

Stafford District Scout Council

England & Wales · Charity number 524528

Details

Other names STAFFORD BOY SCOUTS LOCAL ASSOCIATION, STAFFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL STAFFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL, STAFFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1967-01-11

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: STAFFORD BOY SCOUTS LOCAL ASSOCIATION.

Activities: The objectives of the group are as a unit of the Scout Association. The Aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local national and international communities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** STAFFORD
- Staffordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£74,712	£116,973	-	-
2023-12-31	£157,764	£118,613	-	-
2022-12-31	£73,476	£87,694	-	-
2021-12-31	£45,663	£39,787	-	-
2020-12-31	£70,740	£54,858	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ROLAND SMITH	Chair	2011-11-05
Andrew Austin Preston		2022-06-27
Andrew Clode		2024-07-01
Catherine Louise Hordern		2025-06-09
GRAHAM SMITH		2011-11-05
Gemma May Phillips		2025-06-07
Jack Blakeman		2024-07-01
KEVIN LEA HEWITT		2017-06-01
PAUL ASKEY		2011-11-05
STEPHEN SMITH		
Sharon Hill		2022-06-27

Stafford District Scout Council

England & Wales - Charity number 524528

Accounts

STAFFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Registered Charity No 524528

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1/1/2023 -1/12/2023

For the Annual General Meeting 24th June 2024

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the charity

Sue Hewitt	District Commissioner
Nick Lloyd	District Chair Nominated
Sharon Hill	District Treasurer Elected
Helen Ashwood	District Secretary Elected
Andrew Preston	District Explorer Scout Commissioner
Chris Rafferty	District Scout Network Commissioner
Elaine Neville	Nominated
Juliet Maiden	Nominated
Keith Low	Nominated
Paul Askey	Nominated
Trudi Smith	Nominated
Cathy Hordern	Elected
Graham Smith	Elected
Paul Evans	Nominated
Andrew Clode	Chairman of Appointments
Steve Smith	Nominated
Helena Hordern	District Youth Commissioner
Jack Blakeman	District Youth Commissioner
Roland Smith	Scout Active Support Manager
Kevin Hewitt	Camp Warden

Type of governing document

The District's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association

How the charity is constituted

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association

Risk and Internal Control

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Purpose of Scouting – Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society

The Values of Scouting – As Scouts we are guided by these values. Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Co-operation

The Scout Method – Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of scouting

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have an awareness of the Public Benefit Guidance with regard to Scouting's involvement with the local community. The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Financial Review

Reserves Policy – The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Trustee Committee considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to six months running costs, circa £8,000.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year as set out in the following reports –

District Commissioners Report

I cannot believe that it is time for the Districts AGM once again. I am writing this report thinking about what fantastic scouting has been done in Stafford District over the last 12 months

There are so many committed volunteers & the AGM gives me the time to think about what has happened over the last year. Hopefully next year will be just as good.

Following a review of Census for the end of 2023 where we had a net loss of 29 members (3%) to 926. As a District we now seem to be improving with our numbers and hopefully we will hit 1000 members by the end of 2024.

Stafford District has a huge opportunity to offer Scouting to more Young People due to the continuing large growth of all the new housing estates that keep popping up here and there.

We have 2 new schools that are being built which could help further with our numbers.

We have now 4 Squirrel Dreys in the District & 2 more groups have expressed interest in opening new dreys later this year.

The main problem is that we are still in desperate need of adult volunteers to make our groups run. Our usual District activities took place. We had our annual Lord Stafford Cup camping competition which should have taken place at Sherratts Wood but unfortunately this event was cancelled due to

lack of numbers. Activities are organised throughout the year but we do need the support of groups and sections to take part in these activities to make these events happen.

Remembrance Day Service was represented by our Explorers and they laid a wreath on behalf of Stafford District.

The District Carol Service was again held at St. Mary's and as always it was a good turnout.

Then 2024 was kicked off again with a District Quiz organised by St. Vincent Explorer Scouts and this year was won by the 9th Sea Scouts.

We have also had our District Football for cub and scouts which if I remember was a very cold and windy day so well done to everyone involved.

St. George's Day Service was led by the 7th Hixon & once again a good turn out with lots of awards and the parade returned back to its usual route through the Town Centre.

A very well organised Pioneering weekend for Scouts was held at Sherratts Wood and I believe 28 to 30 Scouts took part and built catapults, bridges and towers, I'm sure this event will grow even bigger in future years, thanks to all those that helped organise the weekend.

All that leaves me to say is a big thank you to you all for your support & hard work throughout the year & I would especially like to thank Nick Lloyd for his years of hard work as our District Chairman and for all the support he has given me.

Sue

District Lead Volunteer

Chairman's Report

It is great credit to everyone associated with Stafford District that we continue to provide those children and young adults in our charge with an environment and experiences they will never forget.

The contribution made by our "volunteers", leaders, helpers, Executive (Trustee Board), parents enable such experiences to seemingly just happen- "this is Scouting".

Once again the District has been active in many areas, continually looking at ways to enhance the activities available. Whether it be Squirrels, Campsite experiences, water based fun and land based challenges.

Stafford District is meeting head on the "Transformation Journey" requiring new Trustee Boards, changing roles and responsibilities- this all adds to the volunteering challenge.

As I will be standing down as Chair I would like to acknowledge the support I have received from everybody- it has been a real a privilege to be involved in such a fantastic organisation.

In finishing I would like to thank Sue our District Lead Volunteer- who in January 25 completes 10 years in this role.....well done Sue.

In closing I would like to leave with a simple statement —

You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.

Winston Churchill.

Nick Lloyd —District Chair

District Explorer Unit

It has been a 'steady' year for the Explorer Units within the Stafford District. St Vincent Unit has low numbers but have linked in with the Scout troop in order to rebuild. Pegasus, North Star and K2 have over 10 regular attenders and are slowly building. Elements and 7A are thriving. Both these Units are planning foreign camps next year. All Units run exciting and varied programs.

7A are leading the way with DofE at all levels; Elements are busy establishing their DofE program. We have a proactive volunteer ready to promote DofE within the District.

The OB Cup from last year was postponed to March due to weather conditions and again proved a successful event with 24 attenders. The numbers were down by 8 who were due in October: Pikes Pool campsite have offered up to 24 camping spaces over 2 nights due to the reduced numbers – no Unit has yet taken up this offer – as a result, I am happy for any Group to take advantage of this free of charge.

Plans are in place to offer a weekend of training for Young Leaders to complete 9/11 modules towards their YL Belt.

Effy Preston

District Lead Volunteer for Explorers

Stafford Network report

Network consists of six members. Up until September they were meeting every other week. They were doing activities such as climbing and canoeing. Unfortunately in September last year, due to my work commitments I had to take a step back from Network. It was my hope that the members would continue to meet regularly organising the meetings themselves. The group seems to have lost momentum however I am now in a position to start supporting Network again so I hope to reconnect and get the group meeting on a regular basis. We will also be looking to increase the size of the group.

Chris Rafferty

District Lead Volunteer for Network

Stafford District Growth and Development report

Since the end of the pandemic, Stafford District has been concentrating on recovering our young member numbers to pre-pandemic levels. This has now been achieved despite a small loss in numbers last year.

Looking forward, we have a huge opportunity to offer Scouting to more Young People due to the large growth of new builds in the West (nearest Group the 21st but looking at a new school based Group at Doxey) & the North (nearest Groups are the 20th and the 11th).

Also, at many of our village based Groups such as 15th (Penkridge) and 7th (Hixon) there have seen new house builds offering the opportunity to boost numbers.

This year, we are planning to grow by a minimum of 10% to over 1000 young people. This

we will attempt to achieve by encouraging Units & Groups to concentrate on recruiting new Leaders using the new processes being introduced. Also, making use of the existing resources & recruitment workshops available & if possible, appointing a recruitment officer at Group level to spread the load.

The new Squirrel sections are starting to take off with 4 groups giving it some focus. There is a chance 2 or 3 dreys will start in September 2024 subject to enough Adult Volunteers being found.

However, the growth of Scouting in Stafford remains very challenging with a lot of time being spent on keeping existing Groups & Sections open. If we can get recruitment right, this frees up the greatest barrier for Growth.

As always, we remain committed to offering Scouting to as many young people as we can but recognise the challenges in making this happen. The new transformation project will become the main focus as we move to a new system & way of delivering Scouting which may hinder the speed of growth in 2024.

Many thanks to all who are giving up their time to deliver Scouting to allow young people to develop skills for life. Hopefully, as their Scouting journey finishes, this will enable them to give something back to the Movement as they become Adults.

Steve Smith

Lead Volunteer, Growth and Development

Stafford District Beaver report

The Beaver Leaders have met several times since the last AGM. There is a greater sense of interest from groups in taking part in events throughout the year.

We held a successful day camp at Sherrats in September with the majority of groups represented, fun was had by all, there was an issue with the boggy carpark, and the odd downpour, but otherwise positive feedback was received.

The Christmas party was held in December and my thanks to Sean of the 20th for his DJ skills. We have just held a Beaver Drive, and despite leaders never having played it before, fun was had by all.

Cathy Hordern

District Team Lead Beavers

Cub Scout Section Report

It was a great honour in October to be given the opportunity to take over from Lydia in the role of ADC cubs and start a programme of activities in the hope of bringing the packs together. This will not be seen until 2024 or maybe 2025 before the programme ideas can be fitted into the district packs already busy programmes. My hope is to provide activities to bring the packs together, have regular leader meetings and to also have a few social times for just the leaders. Every leader has something they can share with the district to help it grow.

My first action as ADC was to simply try and get around to each of the packs, find out where they were, what they were up to, meet the leaders and cubs, and of course discover what they want from me. I have lots of ideas from my scouting experience, but need to get the packs, scattered to the four corners of the district, on board and meeting up. To let them know they are not alone.

Come back for next year's report, which will either show the success or failure of my endeavours.

Roy Clarke ADC (cubs)

Scout Section Report

All our Scout troops have enjoyed active and varied programmes this last year.

Taking full advantage of the district facilities at Sherratts Wood Campsite, the Canoe centre and the climbing wall. We have run the usual District events. The Scout Quiz which was very well supported and run by The Earl St Vincent explorers. Many thanks to them for a great evening. Lucie and David from the 11th organised the Lord Stafford Cup which took place at Sherratts Wood with several troops taking part. The weekend saw them showing off their camping skills in order to take home the trophy. There was also the chance for them to take part in shooting and archery at our shooting competition and all who took part had a fantastic experience. Thanks goes too Lee Smith for all his efforts. Last month saw the launch of a pioneering weekend run by Andy Cropp, Alex Windows and the District pioneering team. We had 26 scouts take part and learn some new skills. We have invested in some pioneering equipment ready for future events and hope to build on the success of this weekend.

Chief Scout Gold Awards have been gained again this year. I would take this opportunity to remind Leaders that when these are presented within the troop it would be nice if you could invite either Sue or myself to the presentations. Yet again I would like to thank all the Leaders and Volunteers who turn up week in week out to deliver their programmes to the young people. Without you all none of this would be possible.

Yours in Scouting
Graham Smith

ADC Scouts

District Activities Report

The kayaking team this year had over 300 Cubs and Scouts on the water, also, a number of the Explorer groups have used the facilities and run their own sessions. The session dates which were released in February were very quickly taken up within days. No one who requested a session did not get one, but there were requests for Cubs and Scouts to be able to paddle that had missed the deadline and in most cases, we were able to accommodate them. Our thanks go to Stafford Boat Club for allowing us to have a building on their land for storage and a centre for running the sessions.

We have also continued to upgrade some of our kayaks and equipment. There have also been a number of day trips on the river for the more experience scouts.

Tom Kent the Explorer Scout (the Bean Fund has been sponsoring his equipment to allow him to compete in white water events at a national level) is currently hoping to get into the British National team.

The climbing wall has had a fairly quiet year with bookings slightly down on previous years. Most groups in Stafford have had at least one visit. The County Mountaineering Team have run a number of courses over the year. We have continued to replace items of equipment that have reached their

recommended life span.

A number of groups have had trips into the hills over the year with most of the groups operating in terrain 1 and 2.

As a result of the Great Orme tragedy we are currently revising the Districts Activity forms.

My thanks go out to the activity team members for all their help and commitment putting on these activities over the last year.

Paul Askey

ADC Activities

Sherratt's Wood Site Warden

We had a successful year, bookings were slowly coming back to where they used to be.

For the last 12 months April, May, June, July, September had booking for every weekend October had 3 weekends booked. August, November and December had 0 bookings and January, February and March 2024 have had 1 booking each.

On the maintenance side, a lot of work has been going on and most of it un noticed but some of the visual improvements are the rooms upstairs in the toilet block have been changed, one into a lecture/ classroom with Wi-Fi and TV screen and the other room will be used as a games room with kitchenette facilities. Three of the field shelters have now been improved and have the capability to have a catering cooker installed at for an extra hire charge.

The weather has been a big hurdle this year to getting outside work done as most of the site has been awash with water and even the grass cutting had to be put on the back burner until much later this year. That said we were able to have a contractor in to create more hard standing on half of the activity field overflow carpark and the second half will hopefully be completed in the near future.

Pistol and crossbow shooting along with tomahawk and "soft tomahawk" throwing have also been added to the comprehensive list of activities available on site.

The only downside to that is we very much struggle supplying these activities as volunteer instructors don't seem very eager to come forward.

Most of the districts sections have been to the campsite in the last year and I would like to thank them for their support, we are here for you to use.

The site crew have worked exceptionally hard over the last 12 months and particularly in the atrocious weather of the last couple of months and I would like to thank them all for their time and effort.

Kevin Hewitt

Site Warden

Appointments Committee

This will be the final report of the Stafford District Appointments Committee (SDAC).

The Scout Association is currently adjusting the Appointment process by the introduction of a 'warmer welcome'. This means that going forward the current set up is redundant, and the responsibilities now pass to others.

I am immensely proud of the work that SDAC has carried out over the last 5 years in my tenancy as Chair. We have interviewed hundreds of leaders and established a robust and integrated process

involving the DC, Training with both in person and on-line interviews to work with prospective leaders.

I would like to thank the following individuals for their support and dedication over several years: -

Roland Smith

Paul Evans

Adam Davies

Liz Smith

Kevin Hewitt

Helen Carson

Doreen Smith

Juliet Maiden – Co-ordination

Sue Hewitt – DC

Vikki Williams - Training

We have established a number of mop up sessions in June 25th & 29th and October 2nd & 5th prior to the new system going live. SDAC will work with the new District Recruitment Lead Volunteer when appointed.

Andy Clode

Chair

Stafford Active Support Unit Report

SAS continues to support Stafford District as much as possible.

Assistance was provided by some of our illustrious team at this year's Gang Show, by either undertaking Car Park Duties or assisting with Front of House requirements.

We also undertake the organising of St Marys Church on the St Georges Day parade and service as well as providing refreshments for the Bands. Setting up the Church takes quite a while with the positioning of Televisions and Video Equipment to enable visibility of the service by as many individuals as we can. We also undertake the logging in, admission and refreshments for the District AGM.

A number of our members also engaged with the Warrants Committee which will sadly fail to exist with the advent of "Transformation", we will until that time provide what assistance we can.

We are a small band of dedicated individuals who provide what assistance we can, but our numbers are not great and often we have to ask for assistance off family and friends to assist in some of the tasks we take on, as such we are always on the lookout for individuals who wish to remain in scouting but are unable to take on full time commitments to join our little band.

Roland Smith

Manager Stafford Scout Active Support (SAS)

4th Stafford (St Paul's) Scout Group Report

This year our Squirrels turned 1, and has had its ups and downs. A change in leadership has steadied the boat. They are now meeting every week with 12 fully invested children, 2 adult leaders and 3 young leaders, there is a waiting list. They are enjoying a full programme

of exploration and games.

Our Beaver numbers remain static at 27 with a healthy waiting list. They are also enjoying a varied programme with lots of getting out and about. The leadership team remains settled with 2 adult leaders. Trips to the fire station, rugby club, cricket club and the many parks within Stafford. For our annual sleepover, we have had to join forces with the 7th to ensure it's financial viability. We have attended the district events with good numbers.

