2020 Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages

1 to 3 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD/MM/YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: D Taylor

Date: 25 OCTOBER 2021

Name: DAVID TAYLOR

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

ICAEW

(if any):

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Address:

64 LEWIN STREET
MIDDLEWICH
CHESHIRE CW10 9AS

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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