Over the last 12 months, Cubs have been very busy, they have an allotment and successfully grew a variety of vegetables. They have continued to earn plenty of badges and continue to build on their basic scouting skills. Another great annual Christmas sleepover and several weekend camps with fabulous weather. Another fun and successful year of scouting.

Another packed year, seeing the Troop undertake 6 camps at various locations, including our Island Paddle Camp in Nottingham and our infamous Night Hike in the Peaks. The Scouts have honed their navigation skills on hillwalking courses, as well as developing their rock climbing and kayaking.

We concluded the previous year with our annual summer camp, in the stunning scenery of the Lake District. The Scouts enjoyed all sorts of activities from Gorge walking, to climbing and hiking as well as some amazing bushcraft activities, it was amazing. We're now looking forward to our summer camp on the Isle of Wight this Year!

The Scouts have been very busy each week taking part in a huge range of Scouting based activities during our troop nights including, parliament week, fires and cooking skills, micronav and pioneering.

The Scouts have been brilliant; risen to challenges, developed skills and achieved so much.

We're pleased to be able to offer so many and such a range of different activities, and fantastic opportunities for all our youth members, who get so much out of and always pushing the limits of Scouting.

We produced a 4th Stafford wrapped - over 3200 face to face scouting hours in 2023 (who said it was 2 a week?) 237 nights away, 101 hikes undertaken, 10 young leaders and 3 new leaders - 367 activity badges awards, 215 staged badges, 157 challenge badges awarded, 1 acorn, 4 bronze, 4 silver and 5 gold.

I would like to thank all my leaders: Helena Hordern, Sarah Phillips, Gemma Phillips, Lydia Hilton, Hannah Ward, Andrew Bennett, Sam Scriven, Alex Windows, Darren Hordern, Jake Scriven, Adrian Dickson - their ongoing commitment to providing experiences for our youth members every week is greatly appreciated.

I would like to extend my thanks to the army of young leaders, their ability to bridge the gap between the leaders and the young people is invaluable. Their ongoing support in running meetings is greatly appreciated by myself and the leaders.

Cathy Hordern

4th Stafford Team Lead

6th Stafford (Trinity) Scout Group Report

2023/24 has been a challenging year for the Group, with a lot of changes taking place and being planned for the future.

As a Group we are continuing with our remit to rebuild the scouting skills lost during the various

lockdowns of the past few years, which is taking quite a lot of time, by camping and doing outdoor activities as much as we possibly can. However recruitment of, and losing, both leaders and members is unfortunately hampering our efforts. We remain positive that the downturn is temporary. However, the Group has been extremely active and busy....

A couple of highlights for our Group:

Celebrating the 1st birthday of our Squirrel Drey in January 2024

Continuing to develop our community ties, with activities at Victoria Park and visits to Stafford Heritage sites as well as Stafford Station.

A leaflet drop to try to encourage new members, which different sections took part in.

An exciting evening doing traditional rafting at Kibblestone with our Scouts and older Cubs.

A very enjoyable Young Leaders camp at Coton Clanford where the YL's were honing their skills ready to teach our Cubs and Scouts at Group Camp.

A very successful and well-attended Remembrance Day Parade at Trinity Church focusing on peace and reconciliation.

We've had several camps this year, the highlight of which is always our Group Camp at Sandon which is special to us as a Group, and we appreciate the relationship that we have had with the estate and Lord Harrowby for over 60 years now. We hope this year to be undertaking some working group activities on the estate to assist with their rewilding plans.

Cubs and Scouts enjoyed a fantastic Winter Camp at Kibblestone having a Gladiators theme.

Our Beavers had a great time at their joint 'Magical' sleepover at the 9th HQ.

Our Squirrels have extended the fun they had visiting our Group Camp by making dens and 'Camping at Home'

We congratulate our members on achieving 4 Chief Scouts Acorn Awards; 6 Chief Scouts Bronze Awards; 8 Chief Scouts Silver Awards (with 1 due soon); and 5 Chief Scouts Gold Awards (with 3 due soon) in the past year.

We have welcomed some new Young Leaders to the Group – Jack and Aeddan (who assist with our Scout Troop), Charlotte (Mao who assists with the Cub Pack) as well as Evie (Kaa who assists with the Cub Pack and the Squirrel Drey). We also invested a new leader into the Squirrel Drey, Lauren (Redwood). We also had Rebecca (Oak) as our new Squirrel Section Leader, along with her Beaver Scout role.

We would like to thank members of our Trustee Board for their work over the past year, particularly Stuart (our Treasurer) and Jenny (who is our Squirrel Parent Rep). We remain committed to gaining new, non-leaders, to join our Trustee Board, however recruitment remains difficult.

Our numbers currently stand as follows:

Squirrels - 12

Beavers – 11

Cubs – 17

Scouts – 18

During the past 12 months we have taken part in several events such as:

The Cub Pack attending the 'Scouts Takeover Day' at RAF Cosford, earning their level 1 & 2 Air Activities badges and having a lot of fun!

The Beaver Colony have been active in the community taking part in crafts with the residents of Crispin Court and having a joint 'Magical Sleepover' with another Beaver Colony.

6 camps, with attendees from all sections: including Scouts expedition camp at Sherratt's

Wood, Cubs autumn camp at Sherratt's Wood and a Christmas Sleepover as well as our annual Winter Camp at Kibblestone.

The Cub Pack also really enjoyed the return of the District Indoor Games Day.

The Group have 'adopted' Stafford Station as part of the 'Platforms for Change' programme, if you visit the station you will see artwork from all of our sections in the various notice boards.

As GSL's we have had another extremely stressful and busy year (with no signs of slowing down!) and would like to express our thanks to all our Leaders and Supporters for their assistance, with special mentions to Dave (Skip) and Rebecca (Oak) who stepped up to becoming Scout Leader and Squirrel Scout Leader following the departure of James and Emma.

Regards, *Justin L. & Vikki L. Williams*
(Group Scout Leaders)

7th Stafford (Trent Valley) Scout Group Report

Squirrels

10 members

3 leaders

1 young leader

In September 2023 we opened our squirrels drey with 3 squirrels. We have grown consistently throughout the year and are projected to continue to grow, likely at a slower rate, over the coming year. 4 Chief Scout Acorn awards are due for presentation.

Beavers

25 members (+3 compared with June 2023)

4 leaders (+3 compared with June 2023)

2 young leaders (+2 compared with June 2023)

Recent activities include joint indoor sleepover with the 4th, litter picking and trip to Birches Valley. Large majority (likely all) achieve Bronze Award.

Cubs

20 members (-4 compared with June 2023)

3 leaders

Difficulty this year with Akela recently stepping down. There have been some difficulties with covering the section in her absence, but these should settle down with a new Akela with good support from other leaders. As a result, no overnight activities this summer.

Successful joint cub/scout sleepover in the winter. Kayaking booked for next month. Aiming to arrange group indoor camp in the autumn. Good number of Silver Awards being achieved.

Scouts

22 members (same as 2023)

2 leaders plus a regular "helper" who has the potential to join the leadership team

Kayaking booked. Difficulties as discussed at district level with completion of expedition. This limits the Gold Awards.

GSL's report

2023-24 has been a less tumultuous year for the 7th. We had our long overdue AGM in October. This was well attended by members and parents, and has prompted a reset of the culture of the group, moving towards a transparent and better led group with the experiences of our members and leader welfare as core values. We reformed the Trustee Board and were delighted to recruit a new treasurer to take over from Kevin who has stood down from the group after 12 years of service.

Member numbers are stable, with overall growth with the opening of the squirrels section. At the start of the year we recruited 3 new leaders, but we have unfortunately lost Akela and an assistant leader from cubs, and one of our other leaders who volunteers at squirrels, beavers and cubs is unfortunately moving away in September for university. This means that although the leader numbers in each section look adequate, the reality is that we have a very flexible leadership team who are all cross-covering various sections. The actual number of leaders is just 7 across all four sections, plus the GSL to help out where needed. There are 13 children on the waiting list, with 12 of those being under 4, and the 4 year old currently waiting for beavers. We are not struggling for places at the moment.

This year we have introduced a new neckerchief with an embroidered emblem representing the hut and the river Trent. We are absolutely delighted with them and our members and leaders alike are proud to wear them. They looked particularly smart on display at the St George's parade which was very well attended by our members. Leaders have also been offered uniform upgrades in order to improve their sense of value as well as their comfort when volunteering. Finally, a termly newsletter has been introduced in order to improve the communication with members and parents with very good feedback.

The main problem that we have currently is that we still have no outdoor permit holders. We would welcome any help, advice and support from the district/other groups in moving forwards with this. The lack of district camps has negatively affected our members due to our current lack of permits. Outdoor permits, leader recruitment and improvements to the group admin processes (particularly risk assessments) will be our main priorities for the coming year.

Sarah Nightingale
Group Scout Leader

9th Stafford (Sea Scouts) Scout Group Report

Renowned for its vibrant and active participation in various land and water activities, is experiencing a period of remarkable growth and enthusiasm. This report highlights the group's upcoming summer camp at Lake Windermere and the exciting introduction of a new Squirrels section in September 2024.

The 9th Stafford Sea Scout Group is celebrating its 70th year and over the years has steadily grown in numbers and increased the number of activities we can offer our young people. Ranging from Beavers to Explorers the group has cultivated a strong sense of community, enthusiasm, and adventure. The leadership team comprising of experienced and dedicated volunteers who plays a pivotal role in maintaining the group's dynamic and supportive environment. The group's activities are diverse, including regular sailing, kayaking, and canoeing sessions, as well as land-based activities including Camping, hiking, climbing, abseiling and not forgetting badge work encouragement and support for our young people for achieving awards. This variety ensures that members develop a wide range of skills. from navigation to teamwork and on to leadership.

Summer Camp at Lake Windermere One of the most anticipated events in the group's calendar is the annual summer camp. This year, the 9th Stafford Sea Scout Group hope to have Scouts from Gnosall join us this year. Our young people in attendance will engage in a range of activities

designed to challenge their physical abilities and enhance their problem-solving skills. Additionally, the camp will include Scouting skills and survival skills.

Launch of the Squirrels Section In line with the group's mission to nurture young minds through adventure and learning, a new Squirrels section will be introduced in September 2024. The Squirrels section, aimed at children aged 4-6, will serve as an entry point into the Scouting, focusing on play-based learning and early social skills development.

The introduction of the Squirrels section reflects the group's commitment to inclusivity and early childhood development. By engaging younger children, the 9th Stafford Sea Scout Group hopes to instil a love for adventure and community service from an early age, creating a foundation for lifelong learning and growth.

The Sea Scout Group continues to offer enriching experiences to its members through well-organized activities and innovative new programs. The upcoming summer camp at Lake Windermere promises to be a highlight of the year, while the launch of the Squirrels section marks an exciting new chapter in the group's evolution. Through these initiatives, the group remains dedicated to skills, values, and Scouting for the next generation.

Spencer Hewitt

9th Stafford Sea Scout GLV

11th Stafford Scout Group Report

Well, it's been a pretty good year for the 11th . Since last year and our low numbers of

both Young People and Leaders, we are growing again. As I understand it, we are now off the critical list with county, although I feel the main push from HQ still focuses on Young People numbers first rather than Adult Volunteers, but He Ho.

We have now settled in to our new home in the Exhibition space at the New Beacon Group and word is spreading, allowing us to re-build and get back to all 3 sections meeting separately on a Thursday. We still rely on some great parent helpers as life still gets in the way of having a full complement of volunteers every week.

We are still tight on finances after the low numbers for the last few years, but we have had a few grants thanks to our treasurer and we are starting to build our coffers again, but with lots of new parents it's time to get the fundraising team again and start really building.

We have got nearly everyone away under canvas or indoor camping this year, including getting 14 beavers away for one night during our first group camp in 5 years. It's so good to see everyone out and really enjoying the great outdoors and makes all the hard work so worthwhile.

I cannot say enough about our small team of Leaders and Executive members who continue to put so much into keeping our small group going. Thank-you thank-you thank-you.

Finally, I will say a big thank-you to all our members of the district for your continued support of the group and let's continue teach our members Skills for Life as we continue to build in both the 11th and Stafford District.

Dave Francis

11th Stafford Scout Group

12th Stafford (Berkswich) Scout Group Report

Another very busy year under our belt even though along with other Groups our numbers dropped due to the aftermath from Covid. Happily we are back up to the 300 mark again with all 9 sections running at high numbers.

All Sections were very busy with their own Camps as well as a full Group Camp which turned out to be an amazing weekend. Section Leaders worked very hard to provide the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with good scouting and lots of adventurous activities plus trips out to place like National Space Centre for cubs and scouts were invited to Keele University to search for life on other planets using there huge telescopes. Kayaking, climbing, hiking, Pioneering and everything scouting is always a great favourite with all of our children and the leaders go all out to make sure they all have the opportunity to experience most if not all that's Scouting. At this point I would like to thank absolutely everybody involved with the 12th for their dedication time and commitment which they show every week of the year.

By the end of the year we are looking to start Squirrels which will be interesting I'm sure. After nearly 80 years we now need to replace our toilet blocks and I am happy to say work will commence end of July at a cost of £15k. Then our next priority is to work on our building which is now in need of some serious TLC.

As most of you know our Scout Max Farish who received the Jack Cornwall Award for bravery and courage lost his battle against cancer and passed away last July. In his memory we are going to turn our bottom fire lighting area into a memorial adventure Garden in his name. Hopefully a place where all the children can have some fun and also a place for his parents and us leaders to quietly reflect on the happy time Max spent doing something he was so passionate about – Scouting.

Last but not least I would like to thank Sue and Kevin for their non stop support, help and advice throughout the years. We are truly grateful for everything you do for us.

Kind regards to you all

Doreen Smith

Group Lead Volunteer

15th Stafford (Penkridge) Scout Group Report

Our numbers remain steady and there is a varied programme in all sections and we have a new member to our Cub leadership/volunteer team

Beavers 36 members

2 transferring to cub at half term, 4 joining after half term.

10 on waiting list (not yet old enough to join)

Varied programme based around challenge badges with some activity badges.

Some child led sessions based on their interests and activities.

Lots of outdoor visits and trips during the summer term to local attractions.

Warmest Regards

Kelly Whitby

15th Penkridge Mohawk Cup Pack

We have 29 Cubs and 7 Young Leader along with 4 Leaders and have just welcomed a 5th new Leader to our group.

Last year Cubs went on 4 camps and Hikes on the Chase visited Cosford to complete the Air Activities badge they went to the Fire Station for their Fire Safety Badge we even had a night in the Hut for Christmas so parent could go and do some shopping.

This year Cubs have enjoyed since January 2 camps with another camp being arranged for July and a week-long summer camp in August.

Cubs have enjoyed working towards or completing Badge work which consisted of science badge/Backward Cooking/Team Work/Team Leader/Our Adventure / Our Outdoor/Our Skills/Nights Away/Hikes to name a few.

Akela Scouts

21 young people (5 aging up)

0 on waiting list (unsure of upcoming cubs)

Programme focused on challenge badge activities, trying to get as much time outside as possible, working with district to sort some extra activities and camps

R Elsmore

16th (Wheaton Aston) Stafford Scout Group Report

Members at Census (Jan'24)

Beavers: 10

Cubs: 10

Young Leaders (Supporting Beavers): 1

The number of children attending Beavers has increased in the last 12 months and also since census, with 12 Beavers regularly attending this summer term. 2 Beavers will be moving up to Cubs during 2024. Cubs numbers has decreased from last year due to age and families moving away from the area. It currently has 11 children regularly attending, 5 of which are aged 10+ and will be leaving before the end of 2024.

As a small village group, there is limited ability to grow the Group. There is no Squirrels or Scout sections due to lack of demand and volunteers to run them.

Leaders

Beavers: 3 +1YL (undertaking Silver DofE)

Cubs: 3

Activities

Both sections have undertaken a variety of diverse activities, with both sections awarding more than 70 badges during the last 12 months.

Beavers have attended a number of District events e.g. District Beaver Day, Christmas Party and St Georges Day Parade. 4 Beavers joined the 6th Beavers on a sleepover mid April which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

A number of Cubs have camped overnight within the village last year and recently attended PGL in Shrewsbury.

Financials

Funding from Staffordshire Voluntary Youth Services for rental of St Mary's First Academy ceased

for this academic year. We negotiated a discounted rate however, based on the membership in census, the annual subscriptions are insufficient to cover the costs of capitation and hall rental, leaving a small shortfall. Reserves, from historic fundraising and compensation for the loss of our Scout Hut a few years ago, are being used to fund the shortfall and activities for the sections. The situation will continue to be monitored.

Di Rowlands

Group Scout Leader

17th (Gnosall) Stafford Scout Group Report

We have had quite a few changes in Gnosall this past year with our long serving beaver leader Cheryl Souter retiring from her role which has led to us gaining two new leaders to take up the reins. Bethan and Tracy who have slotted into their roles perfectly.

We have also just lost our chairman Mike Loveless who had been with the group for many years first in a cub leader role. We are now on the lookout for someone to fill the role.

Beavers are currently running at 12, cubs at 22 and scouts at 14.

At the end of February we had a group indoor camp based on Hogwarts and much fun was had by all with beavers coming out for a day visit, we all enjoyed the magical creatures that visited for the day. We are hoping that next time we do a group camp we can actually get them camping as well. Watch this space!

Scouts held quite a few weekend camps including the expedition one where some of the older ones took part in the chase walk following map and compass to get around and completed with hardly any going off route. We also went to Cosford taking part in their special scouts day to gain badges.

Cubs had a great fun camp at Patshull and are aiming to return this year.

We are trying to keep up with the changes as they come our way but our aim is business as usual!

Lesley Worsley

17th Stafford (Gnosall) Group Scout Leader

20th Stafford (St Bertelin's) Scout Group Report

The group currently operates three sections, Beavers on a Monday with 15 children attending, Cubs on a Thursday with 15 children attending and Scouts on a Friday with 14 children attending. The leadership group is steady at the moment, we recently had a volunteer day at the hut where employees from EDF & Capula came down and did some valuable work in and around the hut, new LED lights were installed, along with a new water heater for the kitchen and hinge protectors on all internal doors, also the outside of the hut was painted to remove all graffiti.

Joanna Miller Scouter in charge

20th St Bertelin's

21st (West) Stafford Scout Group Report

2023 has presented the group with an extraordinary number of challenges, many of which we will carry forward into 2024.

As would be expected our biggest issues are leaders and money, but unexpectedly also membership. The leader situation started to improve towards

the end of the year as some new names and a few changes took place. Like all groups we can always use more help. With all the talk about the changes coming with the 'transformation' we are hopeful of the recruiting getting easier.

Despite these issues in the background the group has offered an excellent programme across all the sections from Squirrels to scouts. The leaders always pull together and make me very proud in how they support each other across the sections to make interesting evenings with new and refreshed challenges and experiences. With such a wide breadth of skills, experience and knowledge they have plenty to offer the scouts.

There have been a few CSA's across the group, lots of hikes, camps, adventurous activities, learning, leadership opportunities, team work and fun. Notable events of the year have been the usual camping and sleep overs but also numerous visits to people and places, water fights and backwoods cooking, craft sessions and wide games, hikes and treasure hunts, games and first aid. Each section has built on the previous sections teachings and the members have achieved personal challenges and skills. The addition of the squirrels has upped the game plan for the other sections as they are learning more scouting skills earlier. Overall, another excellent year for scouting at 21st. Most sections have 5 leaders and two YL's delivering the programme each week.

Also in the background, it has been accepted that our HQ is not really fit for purpose and an embarrassment, meant as a temporary option in 2002 it has passed its use by date. To this end we have been using the church hall which comes with additional cost. However, we know this option is also drawing to a close as the church eyes up what they could do with the land, From this our trustees and leaders, we have taken the move to resurrect the project for a new Headquarters. The original plans were re-costed and found to be prohibitive, so a new plan has been developed and an architect engaged to design our dream that we hope to put to planning early in 2024.

Roy Clarke

Group Scout Leader

Elements Explorer Unit Report

The unit has had another great year with excellent attendance to our varied and popular programme created by the members and the leaders. Along with several camps and over night experiences the unit put a team in the chase walk, summer camp had to be re-planned due to leader availability but was good fun for them in Warwickshire.

Out back garden is the chase and saw lots of evenings out, walking, playing and cycling. Working towards their CSA's the unit have experienced visits and talks. A night learning about Islam first hand at the Muslim prayer hall was the latest in our exploration of faiths. Another night saw them getting the inside story on how the council works, elections and roles of councillors presented by the Leader of the Council and the Mayor. We also had a behind the scenes tour of St Mary's accompanied by some bell ringing.

Keeping the indoors to a minimum we got out for archery, tomahawks, shooting, canoeing, go-karting, ice skating and more.

Over half the unit are Young leaders in various groups across the district, so some of our activities are aimed at giving them ideas for their sections.

Big thank you to my leaders, Nina, Lexie, David and Jake along with help from

Effy and Natalie.
Roy Clarke
Explorer Scout Leader

Pegasus Explorer Unit (Gnosall) Report

Pegasus ESU is approaching our 5th birthday this September! As of the January 2024 census the Unit had nine Explorers and three Leaders. We currently have seven Explorers, but hopefully we will have two Scouts coming to join us over the next Term. We are also looking to do more active recruitment over the next term and half, for additional Leaders and Explorers.

We have had a busy and varied twelve months with highlights including:

May-August 2023 🕒

Unit weekend camp at Patshull Campsite

A dusk to dawn hike from Sherratt's Wood Campsite back to Gnosall

Leaders helped steward the Giant Challenge Bike Ride

Three of our Explorers and myself were luck enough to go to Kanderstag, Switzerland for just under two weeks.

September-December 2023

Night Hike across Cannock Chase

Hut Maintenance Day

Making paracord woggles

Completing the chef activity badge

Christmas treat, tubing at Stoke-on-Trent Ski Centre.

January-May 2024

Sponsored Hike up the Wrekin to raise money for the Hut

Group & Unit Harry Potter themed indoor weekend camp in February at Kibblestone International Campsite.

Climbing and Bouldering at Newport Rock

Hike from Gnosall to Ellenhall

Making a Da Vinci Bridge

In addition, we have continued to regularly maintain the dog poo bag holders around the village as part of the Chief Scout Awards.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Lesley Worsley and Andy Manners for all their help and support over the last 12 months. As well as thank you to many of 17th Stafford Leaders who have volunteered to help out when we have been short for Leaders on a Friday.

Thank you,

Will Swinnerton

Explorer Scout Leader

K2 Explorer Unit Report

In the last year we have had 5 Explorers leave and 4 join, resulting in numbers remaining

stable but reducing by 1 to currently 14. Presentations to 12th scout troops over the last few months leads us to believe that, post Covid, the number of scouts coming up to Explorer age will increase. We are now seeing the beginning of this trend. We currently have 5 leaders, 3 with wood beads.

We held our annual summer camp in 2023 at Symonds Yat for 5 days, mainly centred around canoeing, with the involvement of the district outdoor activity team. Plans are well ahead for this year's summer camp in the Yorkshire Dales, again with the outdoor team participating. Other trips included a weekend in Snowdonia mountain climbing and a visit to the Peak District for some rock climbing. It is planned to repeat these activities in the coming year, with some kayaking also planned.

Our programme for this year has seen 2 members participate in the District Explorer OB cup weekend. We have put on a range of activities, from vehicle maintenance to construction skill, like catapult, bridge and flying model making. A range of outdoor activities has included activities around the HQ eg. bivi making, firelighting and cooking, to orienteering, wide games and hikes on Cannock Chase. There have also been other indoor activities such as debates and scouting skills like first aid, pioneering and navigation exercises and debates. Unfortunately we have fallen foul of GCSE exams this year, so several additional activities like our annual winter camp and another mountain weekend have had to be cancelled due to school/exam pressures leading to low uptake, but they will come back onto the programme in the coming year..

We have successfully worked towards several staged badges, including navigation, first aid and camping being awarded and have helped 4 Explorers gain their bronze DofE and one his Silver. We are now encouraging them to gain their relevant scout awards, and other to also participate in the awards schemes.

Andy Goode

K2 Leader

North Star Explorer Scout Unit report

The unit has enjoyed another year, partaking in a programme focused around Teamwork, scouting themes and outdoor activities. The highlight being summer camp in North Wales last August.

The leadership team have supported individuals that have shown an interest in running badge work nights, in turn the younger explorers have seen how it is done, I look forward to more explorer lead evenings going forward.

Weekly numbers have been on average around 12 explorers, sadly we have said goodbye to those who have reached the 'old' age of 18, luckily new recruits from our feeder groups have topped the numbers back up during the year.

Our team on the OB Cup did their best to compete with the rest of the district, who knows maybe next year will be our year.

From try dive to pantomime there has been events for all, Thank you to all involved with North Star, you help make the unit what it is today.

Guy Allcock

Explorer Scout Leader

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures

--	--

Full names

--	--

Position

--	--

Date

Receipts and Payments**Receipts****Donations and other income**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total Funds 2024
Membership Subscriptions	53,889			53,889
Less Membership Paid on	43,010			43,010
Net Membership Subscriptions	10,879			10,879
Donations/Bequest	1,473			1,473
Equipment Sales	279			279
Section Repayment to District				0
M & G Dividend to Current Account	2,511			2,511
Meeting revenue	727			727
Explorer Income	25,956			25,956
St Peters Revenue	3,480			3,480
Minibus Income	2,440			2,440
	47,743			47,743

Grants

Maintenance				
Other				0
	0			0

Fundraising

Collections				0
Shop Sales	3,222			3,222
Badge Sales	1,477			1,477
Activity Fees Received	2,082			2,082
Advertising				0
Campsite Fees	16,891			16,891
Subscriptions				0
Gang Show Sales				0
Gang Show Ticket Sales	2,013			2,013
	25,685			25,685

Investment Income

Bank Interest	1,284			1,284
Building Society Interest		0		0
Property Rent Income				
Other Investment Income				
	1,284	0		1,284

Total Gross Income	74,712	0		74,712
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Asset & Investment Sales				
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Total Receipts	74,712	0		74,712
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	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total Funds 2024
Receipts & Payments				
Payments				
Youth Programme & Activities	4,596			4,596
Training	1,635			1,635
Membership Fees				0
District Purchases	2,057			2,057
Minibus Purchase & Running Cost	2,247			2,247
Rent				0
District Expenses	660			660
Savings Transfer				0
St Peters Expenses				0
BT				0
Utilities	7,949			7,949
Insurance	3,560			3,560
Repairs & Renewals	18,438			18,438
Materials & Equipment	3,250			3,250
Transfer	25,000			25,000
Travel and Van Hire				0
Explorer Units	23,356			23,356
Grants not transferred from DB				0
Events	16,874			16,874
Bean Fund		1,340		1,340
Beaver Expenses				0
Camp Site purchases	1,316			1,316
Donations & Gifts	473			473
Other Expenses				0
	111,412	1,340		112,752
Fundraising Expenses				
Camp Shop	2,416			2,416
Gangshow	643			643
County Jamboree Fund				0
Badges	1,162			1,162
	4,221			4,221
Total Gross Expenditure	115,633	1,340		116,973
Loan Repayment				
Total Payments	115,633	1,340		116,973
Net of Receipts/(payments)	(40,920)	(1,340)		(42,260)
Transfers Between Funds				
Cash Funds Last Year End	109,009	52,750		161,759
Cash Funds End This Year	68,089	51,410		119,499

Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total Funds 2024
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Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Cash Funds

Bank Current Account	65,206		65,206
Bank Savings Account	74,159		74,159
Building Society Account		52,750	52,750
Cash/Floats	597		597
Total Cash Funds	139,962	52,750	192,713

Other Monetary Assets

Debts due from County/District/Groups

Investment Assets

Investment Property			
Quoted Investments M & G		33,423	33,423
Other Investments			
Total		33,423	33,423

Non Monetary assets for Charity's own use

Badge Stock	5,778		5,778
Sherratts Wood Shop Stock	2,024		2,024
St Peters Building	214,225		214,225
St Peters Fixtures and Fittings	34,458		34,458
Sherratts Wood Camp Site	300,000		300,000
Mini Bus	3,265		3,265
Sherratts Wood Fixtures & Fittings	35,800		35,800
Kayak Store	20,000		20,000
Kayaks & Equipment	35,000		35,000
	650,551		650,551

Total

790,513 86,174 876,687

Liabilities

Accounts not paid
 Expenses incurred but no yet invoiced
 Subscription not yet paid
 Loan
 Other Liabilities

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

behalf by

Chairman
Roland Smith

District Commissioner
Sue Hewitt

Total Funds 2023	
	52,174
	41,867
	10,307
	72,500
	8,423
	0
	1,941
	2,742
	21,515
	2,520
	1,140
	121,088
	0
	0
	0
	3,584
	2,866
	0
	0
	17,897
	0
	5,207
	5,816
	35,370
	266
	1,040
	1,306
	157,764
	157,764

Total Funds 2023	
	295
	117
	15
	2,175
	400
	330
	812
	34,430
	2,358
	0
	4,666
	3,079
	6,297
	4,365
	0
	820
	21,615
	6,814
	2,000
	0
	401
	2,219
	404
	121
	93,734
	2,252
	12,884
	7,034
	2,709
	24,879
	118,613
	118,613
	39,151

Total Funds 2023

109,009
47,876
52,750
0
209,635
32,574
32,574
4,344
0
214,225
34,458
300,000
3,265
35,800
20,000
35,000
647,092
889,301



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Stafford District Scout Council

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2024

Charity no (if any)

524528

Set out on pages

File attached with back up information

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn 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:

Roland Skelton

Date:

26th MAY 2025

Name:

ROLAND SKELTON

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

A.A.T.
C.I.P.F.A (Part Qualified)

Address:

29 HEATH DRIVE

STAFFORD

ST16 1RB

Stafford District Scout Council

England & Wales - Charity number 524528

Accounts

STAFFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Registered Charity No 524528

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1/1/2023 -1/12/2023

For the Annual General Meeting 24th June 2024

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the charity

Sue Hewitt	District Commissioner
Nick Lloyd	District Chair Nominated
Sharon Hill	District Treasurer Elected
Helen Ashwood	District Secretary Elected
Andrew Preston	District Explorer Scout Commissioner
Chris Rafferty	District Scout Network Commissioner
Elaine Neville	Nominated
Juliet Maiden	Nominated
Keith Low	Nominated
Paul Askey	Nominated
Trudi Smith	Nominated
Cathy Hordern	Elected
Graham Smith	Elected
Paul Evans	Nominated
Andrew Clode	Chairman of Appointments
Steve Smith	Nominated
Helena Hordern	District Youth Commissioner
Jack Blakeman	District Youth Commissioner
Roland Smith	Scout Active Support Manager
Kevin Hewitt	Camp Warden

Type of governing document

The District's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association

How the charity is constituted

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association

Risk and Internal Control

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Purpose of Scouting – Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society

The Values of Scouting – As Scouts we are guided by these values. Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Co-operation

The Scout Method – Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of scouting

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have an awareness of the Public Benefit Guidance with regard to Scouting's involvement with the local community. The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Financial Review

Reserves Policy – The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Trustee Committee considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to six months running costs, circa £8,000.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year as set out in the following reports –

District Commissioners Report

I cannot believe that it is time for the Districts AGM once again. I am writing this report thinking about what fantastic scouting has been done in Stafford District over the last 12 months

There are so many committed volunteers & the AGM gives me the time to think about what has happened over the last year. Hopefully next year will be just as good.

Following a review of Census for the end of 2023 where we had a net loss of 29 members (3%) to 926. As a District we now seem to be improving with our numbers and hopefully we will hit 1000 members by the end of 2024.

Stafford District has a huge opportunity to offer Scouting to more Young People due to the continuing large growth of all the new housing estates that keep popping up here and there.

We have 2 new schools that are being built which could help further with our numbers.

We have now 4 Squirrel Dreys in the District & 2 more groups have expressed interest in opening new dreys later this year.

The main problem is that we are still in desperate need of adult volunteers to make our groups run. Our usual District activities took place. We had our annual Lord Stafford Cup camping competition which should have taken place at Sherratts Wood but unfortunately this event was cancelled due to

lack of numbers. Activities are organised throughout the year but we do need the support of groups and sections to take part in these activities to make these events happen.

Remembrance Day Service was represented by our Explorers and they laid a wreath on behalf of Stafford District.

The District Carol Service was again held at St. Mary's and as always it was a good turnout.

Then 2024 was kicked off again with a District Quiz organised by St. Vincent Explorer Scouts and this year was won by the 9th Sea Scouts.

We have also had our District Football for cub and scouts which if I remember was a very cold and windy day so well done to everyone involved.

St. George's Day Service was led by the 7th Hixon & once again a good turn out with lots of awards and the parade returned back to its usual route through the Town Centre.

A very well organised Pioneering weekend for Scouts was held at Sherratts Wood and I believe 28 to 30 Scouts took part and built catapults, bridges and towers, I'm sure this event will grow even bigger in future years, thanks to all those that helped organise the weekend.

All that leaves me to say is a big thank you to you all for your support & hard work throughout the year & I would especially like to thank Nick Lloyd for his years of hard work as our District Chairman and for all the support he has given me.

Sue

District Lead Volunteer

Chairman's Report

It is great credit to everyone associated with Stafford District that we continue to provide those children and young adults in our charge with an environment and experiences they will never forget.

The contribution made by our "volunteers", leaders, helpers, Executive (Trustee Board),parents enable such experiences to seemingly just happen- "this is Scouting".

Once again the District has been active in many areas, continually looking at ways to enhance the activities available. Whether it be Squirrels, Campsite experiences, water based fun and land based challenges.

Stafford District is meeting head on the "Transformation Journey" requiring new Trustee Boards, changing roles and responsibilities- this all adds to the volunteering challenge.

As I will be standing down as Chair I would like to acknowledge the support I have received from everybody- it has been a real a privilege to be involved in such a fantastic organisation.

In finishing I would like to thank Sue our District Lead Volunteer- who in January 25 completes 10 years in this role.....well done Sue.

In closing I would like to leave with a simple statement —

You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.

Winston Churchill.

Nick Lloyd —District Chair

District Explorer Unit

It has been a 'steady' year for the Explorer Units within the Stafford District. St Vincent Unit has low numbers but have linked in with the Scout troop in order to rebuild. Pegasus, North Star and K2 have over 10 regular attenders and are slowly building. Elements and 7A are thriving. Both these Units are planning foreign camps next year. All Units run exciting and varied programs.

7A are leading the way with DofE at all levels; Elements are busy establishing their DofE program. We have a proactive volunteer ready to promote DofE within the District.

The OB Cup from last year was postponed to March due to weather conditions and again proved a successful event with 24 attenders. The numbers were down by 8 who were due in October: Pikes Pool campsite have offered up to 24 camping spaces over 2 nights due to the reduced numbers – no Unit has yet taken up this offer – as a result, I am happy for any Group to take advantage of this free of charge.

Plans are in place to offer a weekend of training for Young Leaders to complete 9/11 modules towards their YL Belt.

Effy Preston

District Lead Volunteer for Explorers

Stafford Network report

Network consists of six members. Up until September they were meeting every other week. They were doing activities such as climbing and canoeing. Unfortunately in September last year, due to my work commitments I had to take a step back from Network. It was my hope that the members would continue to meet regularly organising the meetings themselves. The group seems to have lost momentum however I am now in a position to start supporting Network again so I hope to reconnect and get the group meeting on a regular basis. We will also be looking to increase the size of the group.

Chris Rafferty

District Lead Volunteer for Network

Stafford District Growth and Development report

Since the end of the pandemic, Stafford District has been concentrating on recovering our young member numbers to pre-pandemic levels. This has now been achieved despite a small loss in numbers last year.

Looking forward, we have a huge opportunity to offer Scouting to more Young People due to the large growth of new builds in the West (nearest Group the 21st but looking at a new school based Group at Doxey) & the North (nearest Groups are the 20th and the 11th).

Also, at many of our village based Groups such as 15th (Penkridge) and 7th (Hixon) there have seen new house builds offering the opportunity to boost numbers.

This year, we are planning to grow by a minimum of 10% to over 1000 young people. This

we will attempt to achieve by encouraging Units & Groups to concentrate on recruiting new Leaders using the new processes being introduced. Also, making use of the existing resources & recruitment workshops available & if possible, appointing a recruitment officer at Group level to spread the load.

The new Squirrel sections are starting to take off with 4 groups giving it some focus. There is a chance 2 or 3 dreys will start in September 2024 subject to enough Adult Volunteers being found.

However, the growth of Scouting in Stafford remains very challenging with a lot of time being spent on keeping existing Groups & Sections open. If we can get recruitment right, this frees up the greatest barrier for Growth.

As always, we remain committed to offering Scouting to as many young people as we can but recognise the challenges in making this happen. The new transformation project will become the main focus as we move to a new system & way of delivering Scouting which may hinder the speed of growth in 2024.

Many thanks to all who are giving up their time to deliver Scouting to allow young people to develop skills for life. Hopefully, as their Scouting journey finishes, this will enable them to give something back to the Movement as they become Adults.

Steve Smith

Lead Volunteer, Growth and Development

Stafford District Beaver report

The Beaver Leaders have met several times since the last AGM. There is a greater sense of interest from groups in taking part in events throughout the year.

We held a successful day camp at Sherrats in September with the majority of groups represented, fun was had by all, there was an issue with the boggy carpark, and the odd downpour, but otherwise positive feedback was received.

The Christmas party was held in December and my thanks to Sean of the 20th for his DJ skills. We have just held a Beaver Drive, and despite leaders never having played it before, fun was had by all.

Cathy Hordern

District Team Lead Beavers

Cub Scout Section Report

It was a great honour in October to be given the opportunity to take over from Lydia in the role of ADC cubs and start a programme of activities in the hope of bringing the packs together. This will not be seen until 2024 or maybe 2025 before the programme ideas can be fitted into the district packs already busy programmes. My hope is to provide activities to bring the packs together, have regular leader meetings and to also have a few social times for just the leaders. Every leader has something they can share with the district to help it grow.

My first action as ADC was to simply try and get around to each of the packs, find out where they were, what they were up to, meet the leaders and cubs, and of course discover what they want from me. I have lots of ideas from my scouting experience, but need to get the packs, scattered to the four corners of the district, on board and meeting up. To let them know they are not alone.

Come back for next year's report, which will either show the success or failure of my endeavours.

Roy Clarke ADC (cubs)

Scout Section Report

All our Scout troops have enjoyed active and varied programmes this last year.

Taking full advantage of the district facilities at Sherratts Wood Campsite, the Canoe centre and the climbing wall. We have run the usual District events. The Scout Quiz which was very well supported and run by The Earl St Vincent explorers. Many thanks to them for a great evening. Lucie and David from the 11th organised the Lord Stafford Cup which took place at Sherratts Wood with several troops taking part. The weekend saw them showing off their camping skills in order to take home the trophy. There was also the chance for them to take part in shooting and archery at our shooting competition and all who took part had a fantastic experience. Thanks goes too Lee Smith for all his efforts. Last month saw the launch of a pioneering weekend run by Andy Cropp, Alex Windows and the District pioneering team. We had 26 scouts take part and learn some new skills. We have invested in some pioneering equipment ready for future events and hope to build on the success of this weekend.

Chief Scout Gold Awards have been gained again this year. I would take this opportunity to remind Leaders that when these are presented within the troop it would be nice if you could invite either Sue or myself to the presentations. Yet again I would like to thank all the Leaders and Volunteers who turn up week in week out to deliver their programmes to the young people. Without you all none of this would be possible.

Yours in Scouting
Graham Smith

ADC Scouts

District Activities Report

The kayaking team this year had over 300 Cubs and Scouts on the water, also, a number of the Explorer groups have used the facilities and run their own sessions. The session dates which were released in February were very quickly taken up within days. No one who requested a session did not get one, but there were requests for Cubs and Scouts to be able to paddle that had missed the deadline and in most cases, we were able to accommodate them. Our thanks go to Stafford Boat Club for allowing us to have a building on their land for storage and a centre for running the sessions.

We have also continued to upgrade some of our kayaks and equipment. There have also been a number of day trips on the river for the more experience scouts.

Tom Kent the Explorer Scout (the Bean Fund has been sponsoring his equipment to allow him to compete in white water events at a national level) is currently hoping to get into the British National team.

The climbing wall has had a fairly quiet year with bookings slightly down on previous years. Most groups in Stafford have had at least one visit. The County Mountaineering Team have run a number of courses over the year. We have continued to replace items of equipment that have reached their

recommended life span.

A number of groups have had trips into the hills over the year with most of the groups operating in terrain 1 and 2.

As a result of the Great Orme tragedy we are currently revising the Districts Activity forms.

My thanks go out to the activity team members for all their help and commitment putting on these activities over the last year.

Paul Askey

ADC Activities

Sherratt's Wood Site Warden

We had a successful year, bookings were slowly coming back to where they used to be.

For the last 12 months April, May, June, July, September had booking for every weekend October had 3 weekends booked. August, November and December had 0 bookings and January, February and March 2024 have had 1 booking each.

On the maintenance side, a lot of work has been going on and most of it un noticed but some of the visual improvements are the rooms upstairs in the toilet block have been changed, one into a lecture/ classroom with Wi-Fi and TV screen and the other room will be used as a games room with kitchenette facilities. Three of the field shelters have now been improved and have the capability to have a catering cooker installed at for an extra hire charge.

The weather has been a big hurdle this year to getting outside work done as most of the site has been awash with water and even the grass cutting had to be put on the back burner until much later this year. That said we were able to have a contractor in to create more hard standing on half of the activity field overflow carpark and the second half will hopefully be completed in the near future.

Pistol and crossbow shooting along with tomahawk and "soft tomahawk" throwing have also been added to the comprehensive list of activities available on site.

The only downside to that is we very much struggle supplying these activities as volunteer instructors don't seem very eager to come forward.

Most of the districts sections have been to the campsite in the last year and I would like to thank them for their support, we are here for you to use.

The site crew have worked exceptionally hard over the last 12 months and particularly in the atrocious weather of the last couple of months and I would like to thank them all for their time and effort.

Kevin Hewitt

Site Warden

Appointments Committee

This will be the final report of the Stafford District Appointments Committee (SDAC).

The Scout Association is currently adjusting the Appointment process by the introduction of a 'warmer welcome'. This means that going forward the current set up is redundant, and the responsibilities now pass to others.

I am immensely proud of the work that SDAC has carried out over the last 5 years in my tenancy as Chair. We have interviewed hundreds of leaders and established a robust and integrated process

involving the DC, Training with both in person and on-line interviews to work with prospective leaders.

I would like to thank the following individuals for their support and dedication over several years: -

Roland Smith

Paul Evans

Adam Davies

Liz Smith

Kevin Hewitt

Helen Carson

Doreen Smith

Juliet Maiden – Co-ordination

Sue Hewitt – DC

Vikki Williams - Training

We have established a number of mop up sessions in June 25th & 29th and October 2nd & 5th prior to the new system going live. SDAC will work with the new District Recruitment Lead Volunteer when appointed.

Andy Clode

Chair

Stafford Active Support Unit Report

SAS continues to support Stafford District as much as possible.

Assistance was provided by some of our illustrious team at this year's Gang Show, by either undertaking Car Park Duties or assisting with Front of House requirements.

We also undertake the organising of St Marys Church on the St Georges Day parade and service as well as providing refreshments for the Bands. Setting up the Church takes quite a while with the positioning of Televisions and Video Equipment to enable visibility of the service by as many individuals as we can. We also undertake the logging in, admission and refreshments for the District AGM.

A number of our members also engaged with the Warrants Committee which will sadly fail to exist with the advent of "Transformation", we will until that time provide what assistance we can.

We are a small band of dedicated individuals who provide what assistance we can, but our numbers are not great and often we have to ask for assistance off family and friends to assist in some of the tasks we take on, as such we are always on the lookout for individuals who wish to remain in scouting but are unable to take on full time commitments to join our little band.

Roland Smith

Manager Stafford Scout Active Support (SAS)

4th Stafford (St Paul's) Scout Group Report

This year our Squirrels turned 1, and has had its ups and downs. A change in leadership has steadied the boat. They are now meeting every week with 12 fully invested children, 2 adult leaders and 3 young leaders, there is a waiting list. They are enjoying a full programme

of exploration and games.

Our Beaver numbers remain static at 27 with a healthy waiting list. They are also enjoying a varied programme with lots of getting out and about. The leadership team remains settled with 2 adult leaders. Trips to the fire station, rugby club, cricket club and the many parks within Stafford. For our annual sleepover, we have had to join forces with the 7th to ensure it's financial viability. We have attended the district events with good numbers.

Over the last 12 months, Cubs have been very busy, they have an allotment and successfully grew a variety of vegetables. They have continued to earn plenty of badges and continue to build on their basic scouting skills. Another great annual Christmas sleepover and several weekend camps with fabulous weather. Another fun and successful year of scouting.

Another packed year, seeing the Troop undertake 6 camps at various locations, including our Island Paddle Camp in Nottingham and our infamous Night Hike in the Peaks. The Scouts have honed their navigation skills on hillwalking courses, as well as developing their rock climbing and kayaking.

We concluded the previous year with our annual summer camp, in the stunning scenery of the Lake District. The Scouts enjoyed all sorts of activities from Gorge walking, to climbing and hiking as well as some amazing bushcraft activities, it was amazing. We're now looking forward to our summer camp on the Isle of Wight this Year!

The Scouts have been very busy each week taking part in a huge range of Scouting based activities during our troop nights including, parliament week, fires and cooking skills, micronav and pioneering.

The Scouts have been brilliant; risen to challenges, developed skills and achieved so much.

We're pleased to be able to offer so many and such a range of different activities, and fantastic opportunities for all our youth members, who get so much out of and always pushing the limits of Scouting.

We produced a 4th Stafford wrapped - over 3200 face to face scouting hours in 2023 (who said it was 2 a week?) 237 nights away, 101 hikes undertaken, 10 young leaders and 3 new leaders - 367 activity badges awards, 215 staged badges, 157 challenge badges awarded, 1 acorn, 4 bronze, 4 silver and 5 gold.

I would like to thank all my leaders: Helena Hordern, Sarah Phillips, Gemma Phillips, Lydia Hilton, Hannah Ward, Andrew Bennett, Sam Scriven, Alex Windows, Darren Hordern, Jake Scriven, Adrian Dickson - their ongoing commitment to providing experiences for our youth members every week is greatly appreciated.

I would like to extend my thanks to the army of young leaders, their ability to bridge the gap between the leaders and the young people is invaluable. Their ongoing support in running meetings is greatly appreciated by myself and the leaders.

Cathy Hordern

4th Stafford Team Lead

6th Stafford (Trinity) Scout Group Report

2023/24 has been a challenging year for the Group, with a lot of changes taking place and being planned for the future.

As a Group we are continuing with our remit to rebuild the scouting skills lost during the various

lockdowns of the past few years, which is taking quite a lot of time, by camping and doing outdoor activities as much as we possibly can. However recruitment of, and losing, both leaders and members is unfortunately hampering our efforts. We remain positive that the downturn is temporary. However, the Group has been extremely active and busy....

A couple of highlights for our Group:

Celebrating the 1st birthday of our Squirrel Drey in January 2024

Continuing to develop our community ties, with activities at Victoria Park and visits to Stafford Heritage sites as well as Stafford Station.

A leaflet drop to try to encourage new members, which different sections took part in.

An exciting evening doing traditional rafting at Kibblestone with our Scouts and older Cubs.

A very enjoyable Young Leaders camp at Coton Clanford where the YL's were honing their skills ready to teach our Cubs and Scouts at Group Camp.

A very successful and well-attended Remembrance Day Parade at Trinity Church focusing on peace and reconciliation.

We've had several camps this year, the highlight of which is always our Group Camp at Sandon which is special to us as a Group, and we appreciate the relationship that we have had with the estate and Lord Harrowby for over 60 years now. We hope this year to be undertaking some working group activities on the estate to assist with their rewilding plans.

Cubs and Scouts enjoyed a fantastic Winter Camp at Kibblestone having a Gladiators theme.

Our Beavers had a great time at their joint 'Magical' sleepover at the 9th HQ.

Our Squirrels have extended the fun they had visiting our Group Camp by making dens and 'Camping at Home'

We congratulate our members on achieving 4 Chief Scouts Acorn Awards; 6 Chief Scouts Bronze Awards; 8 Chief Scouts Silver Awards (with 1 due soon); and 5 Chief Scouts Gold Awards (with 3 due soon) in the past year.

We have welcomed some new Young Leaders to the Group – Jack and Aeddan (who assist with our Scout Troop), Charlotte (Mao who assists with the Cub Pack) as well as Evie (Kaa who assists with the Cub Pack and the Squirrel Drey). We also invested a new leader into the Squirrel Drey, Lauren (Redwood). We also had Rebecca (Oak) as our new Squirrel Section Leader, along with her Beaver Scout role.

We would like to thank members of our Trustee Board for their work over the past year, particularly Stuart (our Treasurer) and Jenny (who is our Squirrel Parent Rep). We remain committed to gaining new, non-leaders, to join our Trustee Board, however recruitment remains difficult.

Our numbers currently stand as follows:

Squirrels - 12

Beavers – 11

Cubs – 17

Scouts – 18

During the past 12 months we have taken part in several events such as:

The Cub Pack attending the 'Scouts Takeover Day' at RAF Cosford, earning their level 1 & 2 Air Activities badges and having a lot of fun!

The Beaver Colony have been active in the community taking part in crafts with the residents of Crispin Court and having a joint 'Magical Sleepover' with another Beaver Colony.

6 camps, with attendees from all sections: including Scouts expedition camp at Sherratt's

Wood, Cubs autumn camp at Sherratt's Wood and a Christmas Sleepover as well as our annual Winter Camp at Kibblestone.

The Cub Pack also really enjoyed the return of the District Indoor Games Day.

The Group have 'adopted' Stafford Station as part of the 'Platforms for Change' programme, if you visit the station you will see artwork from all of our sections in the various notice boards.

As GSL's we have had another extremely stressful and busy year (with no signs of slowing down!) and would like to express our thanks to all our Leaders and Supporters for their assistance, with special mentions to Dave (Skip) and Rebecca (Oak) who stepped up to becoming Scout Leader and Squirrel Scout Leader following the departure of James and Emma.

Regards, *Justin L. & Vikki L. Williams*
(Group Scout Leaders)

7th Stafford (Trent Valley) Scout Group Report

Squirrels

10 members

3 leaders

1 young leader

In September 2023 we opened our squirrels drey with 3 squirrels. We have grown consistently throughout the year and are projected to continue to grow, likely at a slower rate, over the coming year. 4 Chief Scout Acorn awards are due for presentation.

Beavers

25 members (+3 compared with June 2023)

4 leaders (+3 compared with June 2023)

2 young leaders (+2 compared with June 2023)

Recent activities include joint indoor sleepover with the 4th, litter picking and trip to Birches Valley. Large majority (likely all) achieve Bronze Award.

Cubs

20 members (-4 compared with June 2023)

3 leaders

Difficulty this year with Akela recently stepping down. There have been some difficulties with covering the section in her absence, but these should settle down with a new Akela with good support from other leaders. As a result, no overnight activities this summer.

Successful joint cub/scout sleepover in the winter. Kayaking booked for next month. Aiming to arrange group indoor camp in the autumn. Good number of Silver Awards being achieved.

Scouts

22 members (same as 2023)

2 leaders plus a regular "helper" who has the potential to join the leadership team

Kayaking booked. Difficulties as discussed at district level with completion of expedition. This limits the Gold Awards.

GSL's report

2023-24 has been a less tumultuous year for the 7th. We had our long overdue AGM in October. This was well attended by members and parents, and has prompted a reset of the culture of the group, moving towards a transparent and better led group with the experiences of our members and leader welfare as core values. We reformed the Trustee Board and were delighted to recruit a new treasurer to take over from Kevin who has stood down from the group after 12 years of service.

Member numbers are stable, with overall growth with the opening of the squirrels section. At the start of the year we recruited 3 new leaders, but we have unfortunately lost Akela and an assistant leader from cubs, and one of our other leaders who volunteers at squirrels, beavers and cubs is unfortunately moving away in September for university. This means that although the leader numbers in each section look adequate, the reality is that we have a very flexible leadership team who are all cross-covering various sections. The actual number of leaders is just 7 across all four sections, plus the GSL to help out where needed. There are 13 children on the waiting list, with 12 of those being under 4, and the 4 year old currently waiting for beavers. We are not struggling for places at the moment.

This year we have introduced a new neckerchief with an embroidered emblem representing the hut and the river Trent. We are absolutely delighted with them and our members and leaders alike are proud to wear them. They looked particularly smart on display at the St George's parade which was very well attended by our members. Leaders have also been offered uniform upgrades in order to improve their sense of value as well as their comfort when volunteering. Finally, a termly newsletter has been introduced in order to improve the communication with members and parents with very good feedback.

The main problem that we have currently is that we still have no outdoor permit holders. We would welcome any help, advice and support from the district/other groups in moving forwards with this. The lack of district camps has negatively affected our members due to our current lack of permits. Outdoor permits, leader recruitment and improvements to the group admin processes (particularly risk assessments) will be our main priorities for the coming year.

Sarah Nightingale
Group Scout Leader

9th Stafford (Sea Scouts) Scout Group Report

Renowned for its vibrant and active participation in various land and water activities, is experiencing a period of remarkable growth and enthusiasm. This report highlights the group's upcoming summer camp at Lake Windermere and the exciting introduction of a new Squirrels section in September 2024.

The 9th Stafford Sea Scout Group is celebrating its 70th year and over the years has steadily grown in numbers and increased the number of activities we can offer our young people. Ranging from Beavers to Explorers the group has cultivated a strong sense of community, enthusiasm, and adventure. The leadership team comprising of experienced and dedicated volunteers who plays a pivotal role in maintaining the group's dynamic and supportive environment. The group's activities are diverse, including regular sailing, kayaking, and canoeing sessions, as well as land-based activities including Camping, hiking, climbing, abseiling and not forgetting badge work encouragement and support for our young people for achieving awards. This variety ensures that members develop a wide range of skills. from navigation to teamwork and on to leadership.

Summer Camp at Lake Windermere One of the most anticipated events in the group's calendar is the annual summer camp. This year, the 9th Stafford Sea Scout Group hope to have Scouts from Gnosall join us this year. Our young people in attendance will engage in a range of activities

designed to challenge their physical abilities and enhance their problem-solving skills. Additionally, the camp will include Scouting skills and survival skills.

Launch of the Squirrels Section In line with the group's mission to nurture young minds through adventure and learning, a new Squirrels section will be introduced in September 2024. The Squirrels section, aimed at children aged 4-6, will serve as an entry point into the Scouting, focusing on play-based learning and early social skills development.

The introduction of the Squirrels section reflects the group's commitment to inclusivity and early childhood development. By engaging younger children, the 9th Stafford Sea Scout Group hopes to instil a love for adventure and community service from an early age, creating a foundation for lifelong learning and growth.

The Sea Scout Group continues to offer enriching experiences to its members through well-organized activities and innovative new programs. The upcoming summer camp at Lake Windermere promises to be a highlight of the year, while the launch of the Squirrels section marks an exciting new chapter in the group's evolution. Through these initiatives, the group remains dedicated to skills, values, and Scouting for the next generation.

Spencer Hewitt

9th Stafford Sea Scout GLV

11th Stafford Scout Group Report

Well, it's been a pretty good year for the 11th . Since last year and our low numbers of

both Young People and Leaders, we are growing again. As I understand it, we are now off the critical list with county, although I feel the main push from HQ still focuses on Young People numbers first rather than Adult Volunteers, but He Ho.

We have now settled in to our new home in the Exhibition space at the New Beacon Group and word is spreading, allowing us to re-build and get back to all 3 sections meeting separately on a Thursday. We still rely on some great parent helpers as life still gets in the way of having a full complement of volunteers every week.

We are still tight on finances after the low numbers for the last few years, but we have had a few grants thanks to our treasurer and we are starting to build our coffers again, but with lots of new parents it's time to get the fundraising team again and start really building.

We have got nearly everyone away under canvas or indoor camping this year, including getting 14 beavers away for one night during our first group camp in 5 years. It's so good to see everyone out and really enjoying the great outdoors and makes all the hard work so worthwhile.

I cannot say enough about our small team of Leaders and Executive members who continue to put so much into keeping our small group going. Thank-you thank-you thank-you.

Finally, I will say a big thank-you to all our members of the district for your continued support of the group and let's continue teach our members Skills for Life as we continue to build in both the 11th and Stafford District.

Dave Francis

11th Stafford Scout Group

12th Stafford (Berkswich) Scout Group Report

Another very busy year under our belt even though along with other Groups our numbers dropped due to the aftermath from Covid. Happily we are back up to the 300 mark again with all 9 sections running at high numbers.

All Sections were very busy with their own Camps as well as a full Group Camp which turned out to be an amazing weekend. Section Leaders worked very hard to provide the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with good scouting and lots of adventurous activities plus trips out to place like National Space Centre for cubs and scouts were invited to Keele University to search for life on other planets using there huge telescopes. Kayaking, climbing, hiking, Pioneering and everything scouting is always a great favourite with all of our children and the leaders go all out to make sure they all have the opportunity to experience most if not all that's Scouting. At this point I would like to thank absolutely everybody involved with the 12th for their dedication time and commitment which they show every week of the year.

By the end of the year we are looking to start Squirrels which will be interesting I'm sure. After nearly 80 years we now need to replace our toilet blocks and I am happy to say work will commence end of July at a cost of £15k. Then our next priority is to work on our building which is now in need of some serious TLC.

As most of you know our Scout Max Farish who received the Jack Cornwall Award for bravery and courage lost his battle against cancer and passed away last July. In his memory we are going to turn our bottom fire lighting area into a memorial adventure Garden in his name. Hopefully a place where all the children can have some fun and also a place for his parents and us leaders to quietly reflect on the happy time Max spent doing something he was so passionate about – Scouting.

Last but not least I would like to thank Sue and Kevin for their non stop support, help and advice throughout the years. We are truly grateful for everything you do for us.

Kind regards to you all

Doreen Smith

Group Lead Volunteer

15th Stafford (Penkridge) Scout Group Report

Our numbers remain steady and there is a varied programme in all sections and we have a new member to our Cub leadership/volunteer team

Beavers 36 members

2 transferring to cub at half term, 4 joining after half term.

10 on waiting list (not yet old enough to join)

Varied programme based around challenge badges with some activity badges.

Some child led sessions based on their interests and activities.

Lots of outdoor visits and trips during the summer term to local attractions.

Warmest Regards

Kelly Whitby

15th Penkridge Mohawk Cup Pack

We have 29 Cubs and 7 Young Leader along with 4 Leaders and have just welcomed a 5th new Leader to our group.

Last year Cubs went on 4 camps and Hikes on the Chase visited Cosford to complete the Air Activities badge they went to the Fire Station for their Fire Safety Badge we even had a night in the Hut for Christmas so parent could go and do some shopping.

This year Cubs have enjoyed since January 2 camps with another camp being arranged for July and a week-long summer camp in August.

Cubs have enjoyed working towards or completing Badge work which consisted of science badge/Backward Cooking/Team Work/Team Leader/Our Adventure / Our Outdoor/Our Skills/Nights Away/Hikes to name a few.

Akela Scouts

21 young people (5 aging up)

0 on waiting list (unsure of upcoming cubs)

Programme focused on challenge badge activities, trying to get as much time outside as possible, working with district to sort some extra activities and camps

R Elsmore

16th (Wheaton Aston) Stafford Scout Group Report

Members at Census (Jan'24)

Beavers: 10

Cubs: 10

Young Leaders (Supporting Beavers): 1

The number of children attending Beavers has increased in the last 12 months and also since census, with 12 Beavers regularly attending this summer term. 2 Beavers will be moving up to Cubs during 2024. Cubs numbers has decreased from last year due to age and families moving away from the area. It currently has 11 children regularly attending, 5 of which are aged 10+ and will be leaving before the end of 2024.

As a small village group, there is limited ability to grow the Group. There is no Squirrels or Scout sections due to lack of demand and volunteers to run them.

Leaders

Beavers: 3 +1YL (undertaking Silver DofE)

Cubs: 3

Activities

Both sections have undertaken a variety of diverse activities, with both sections awarding more than 70 badges during the last 12 months.

Beavers have attended a number of District events e.g. District Beaver Day, Christmas Party and St Georges Day Parade. 4 Beavers joined the 6th Beavers on a sleepover mid April which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

A number of Cubs have camped overnight within the village last year and recently attended PGL in Shrewsbury.

Financials

Funding from Staffordshire Voluntary Youth Services for rental of St Mary's First Academy ceased

for this academic year. We negotiated a discounted rate however, based on the membership in census, the annual subscriptions are insufficient to cover the costs of capitation and hall rental, leaving a small shortfall. Reserves, from historic fundraising and compensation for the loss of our Scout Hut a few years ago, are being used to fund the shortfall and activities for the sections. The situation will continue to be monitored.

Di Rowlands

Group Scout Leader

17th (Gnosall) Stafford Scout Group Report

We have had quite a few changes in Gnosall this past year with our long serving beaver leader Cheryl Souter retiring from her role which has led to us gaining two new leaders to take up the reins. Bethan and Tracy who have slotted into their roles perfectly.

We have also just lost our chairman Mike Loveless who had been with the group for many years first in a cub leader role. We are now on the lookout for someone to fill the role.

Beavers are currently running at 12, cubs at 22 and scouts at 14.

At the end of February we had a group indoor camp based on Hogwarts and much fun was had by all with beavers coming out for a day visit, we all enjoyed the magical creatures that visited for the day. We are hoping that next time we do a group camp we can actually get them camping as well. Watch this space!

Scouts held quite a few weekend camps including the expedition one where some of the older ones took part in the chase walk following map and compass to get around and completed with hardly any going off route. We also went to Cosford taking part in their special scouts day to gain badges.

Cubs had a great fun camp at Patshull and are aiming to return this year.

We are trying to keep up with the changes as they come our way but our aim is business as usual!

Lesley Worsley

17th Stafford (Gnosall) Group Scout Leader

20th Stafford (St Bertelin's) Scout Group Report

The group currently operates three sections, Beavers on a Monday with 15 children attending, Cubs on a Thursday with 15 children attending and Scouts on a Friday with 14 children attending. The leadership group is steady at the moment, we recently had a volunteer day at the hut where employees from EDF & Capula came down and did some valuable work in and around the hut, new LED lights were installed, along with a new water heater for the kitchen and hinge protectors on all internal doors, also the outside of the hut was painted to remove all graffiti.

Joanna Miller Scouter in charge

20th St Bertelin's

21st (West) Stafford Scout Group Report

2023 has presented the group with an extraordinary number of challenges, many of which we will carry forward into 2024.

As would be expected our biggest issues are leaders and money, but unexpectedly also membership. The leader situation started to improve towards

the end of the year as some new names and a few changes took place. Like all groups we can always use more help. With all the talk about the changes coming with the 'transformation' we are hopeful of the recruiting getting easier.

Despite these issues in the background the group has offered an excellent programme across all the sections from Squirrels to scouts. The leaders always pull together and make me very proud in how they support each other across the sections to make interesting evenings with new and refreshed challenges and experiences. With such a wide breadth of skills, experience and knowledge they have plenty to offer the scouts.

There have been a few CSA's across the group, lots of hikes, camps, adventurous activities, learning, leadership opportunities, team work and fun. Notable events of the year have been the usual camping and sleep overs but also numerous visits to people and places, water fights and backwoods cooking, craft sessions and wide games, hikes and treasure hunts, games and first aid. Each section has built on the previous sections teachings and the members have achieved personal challenges and skills. The addition of the squirrels has upped the game plan for the other sections as they are learning more scouting skills earlier. Overall, another excellent year for scouting at 21st. Most sections have 5 leaders and two YL's delivering the programme each week.

Also in the background, it has been accepted that our HQ is not really fit for purpose and an embarrassment, meant as a temporary option in 2002 it has passed its use by date. To this end we have been using the church hall which comes with additional cost. However, we know this option is also drawing to a close as the church eyes up what they could do with the land, From this our trustees and leaders, we have taken the move to resurrect the project for a new Headquarters. The original plans were re-costed and found to be prohibitive, so a new plan has been developed and an architect engaged to design our dream that we hope to put to planning early in 2024.

Roy Clarke

Group Scout Leader

Elements Explorer Unit Report

The unit has had another great year with excellent attendance to our varied and popular programme created by the members and the leaders. Along with several camps and over night experiences the unit put a team in the chase walk, summer camp had to be re-planned due to leader availability but was good fun for them in Warwickshire.

Out back garden is the chase and saw lots of evenings out, walking, playing and cycling. Working towards their CSA's the unit have experienced visits and talks. A night learning about Islam first hand at the Muslim prayer hall was the latest in our exploration of faiths. Another night saw them getting the inside story on how the council works, elections and roles of councillors presented by the Leader of the Council and the Mayor. We also had a behind the scenes tour of St Mary's accompanied by some bell ringing.

Keeping the indoors to a minimum we got out for archery, tomahawks, shooting, canoeing, go-karting, ice skating and more.

Over half the unit are Young leaders in various groups across the district, so some of our activities are aimed at giving them ideas for their sections.

Big thank you to my leaders, Nina, Lexie, David and Jake along with help from

Effy and Natalie.
Roy Clarke
Explorer Scout Leader

Pegasus Explorer Unit (Gnosall) Report

Pegasus ESU is approaching our 5th birthday this September! As of the January 2024 census the Unit had nine Explorers and three Leaders. We currently have seven Explorers, but hopefully we will have two Scouts coming to join us over the next Term. We are also looking to do more active recruitment over the next term and half, for additional Leaders and Explorers.

We have had a busy and varied twelve months with highlights including:

May-August 2023 🕒

Unit weekend camp at Patshull Campsite

A dusk to dawn hike from Sherratt's Wood Campsite back to Gnosall

Leaders helped steward the Giant Challenge Bike Ride

Three of our Explorers and myself were luck enough to go to Kanderstag, Switzerland for just under two weeks.

September-December 2023

Night Hike across Cannock Chase

Hut Maintenance Day

Making paracord woggles

Completing the chef activity badge

Christmas treat, tubing at Stoke-on-Trent Ski Centre.

January-May 2024

Sponsored Hike up the Wrekin to raise money for the Hut

Group & Unit Harry Potter themed indoor weekend camp in February at Kibblestone International Campsite.

Climbing and Bouldering at Newport Rock

Hike from Gnosall to Ellenhall

Making a Da Vinci Bridge

In addition, we have continued to regularly maintain the dog poo bag holders around the village as part of the Chief Scout Awards.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Lesley Worsley and Andy Manners for all their help and support over the last 12 months. As well as thank you to many of 17th Stafford Leaders who have volunteered to help out when we have been short for Leaders on a Friday.

Thank you,

Will Swinnerton

Explorer Scout Leader

K2 Explorer Unit Report

In the last year we have had 5 Explorers leave and 4 join, resulting in numbers remaining

stable but reducing by 1 to currently 14. Presentations to 12th scout troops over the last few months leads us to believe that, post Covid, the number of scouts coming up to Explorer age will increase. We are now seeing the beginning of this trend. We currently have 5 leaders, 3 with wood beads.

We held our annual summer camp in 2023 at Symonds Yat for 5 days, mainly centred around canoeing, with the involvement of the district outdoor activity team. Plans are well ahead for this year's summer camp in the Yorkshire Dales, again with the outdoor team participating. Other trips included a weekend in Snowdonia mountain climbing and a visit to the Peak District for some rock climbing. It is planned to repeat these activities in the coming year, with some kayaking also planned.

Our programme for this year has seen 2 members participate in the District Explorer OB cup weekend. We have put on a range of activities, from vehicle maintenance to construction skill, like catapult, bridge and flying model making. A range of outdoor activities has included activities around the HQ eg. bivi making, firelighting and cooking, to orienteering, wide games and hikes on Cannock Chase. There have also been other indoor activities such as debates and scouting skills like first aid, pioneering and navigation exercises and debates. Unfortunately we have fallen foul of GCSE exams this year, so several additional activities like our annual winter camp and another mountain weekend have had to be cancelled due to school/exam pressures leading to low uptake, but they will come back onto the programme in the coming year..

We have successfully worked towards several staged badges, including navigation, first aid and camping being awarded and have helped 4 Explorers gain their bronze DofE and one his Silver. We are now encouraging them to gain their relevant scout awards, and other to also participate in the awards schemes.

Andy Goode

K2 Leader

North Star Explorer Scout Unit report

The unit has enjoyed another year, partaking in a programme focused around Teamwork, scouting themes and outdoor activities. The highlight being summer camp in North Wales last August.

The leadership team have supported individuals that have shown an interest in running badge work nights, in turn the younger explorers have seen how it is done, I look forward to more explorer lead evenings going forward.

Weekly numbers have been on average around 12 explorers, sadly we have said goodbye to those who have reached the 'old' age of 18, luckily new recruits from our feeder groups have topped the numbers back up during the year.

Our team on the OB Cup did their best to compete with the rest of the district, who knows maybe next year will be our year.

From try dive to pantomime there has been events for all, Thank you to all involved with North Star, you help make the unit what it is today.

Guy Allcock

Explorer Scout Leader

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures

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Full names

--	--

Position

--	--

Date

Stafford District Scout Accounts - Income & Expenditure - 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023

Stafford District Scout Council

Opening Balance	£	8,592.28		Capitation to County	£	41,867.00	
Capitation Received	£	52,174.00		Trustee Expenses	£	812.21	
St Peters	£	2,520.00		Event Expenses	£	1,949.96	
Jamboree	£	4,841.62		St Peters Expenses	£	2,357.88	
Dividend M & G	£	1,940.85		Grants not transferre	£	6,814.38	
Transfer	£	2,092.22		District Purchases	£	2,175.08	
Arthur Gerrard	£	72,500.00		Minibus	£	75.00	
				Donations	£	404.33	
				Jamboree	£	7,034.29	
				Insurance	£	1,078.21	
				Transfer	£	32,942.00	
				Closing Balance	£	47,150.63	
		£	144,660.97			£	144,660.97

District Explorer Units

Opening Balance	£	14,000.12		Capitation			
Subscriptions	£	21,515.64		Other Expenditure	£	21,615.21	
				Closing Balance	£	13,900.55	
		£	35,515.76			£	35,515.76

Sherratts Wood Shop

Opening Balance	£	5,835.38		Purchases	£	2,251.57	
Shop Takings	£	3,583.76		Closing Balance	£	7,167.57	
		£	9,419.14			£	9,419.14

Sherratts Wood Camp Site

Opening Balance	£	27,700.91		Insurance	£	1,188.17	
Camp Fees Received	£	17,896.54		Utilities	£	4,666.37	
Transfer	£	650.00		Equipment Purchase	£	3,442.96	
				Maintenance	£	5,652.47	
				Fuel	£	795.29	
				Misc Purchases	£	24.49	
				Campsite Purchases	£	2,194.92	
				Closing Balance	£	28,282.78	
		£	46,247.45			£	46,247.45

Gang Show

Opening Balance	£	6,109.83		Gang Show Expense	£	12,884.39	
Ticket Sales & Gang Show revenue	£	12,325.94		Closing Balance	£	5,551.38	
		£	18,435.77			£	18,435.77

District Activities

Opening Balance	£	3,209.10		Activity Expenses	£	1,626.60	
Activity Fees	£	2,202.86		Rent	£	330.00	
				Membership Fees	£	15.00	
				Closing Balance	£	3,440.36	
		£	5,411.96			£	5,411.96

Badge Secretary

Opening Balance	£	939.16	Badge Purchases	£	2,708.99		
Badge Sales	£	2,866.05	Postage	£	-		
			Closing Balance	£	1,096.22		
	£	<u>3,805.21</u>		£	<u>3,805.21</u>		
<u>SAS</u>							
Opening Balance	£	1,600.92	Transfer	£	1,487.94		
Interest	£	7.56	Bank Charges & Don	£	120.54		
			Closing Balance	£	-		
	£	<u>1,608.48</u>		£	<u>1,608.48</u>		
<u>District Beavers</u>							
Opening Balance	£	846.05		£	-		
Beaver Party Revenue	£	76.00	Beaver Party Expens	£	400.78		
			Closing Balance	£	521.27		
	£	<u>922.05</u>		£	<u>922.05</u>		
<u>District Cubs</u>							
Opening Balance	£	463.51	Event Expenses	£	50.00		
			Closing Balance	£	413.51		
	£	<u>463.51</u>		£	<u>463.51</u>		
<u>District Minibus</u>							
Opening Balance	£	1,600.82	Maintenance	£	376.66		
Hirings	£	1,140.00	Vehicle Tax	£	325.00		
			Insurance	£	812.65		
			Closing Balance	£	1,226.51		
	£	<u>2,740.82</u>		£	<u>2,740.82</u>		
			Opening Balance	£	70,898.08	Closing Balance	£ 108,750.78 -£ 37,852.70

<u>Other District Assets</u>	Opening Balance	Closing Balance	
Liquid			
Lloyds Bank Savings	£ 15,118.90	22,875.67	
Stafford Railway	£ 51,710.24	52,750.06	
M&G Charifund	£ 33,358.10	32,574.27	
Lloyds Bank Savings - Fixed Term Depo	-	25,000.00	-£ 37,852.70
Total		133,200.00	
Fixed			
Sherrats Wood Land	-	300,000.00	Valuation
Sherrats Wood Fixtures & Fittings	-	35,800.00	From Inventory
Kayak Store	-	20,000.00	This is notional value based purely on the Insurance of t
Kayaks & Equipment	-	35,000.00	This is notional value based purely on the Insurance of t
St Peters Building		214,225.00	This is notional value based purely on the Insurance of t
St Peters Fixtures & Fittings		34,458.00	This is notional value based purely on the Insurance of t
Minibus	-	3,265.00	Web valuation
Total		642,748.00	

The above receipts and payments accounts and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on xx June 2024 and signed on their behalf by -

District Chair - Nick Lloyd

District Commissioner - Sue Hewitt



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Stafford District Scout Council

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2023	Charity no (if any)	524528
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Set out on pages

File attached with back up information
(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 31/12/2023 DD / MM / YYYY.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn 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: Roland Skelton **Date:** 30/5/24

Name: ROLAND SKELTON

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

AAT.
Part Qualified IPFA

Address:

29 HEATH DRIVE
STAFFORD
ST16 1RB

Stafford District Scout Council

England & Wales - Charity number 524528

Accounts

STAFFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Registered Charity No 524528

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1/1/2022 -1/12/2022

For the Annual General Meeting 5th June 2023

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the charity

Sue Hewitt	District Commissioner
Nick Lloyd	District Chair Nominated
Sharon Hill	District Treasurer Elected
Helen Ashwood	District Secretary Elected
Andrew Preston	District Explorer Scout Commissioner
Chris Rafferty	District Scout Network Commissioner
Elaine Neville	Nominated
Juliet Maiden	Nominated
Keith Low	Nominated
Paul Askey	Nominated
David Brass	Nominated
Trudi Smith	Nominated
Cathy Hordern	Elected
Graham Smith	Elected
Paul Evans	Nominated
Andrew Clode	Chairman of Appointments
Steve Smith	Nominated
Sam Scriven	District Youth Commissioner
Roland Smith	Scout Active Support Manager
Kevin Hewitt	Camp Warden

Type of governing document

The District's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association

How the charity is constituted

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association

Risk and Internal Control

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Purpose of Scouting – Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society

The Values of Scouting – As Scouts we are guided by these values. Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Co-operation

The Scout Method – Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of scouting

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have an awareness of the Public Benefit Guidance with regard to Scouting's involvement with the local community. The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Financial Review

Reserves Policy – The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short.

The District Executive Committee considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to six months running costs, circa £7,500

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year as set out in the following reports –

District Commissioners Report

As a District our groups are trying very hard to continue the growth in their sections.

Once again, our Carol Service was a great success and it was good to see most of our groups attending, we had lots of awards given out to the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and explorers which is always nice to see.

We are still in very much need of adult volunteers to try and encourage this we had the opportunity to promote Stafford District Scouting in a number of venues.

We did all day at Bingley Hall Stafford at the Kids Fest which was manned by our adult volunteers throughout the day. We had lots of interest in this so it was well worth going.

We have also had the 6th Stafford group set up a stall in Victoria Park for the Big Help Out which again was another success with plenty of interest.

We have now started to re-introduce our District events starting with the District Quiz which was run by St. Vincent Explorers there was a good turn out of teams and this was won by the 9th Stafford Sea Scouts congratulations on the win and thank you for the Explorers for organising the quiz.

We have had a very successful Gang Show and have had lots of feedback from people to say how much they enjoyed the show. Well done to all involved.

We were very proud this year as one of our young leaders from the 9th Stafford Sea Scouts Ella was chosen to go and represent Stafford District at the Coronation, I do believe Ella will be doing a brief talk about her experience there later.

Despite the lack of adult leaders we have managed to open 3 Drays which is really good news.

I am sure we can get a few more open in this next year.

All that leaves me to say is a big thank you to you all for your support

Sue

District Commissioner

Chairman's Report

It's a credit to all in the Stafford District that we have come back to a full "Scouting" environment after the disruptions of Covid. Back stronger and more determined to offer young people the opportunity to develop skills for life.

The year saw a variety of occasions from a very well attended Carol Service, Gang Show & St George's Day parade plus many more events.

The Camp Site (Sherratts Wood) & Kayak Centre (Stafford Boat Club) continue to expand our activity experiences.

Although we continue to be challenged with sufficient "leaders" it's a credit to all that we have embarked on introducing & establishing Dray packs very exciting.

So it would be remiss of me not to thank all the District volunteers & the support Sue & I get from the Trustees.

As the Scout organisation enters a period of transformation I'm reminded about Volunteerism....."As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands— one for helping yourself, the other for helping others— Scouting is a true example of these words.

Nick Lloyd - Chair Stafford District Trustee Board.

District Explorer Unit

The Explorer Units within the Stafford District are well on the way to recovering from 'Lockdown'. 4 of the Units report numbers in the high 'teens' or 20's; 2 are struggling for numbers – both these Units tend to rely on only 1 group to feed them so it may take some time for them to grow. I've suggested that The Sea Scouts look to engage with 11th Group as they have moved and are closer in distance as a result. 7A are leading the way with DofE and Scout Awards; it is my intention to focus on all Units promoting these awards. The District have had 2 Explorer Belt Awards and plans are in place for more opportunities to be made available. Roy Clarke and I have taken on the Young Leaders role. A Module A course was attended by 10 candidates and in the absence of a full schedule we are progressing other Modules on an individual basis. We are looking at Online options as used by other areas.

We have re-introduced the OB Cup; I've only had positive feedback. This year's event will be located at Pikes Pool Scout camp in late October.

There is a leader's camp arranged for late September. We have 5 candidates for the World Scout Jamboree – all paid up.

We have 4 successful candidates for Roverway and 1 Ex-Explorer Scout attended the Kings Coronation.

Effy

Stafford Networks report

Network currently has 6 members. We meet approximately every 2 weeks. We try to alternate the day of the week that we meet as some members are involved with helping other units in the district and I want to give each member the opportunity to meet at least once a month.

Two members are at university full time so are only able to attend when they are back in Stafford. I am hoping to double the size of the unit by Christmas and intend to visit explorer scout units within the district to build stronger relationships with them.

So far our activities have been climbing and canoeing. We did have a weekend caving trip planned but due to the fact only 2 members were able to attend we decided to postpone until the winter when hopefully everyone's schedules will be less busy.

Chris Rafferty

Stafford District Beaver report

The Beaver Leaders met for the first time since lockdown in January. Numbers across the district remain healthy. The continuing issue with leaders remains.

We had planned several events for the year, however despite interest in a Beaver Drive, this was cancelled due lack of numbers. Our next event is a day camp at Sherratts Wood in September and a Christmas party.

Cathy

ADC Beavers

Cub Scout Section Report

The Cub Packs in the District have recovered well after the pandemic and are again full with waiting lists & are very active, plenty getting out & about regularly

A large amount of Chief Scout Silver awards have been awarded over the last year which is great to see now Scouting has returned to normal

The Cub section of The Gang Show was very well represented, congratulations to all who took part. For several reasons the Cub Council has not been active but it is my intention to restart meeting in September & restart District events also.

As ever huge thanks to all the leaders in the District for all your time & effort week in, week out.

Lydia

ADC Cubs

Scout Section Report

This year has seen a strong return to the scouting programme across the district. Youth membership remains high however we are still struggling to recruit adult members to join our dedicated leadership team. Chief Scout Gold awards have been awarded in most troops with members taking the opportunity to receive theirs at ST Georges day parade. This year's scout Quiz was supported by the 9th, 12th Apache and the 20th a good night was had by all with the 9th coming

out victorious. My thanks to the Earl ST Vincent ESU for hosting the evening and setting the questions.

All Troops have plans in place for camps this year if only for weekends. Some troops have informed me that they have had to cancel their weeklong summer camp this year due to lack of support from the young people. I suspect that this maybe a knock on from the pandemic as some of our members have gaps in their camping experience. Or possibly a result of the present financial crisis. Either way we will need to monitor this situation for future events.

The Troops have been taking advantage of our District activity team with many of them enjoying evenings on the Climbing Wall or at the District Canoeing Centre. Many thanks to Paul Askey, Nigel Hill and Chris Rafferty and their teams of volunteers for putting on the activities on a weekly basis.

Finally, as always my thanks goes out to all Leaders and Young Leaders in the Scout Section who turnout every week to deliver fantastic and varied programmes. Without you none of this would be possible.

Yours in Scouting

Graham Smith

ADC Scouts

District Activities Report

The climbing wall bookings were quiet for the first few months but since Christmas this has changed and has been very busy . The county mountain team have been running their courses at the wall. A number of the team have been assessed to run abseiling sessions at Sherretts Wood and the team is now actively involved in running the sessions on the tower. Andy Simmons has re-joined the team and will be a great asset to the district.

Also, we have a number of groups undertaking trips to the mountains and the peak district in the near future.

The kayak team hit the ground running, we completed the new launching steps and last summer we put on more sessions than in previous years. We are planning to run more sessions this year than last to try and get all the groups that wanted sessions on the water. We also ran a kayak proficiency badge for a group of scouts. As well as the Wednesday night sessions we fitted in groups

on other nights and at weekends. The last of the new boats have finally arrived so the replacement project is now complete. We have had some new members joining the team and other members gaining their permits.

The Bean fund has been sponsoring a scout who has been chosen to join and train with the British junior team, he is a great ambassador for kayaking in Stafford District.

The boat club have been more than helpful in letting us use their facility and our thanks go out to them for allowing us ongoing usage.

Roger Devey and myself have run a number of caving trips for groups.

We are very lucky in having such a dedicated group of instructors that give up their time to put on these activities and my thanks go out to them on behalf of the District.

Paul Askey

ADC Activities

Sherratts Wood District Camp Site

The number of camps is getting back slowly to our expected level with the last 2 weekends being very busy with all our activities also in full use.

Financially our balances are satisfactory after funding improvements, and the ever increasing costs of maintenance and services.

We are accepting bookings through Entrust, the Education body, for Duke of Edinburgh activities and this is a welcome addition, but we are very conscious that we control this carefully and manage it with no detriment to "Scouting" bookings. Obviously the financial aspect is welcome and potential problems are being discussed.

The Crew are very busy and active, led by Kevin, making the campsite looking good especially with the grass and the Bluebells at their best. A new Climbing face is being constructed, Tomahawk throwing introduced and improvements in place to the Nature Trail and the Social Area (Val's Patch) is close to being opened.

I would like our valuable environment being utilised more for scouting badgework and all the potential outdoor possibilities that are here to be used. We have a very rare asset for making the best scouting always available to our youngsters

Keith Low

Sherratt's Wood Site Warden

There seems to be a steady increase in numbers returning to camping at Sherratts wood bolstered this year by several groups including Entrust and Alleyne's Academy using the site for their D of E courses.

the assault course is now finished and being used in anger.

The final portacabin has been removed from site and a planned living fence will be planted in the Autumn.

A new communal meeting area dedicated to Val Wilson is well under way with the area being cleared, seeded and new pic-nic benches made and installed by the site crew.

By running an NSRA YPS instructors' course on site we have potentially increased the instructors available to run rifle shooting sessions on site from 3 to 13. To increase the use of the range building we are now able to offer pistol shooting as a separate activity with 2 trained instructors and to lighten my workload Andrew Smythe has taken on the admin and running of the range.

Another new activity we can offer the groups is Tomahawk and throwing Angel sessions with new equipment and targets designed and built in house.

The Crew are about 75% of the way through adding a third climbing face to the climbing tower which will be specifically designed for the younger sections in scouting.

The nature trail is also undergoing a revamp to try to make it more interactive, two new bridges have been built, a large bug Hotel and a wooden chime have been built and added to the trail with a covered seating area and work sheets planned.

And just to fill in a little time some 150 trees of various species have been planted around the site this Spring.

Thank you to all the Crew on site who with the help of copious amounts of tea and biscuits undertake all of these tasks as well as the day to day running of Sherratts Wood without to many complaints.

Kevin Hewitt

Appointments Committee

Please find below a brief summary of progress of the Stafford District Appointments committee, the Panel is going from 'strength to strength' with the ability to operate two panels on one day (due to increased numbers of the appointments team).

The Trustee Executive has endorsed the current operating standard of the appointment process. The process now includes the District training team on the same day to make the interview process slick for new Scouters.

Summary of the year -

- 26 interviews held during the year
- Low back log, 11 at present
- Updated standard interview pro forma introduced & now refined (Including GSL management interview template).
- Juliet Maiden has been providing sterling support on gathering references and co-ordinating. I would like to thank Juliet for her on-going support and professionalism.
- Future appointment dates established for the rest of 2023.

Andy Clode

Stafford Active Support Unit Report

SAS continues to Support Stafford District as much as possible.

Assistance was provided by some of our illustrious team at this years Gang Show, by either undertaking Car Park Duties or assisting with Front of House requirements.

We also undertake the organising of St Marys Church on the St Georges Day parade and service as well as providing refreshments for the Bands. Setting up the Church takes quite a while with the positioning of Televisions and Video Equipment to enable visibility of the service by as many individuals as we can.

We also undertake the logging in, admission and refreshments for the District AGM.

We have also assisted at Sherratt's wood with the wood treatment to cooking shelters, Archery Building and Workshop.

A number of our members also engaged with the Warrants Committee

We are a small band of dedicated individuals who provide what assistance we can, but our numbers are not great and often we have to ask for assistance off family and friends to assist in some of the tasks we take on, as such we are always on the lookout for individuals who wish to remain in scouting but are unable to take on full time commitments to join our little band.

Roland

4th Stafford Scout Group Report

This year we were excited to introduce a new Squirrel section. They are now meeting every week with 15 fully invested children, 2 adult leaders and 1 young leader. They are enjoying a full programme of exploration and games.

Our Beavers are also enjoying a varied programme with lots of getting out and about. The leadership team remains settled with 3 adult leaders. We are currently planning our first annual sleepover since before lockdown.

Cubs have built previous year's success, growing the youth membership and leadership team. Work has continued on the allotment after a fantastic growing season last year. They have had several successful sleepovers with more in the planning stage.

Scouts have been on many and varied camps this year including their inaugural paddle camp. Plenty of trips out into the hills to improve their hill walking and navigation skills. The scouts have benefited from alternative sessions including parliament week and social media takeover. Planning is under way for the Summer camp spectacular in the Lake District.

We're pleased to be able to offer so many and such a range of different activities, and fantastic opportunities for all our youth members, who get so much out of and always pushing the limits of Scouting.

We are also honoured to have been asked by St Mary's to contribute towards their Great Rainbow project in July.

Our youth members have achieved in excess of 650 activity and staged badges.

#PioneeredAtThe4th

Cathy Hordern

4th Stafford GSL

6th Stafford Scout Group Report

2022/23 has been a year of ups and downs, for us all. It's been an interesting year going from Platinum Jubilee to Coronation!

As a Group we are continuing to rebuild the scouting skills lost during the various lockdowns of the past few years, camping, and doing outdoor activities as much as we possibly can.

A couple of highlights for our Group:

- Opening the 2nd Squirrel Drey in the District in January 2023
- Leading St Georges Day parade and having a few sword fights in St Marys (all approved in advance of course!) with 4 St George's and 2 Dragons!! "And there was much rejoicing!!"
- Having all four of our sections taking part in St George's Day parade and having a great time during the service.

We've been lucky to have been able to have several camps this year, including looking forward to a slightly delayed Coronation Group Camp at Sandon which is special to us as a Group, and we appreciate the relationship that we have had with the estate and Lord Harrowby for over 60 years now. Building on the fun we had lighting an extremely large Jubilee Beacon last year!

This year has seen the return of the week-long Scouts summer camp; held in July 2022 at Linnet Clough Scout Camp near Stockport and the more recent Cubs autumn camp at Rough Close with a space theme.

We congratulate our members on achieving 4 'Chief Scout's Bronze Awards', 7 'Chief Scout's Silver Awards' and 2 'Chief Scout's Gold Awards' in the past year.

We have welcomed some new Young Leaders to the Group – Alex (Thorn who assists with our Beaver Colony), Chloe (Phao who assists with the Cub Pack) as well as Jorja (Mao who assists with the Cub Pack) as well as Sebastian who is working with the Scout Troop. Kelly (Rama) has transitioned from being Group Chair to a Leader with Cubs. We also invested new leaders into the Cub Pack and Beaver Colony, who have transitioned from being young leaders, Kira (Juniper) and Cameron (Tabaqui). Kira was also the last of our Leaders to be invested making her Promise to the Queen. We also welcomed Emma (Willow) back as our new Squirrel Section Leader following her time as our Group Secretary and Chair.

We would like to thank members of our Trustee Board for their work over the past year, with particular thanks to Stuart who has stepped up to Treasurer from his Assistant Treasurer role and has worked extremely hard to get all our finances into shape!

Our numbers currently stand as follows:

Squirrels - 10

Beavers – 11

Cubs – 17

Scouts – 21

During the past 12 months we have taken part in several events such as:

- Fundraising for the R.N.L.I. and A Child of Mine (proceeds from the collection at St George's Day) and Monkey World with the Cubs Smarties Tube Challenge. The Beaver Colony also raised £200 to adopt animals at Twycross Zoo.
- Our very popular and enjoyable Christmas Trip to Chester Zoo and the Lanterns (which took place for the 3rd year and is very popular).
- The Beaver Colony have been active in the community taking part in crafts with the residents of Crispin Court and having a joint evening with a local Brownie pack.
- Our Group Christmas Party (which was also a very successful surprise party for Akela's 40th birthday!) included fun, games, music, cake as well as our '6th Stafford Group Oscars'.
- 6 camps, with attendees from all sections: including Scouts summer camp at Linnet Clough, Cubs autumn camp at Rough Close with a Space theme, Winter Camp at Kibblestone and Coronation PL's and Sixers Camps at Sherratt's Wood which was combined with our Group Conservation Day and included a celebration of the Coronation.
- Our members also had stalls at Victoria Park's 'Big Help Out' event (which was an excellent event) and at the 'Party on the Pitch' event at Stafford Football ground. Raising some funds and, more importantly, visibility of Scouting in Stafford.

We were very proud to lead the District St George's Day parade this year and organise the Church service. We were extremely impressed of the behaviour of our members and the highest turnout that we have ever had. Our Squirrels were also really well behaved and did exceptionally well on their first Parade. We were very proud that 1 of our Young Leaders and 1 of our Scouts were part of the Parade's lead Colour Party.

As GSL's we have had another extremely stressful and busy year and would like to express our thanks to all our Leaders and Supporters for their assistance.

Regards, Justin L. & Vikki L. Williams (Group Scout Leaders)

7th Stafford Scout Group Report

Beavers

22 members
1 leader plus GSL

Recent activities include pond dipping and den building on the Chase with the cubs. Summer 1 night sleepover next month with activities at Beaudesert.

Cubs

24 members
4 leaders (2 regularly cross-cover beavers)

Activities as above. 2 night sleepover next month with activities at Beaudesert.

Scouts

22 members
1 leader

Kayaking upcoming. Planning for this year's expedition.

GSL's report

2022-23 has been another difficult year for the 7th with two GSL changeovers. We have unfortunately lost 2 key leaders, both of whom were outdoor permit holders. This has left us with no current outdoor permit holders. Due to the lack of stability in the group this is not something that has managed to be addressed this year. It is a priority for the forthcoming year.

All sections have grown slightly in terms of members. We have struggled with leaders, but recently there has been some recruitment and so we are more hopeful that this momentum will continue.

We have had delivery of new group neckers and are awaiting a design to be embroidered on them (cost permitting) and for our own group AGM date to be finalised for them to be given out.

There are 11 children on the waiting list for beavers, all under 6 years. We are not struggling for places at the moment.

9th Stafford Scout Group Report

9th Stafford Beaver Section Report.

We've had many new faces join us during the last 12 months, and we continue to have a steady stream of enquiries coming through so numbers for the next 12 months look like they will remain healthy. We've also sent several long-standing Beavers up to cubs over the last few months, including some of those that first joined us when we were only operating online.

During the last 12 months we've finally managed to get the section back up to size and we are now starting to average 18 – 20 members which is where we were before the pandemic. The challenge facing is now that of adult volunteers and currently there are only 2 leaders with sporadic parent helpers, this currently prevents us from being able to take any more than 20 members.

Due to some family related issues at the start of the year I was unable to attend for nearly 2 months, I would like to extend my personal thanks to Elizabeth for stepping up in my absence and for those that were able to help her out, parents, the DC, and leaders from other groups.

Some of the things we've done during the last 12 months include.

- Knots
- Lego Night (always a favourite)
- Space / Star Gazing
- Safety
- Navigation
- Pioneering
- Natural Art
- Coding
- Nature Walks
- Money Skills
- Gardening
- Disability Awareness

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances we didn't manage to complete a sleepover during the last 12 months, but it will be coming at some point after the summer, and certainly several of the Beavers are very keen for this to happen.

Here's to the next 12 months.

9th Stafford Cub Pack Report.

The Cub section has 27 members on our record with at least 22 attending each week. We have a steady stream of new cubs coming in and a handful of cubs that are ready to go up to scouts. We have had a very successful Easter camp at Sherratts wood. We have worked on lots of badges including the local knowledge which we walked around Stafford Castle and look at the history of Stafford.

We celebrated all this hard work with a celebration evening where we handed out over 100 badges. We are very proud of our young leader recently turned leader Ella Chadwick who represented us at the king's coronation. The cubs also sent letters to the king after the passing of his mother, and we received a beautiful letter in reply.

St Vincent Explorer Sea Scout Unit Report.

9 members on the books, with 5 regular members at the minute due to it being exam season. The Unit participated in the OB cup last year working together with another group who did not have enough members. Our Unit organised and run the Scouts District Quiz.

The Explorers are now meeting twice a week, a Monday and then on a Friday where the explorers use this Friday evening session to continue to improve their personal sailing/kayaking and canoeing skills.

We were invited to attend the 200th Anniversary of the death of the Earl St Vincent ceremony held in Stone this year, the Earl St Vincent (AKA Admiral Jervis) was a local Naval hero who our Unit is named after, learning more about the Earl, what he achieved and also been invited to visit and enter his mausoleum.

We have also been climbing a few times along with archery and shooting. Produced pioneering projects, learnt about different types of fires and cooked on them. We have been making more of an effort to improve their navigational skills and completed a few local hikes.

The Unit have designed their own posters which we have had put up in public places to promote and recruit new members to join our Unit.

11th Stafford Scout Group Report

Well, what can I say, we struggle on at the 11th. We have now started to settle in to our new home in the Exhibition space at the New Beacon Group on the old university site. Another year of changes for us, as Sam our Beaver/Cub leader had to step down due to work commitments. This meant a complete change of roles within the existing now even smaller team and a change of meeting times/sessions. I now look after our Beavers, While David, Lucy and Hayden look after a combined Cub/Scout session. Far from perfect, but it has kept the group alive. We have had to get parents on a Rota for Beavers and Cubs, which has worked reasonably well.

Low numbers are making our finances tight, with lower income and now having to pay directly for our meeting place, but thanks to our treasurer Fiona, who has keep digging around for small grants to help prop up the bank account.

As we now feel more settled in our new home, we are starting to think of re-building and bringing the Young People in our care skills for life. It will take a while to re-build, but the leadership team will continue putting information out to the local community around the new venue for both young people and perhaps more importantly, new leaders (or should I be saying volunteers now!) One thing we could do with is some young leaders, so if you are reading this and you have any that are looking for a home, Thursdays up at the New Beacon Group please.

I cannot say enough about our small team of Leaders and Executive members who continue to put so much into keeping our small group going. Thank-you thank-you thank-you.

Finally, I will say a big thank-you to all our members of the district for you continued support of the group and let's continue teach our members Skills for Life as we continue to build in both he 11th and Stafford District.

Dave

12th Stafford Scout Group Report

Unhappily I don't feel able to give a gushing report on how our Group have performed over the last year in the light of the very sad times we are all going through at the moment. It is with a heavy heart that I have to say Max Farish, who is the 13yr old boy who was awarded the Jack Cornwall Award for Courage and Bravery, is now losing his battle against cancer.

Max is a Scout through and through and his determination to get back to Scouts helped pull him through before and even now he so wanted to go on camp with everyone this last weekend but unhappily it wasn't to be. His illness has touched absolutely everyone at the 12th. Getting through his first bout of cancer was nothing short of a miracle all we can do now his pray very hard for another one.

The Group is still running with over 300 members but like everybody else we need more leaders before we can grow anymore

All Sections are very busy with the leaders delivering excellent programmes, taking the children on Camps and adventures along with the usual things they love such as Kayaking, Hiking, mountains, Climbing and everything else. We are having a very big Group Camp in July with approx 180 Cubs and Scouts camping and the Beavers coming out for the day. On the 24th June we are also holding our Summer Fete which is our main fundraiser. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us.

I would like to thank all of our leaders for the hard work and commitment they give every week. Also I would like to thank Nigel Hill and the District Water Team for giving the children such a wonderful Kayaking experience. They are so patience and kind and the children absolutely love it.

Last but not least I would like to thank Sue and Kevin for everything they do for everybody in the District. Everything you do for us is so appreciated.

Kind regards

Doreen Smith GSL.

15th Stafford (Penkridge) Scout Group Report

15th Beaver report

Hi I currently have 44 Beavers.

I have 11 on a joining list for when they are old enough to join.

Over the next few weeks, we are going over Cannock chase twice for hikes and other activities, we will be completing our communications badge, having a service person visit, being pirates for pirate week, making Father's Day gifts and having our yearly water fight.

Kelly Whitby

16th (Wheaton Aston) Stafford Scout Group Report

Members

Beavers: 8

Cubs: 16

Young Leaders: 2 (both supporting Beavers)

Beavers was relaunched at the end of 2022 with a few taster sessions. The section started in January 2023, with number being static since then. Cubs numbers have remained static for the last year. There are no plans to open a squirrels or scout section; there is no demand from parents and we would struggle to find any leaders.

Leaders

Beavers: 1 leader & 1 assistant

Cubs: 1 leader, 1 assistant leader & 1 section assistant plus parent rota in operation

Premises

Both sections meet at St Mary's First Academy in Wheaton Aston with the rental being paid by Staffordshire Voluntary Youth Services. Funding will cease at the end of this academic year. After capitation has been paid from the subscriptions received from parents, there are insufficient funds to pay the school's current rental rates and no funds to pay for activities, badges etc. Reserves can be used for the short term but it is not a solution. Discussions will take place with the school.

17th (Gnosall) Stafford Scout Group Report

The group has continued to run at full capacity this year, with only a couple on the waiting list for beavers.

Cubs had a successful camp that has instilled a new confidence that had been lost during lockdown, With the cubs and their parents and they are looking forward to repeating the experience this year.

Similarly, scouts have taken part in quite a few weekend camps but with smaller numbers than the past, 2022 summer camp had to be cancelled due to lack of interest but we managed a 4 night away at Great tower this Easter . Hopefully parents response, confidence to activities and camping on offer will continue to grow.

All of our units have been running a mixed programme of fun activities working towards their badges including getting involved with the local community, Beavers painting hugs in pockets pebbles that was given with a small note from them to the residents of Gingercroft residential home. Scouts cooking and serving hotdogs at the village light switch on and Pegasus explorers making dog poo bag holders and placing where people walk their dogs , refilling them every term.

Sadly we will be losing our beaver leader Cheryl Souter also known as Bambi, at the end of July after committing'20'plus years running the section. She will be sorely missed by all!

The Group's activities wouldn't be possible without the support of the adult, young leader and parent helpers who generously give up so much time, and also our Executive Committee members. I'd like to offer the Group's thanks to all of them.

We are very lucky to own our own building, shared with the guides. This is looked after by a wonderful team of volunteers, known as the management committee who raise the funds to pay the bills and keep it fit for use and for this we are very grateful.

Lesley Worsley
17th Stafford (Gnosall) Group Scout Leader

20th Stafford Scout Group Report

We have just had a successful Group Camp based on Scouting skills which was well attended by all sections. Beavers we have 11, Cubs we have 12 and Scouts have 15 in the troop. Our hut is used by the Brownies and North Star explorers.

The group is in need of not only leaders but committee members, with our wonderful secretary stepping down. Cubs require at least 2 leaders and another in Scouts.

Our Fete is on 17th June where we hope to have a good turn out.

Joanna Miller Scouter in charge
20th St Bertelin's

21st Stafford Scout Group Report

2022 has been a fantastic year for the 21st.

Building on our successful growth for 2021 we were the first group to open a squirrel Drey in Stafford in September.

We have a leader team that work across sections to help each other, they meet up regularly both socially and in scouting.

Leaders have done numerous training courses for permits to widen what we offer our group.

After what seems a lifetime. We are finally starting to see some re-engagement with our parents that we hope will lead to further assistance.

As a group all sections have been very busy with lots of activities and adventures, getting out of the headquarters as often as possible no matter the weather.

All members had the opportunity to go camping and 2023 will also see our 18 squirrels being offered a nights away experience

Of course, none of this would have been possible were it not for our fantastic leaders who I cannot praise enough for the time and effort they have put in to making everything possible.

We are growing in numbers, skills and recognition. And 2023 will offering new opportunities.

Roy Clarke GSL

Pegasus ESU (Gnosall)

Pegasus ESU (Gnosall) Annual Report 2022-23 Overall, this year has felt like our first proper year since COVID, as it has felt like we have finally been able to complete a full suite of camps including offering expeditions, along with weekend camps and a four-night residential trip at Easter. As of the January 2023 census the Unit had six Explorers and four Leaders, but we since grown and currently have nine Explorers (average meeting attendance of seven). We have had a busy and twelve months with highlights including: May-July 2022 • Completing DofE Bronze and Silver Expeditions • Helping steward the Giant Challenge Bike Ride • Having a go in a glider September-December 2022 • A couple of Members taking part in the OB Cup for the first time, up in the Peaks • Completing a sponsored Night Hike across Cannock Chase • Bouldering and climbing at Newport Climbing Wall • Christmas treat at the escape rooms in Stafford January-May 2023 • Indoor weekend camp in February at Rhydd Covert (including a day out at West Midlands Safari Park) • Members, family and friends helped organise and run a very successful Thai Night, raising money for future camps. A HUGE thank you to Mrs Bradburn and friends for making this possible!!!! • Working towards the survival skills badge, including lighting four different types of fires! • Four-night Easter Camp to Great Tower Scout Adventure Centre, Windermere. Including taking part in activities, such as Ghyll scrambling, stand up paddle boarding and rock climbing. In addition: • We have continued to

regularly maintain the dog poo bag holders around the village. • Three Chief Scout Platinum Awards have been awarded in the last 12 months. • Finally, two Explorers and myself are going to Kandersteg, Switzerland, with Staffordshire Scouts for just under two weeks in August! I would like to say a big thank you to Lesley Worsley, Andy Manners and Abby Cappleman for all their help and support over the last 12 months.

Thank you

Will Swinnerton

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures

Full names

Position

Date

Receipts and Payments**Receipts****Donations and other income**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total Funds 2022
Membership Subscriptions	45,903			45,903
Less Membership Paid on	36,422			36,422
Net Membership Subscriptions	9,481			9,481
Donations				0
Payments Received	6,821			6,821
Section Repayment to District				0
M & G Dividend to Current Account	1,884			1,884
Transfers				0
Explorer Income	17,270			17,270
St Peters Revenue	7,340			7,340
Minibus Income	1,320			1,320
	44,116			44,116

Grants

Maintenance				
Other				0
	0			0

Fundraising

Collections				0
Shop Sales	5,902			5,902
Badge Sales	2,990			2,990
Activity Fees Received				0
Advertising				0
Campsite Fees	17,677			17,677
Subscriptions	1,742			1,742
Gang Show Sales	1,049			1,049
Gang Show Ticket Sales				0
	29,359			29,359

Investment Income

Bank Interest	2			2
Building Society Interest		237		237
Property Rent Income				
Other Investment Income				
	2	237		239

Total Gross Income	73,477	237		73,714
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Asset & Investment Sales

Total Receipts	73,477	237		73,714
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	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total Funds 2022
Receipts & Payments				
Payments				
Youth Programme & Activities				0
Training	256			256
Membership Fees	15			15
District Purchases	1,297			1,297
Minibus Purchase & Running Costs	1,875			1,875
Rent				0
Water & Sewerage				0
Savings Transfer	8,663			8,663
St Peters Expenses	22,620			22,620
BT				0
Utilities	3,527			3,527
Insurance	2,583			2,583
Repairs & Renewals	7,435			7,435
Materials & Equipment	1,388			1,388
Printing & Postage	143			143
Travel and Van Hire	810			810
Explorer Units	18,496			18,496
Grants not transferred from DB				0
Events	1,289			1,289
Development Fund				0
Trustee Expenses				0
Camp Site purchases	1,838			1,838
Donations & Gifts	490			490
Other Expenses	60			60
	72,786			72,786
Fundraising Expenses				
Camp Shop	3,719			3,719
Gangshow	721			721
County Jamboree Fund	7,686			7,686
Badges	2,783			2,783
	14,908			14,908
Total Gross Expenditure	87,694			87,694
Loan Repayment				
Total Payments	87,694			87,694
Net of Receipts/(payments)	(14,217)	237		(13,981)
Transfers Between Funds				
Cash Funds Last Year End	85,113	51,473		
Cash Funds End This Year	70,898	51,710		122,608

Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total Funds 2022
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Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Cash Funds

Bank Current Account	70,898			70,898
Bank Savings Account	15,119			15,119
Building Society Account		51,710		51,710
The Scout Association Short Term	0			0
Cash/Floats				0
Total Cash Funds	86,017	51,710		137,727

Other Monetary Assets

Tax Claim				
Debts due from County/District/Groups				
Insurance Claim				

Investment Assets

Investment Property				
Quoted Investments		33,358		33,358
Other Investments				
		33,358		33,358

Non Monetary assets for Charity's own use

Badge Stock	5,128			5,128
Shop Stock				
Other Stock				
Land and Buildings				
Motor Vehicles				
Scouting Equipment, furniture et				
Internal Loan				
	5,128			5,128

Total	91,145	85,068		176,213
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Liabilities

Accounts not paid				
Expenses incurred but no yet invoiced				
Subscription not yet paid				
Loan				
Other Liabilities				

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

behalf by

Chairman
Nick Lloyd

District Commissioner
Sue Hewitt

Total Funds 2021	
	35,532
	33,264
	2,268
	2,878
	0
	1,722
	1,679
	222
	8,373
	0
	200
	17,342
	16,864
	16,864
	0
	340
	1,602
	1,245
	0
	8,192
	0
	0
	0
	11,379
	0
	77
	77
	45,663
	45,663

Total Funds 2021	
	0
	256
	15
	726
	1,045
	655
	0
	3,892
	2,263
	0
	2,198
	3,288
	8,777
	2,494
	173
	0
	6,744
	2,826
	0
	0
	388
	0
	191
	792
	36,451
	1,081
	0
	0
	2,254
	3,335
	39,787
	39,787
	5,876
	136,586

Total Funds 2021

83,760
15,109
51,473
400
1,355
152,098
35,326
35,326
3,999
3,999
191,423

(1,129)

15,210



Report to the trustees/ members of	Stafford District Scout Council	
On accounts for the year ended	31/12/2022	Charity no (if any)
Set out on pages		

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021 2022 Rs -

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn 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:	30/5/23	Date:	Roland Skelton
Name:	ROLAND SKELTON		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	AAT / CPFA (pt qualified)		
Address:	29 HEATH DRIVE STAFFORD ST16 1RB		

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.

(Handwritten signature)

Stafford District Scout Council

England & Wales - Charity number 524528

Accounts

STAFFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Registered Charity No 524528

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1/1/2021 -1/12/2021

For the Annual General Meeting 27th June 2022

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the charity

Sue Hewitt	District Commissioner
Nick Lloyd	District Chair Nominated
Val Wilson	District Treasurer Elected (Deceased (9/10/21)
Helen Ashwood	District Secretary Elected
Craig Ansell	District Explorer Scout Commissioner
Chris Rafferty	District Scout Network Commissioner
Elaine Neville	Nominated
Juliet Maiden	Nominated
Keith Low	Nominated
Paul Askey	Nominated
David Brass	Nominated
Cathy Hordern	Elected
Graham Smith	Elected
Paul Evans	Nominated
Andrew Clode	Chairman of Appointments
Steve Smith	Nominated
Sam Scriven	District Youth Commissioner
Roland Smith	Scout Active Support Manager
Kevin Hewitt	Camp Warden

Type of governing document

The District's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association

How the charity is constituted

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association

Risk and Internal Control

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Purpose of Scouting – Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society

The Values of Scouting – As Scouts we are guided by these values. Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Co-operation

The Scout Method – Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of scouting

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have an awareness of the Public Benefit Guidance with regard to Scouting's involvement with the local community. The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Financial Review

Reserves Policy – The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short.

The District Executive Committee considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to six months running costs, circa £7,500

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year as set out in the following reports –

District Commissioners Report

First of all, I would just like to say a BIG thank you to everybody for staying part of our scouting family for the last 2 years I know it has been very hard for everybody.

We have all missed out on such a lot of camping, scouting activities and holiday's, we have all been through some very tuff times.

Zoom was the new way of Scouting some weeks it was good some not so good, but I think it kept groups ticking over

To try to make it more interactive groups did quiz's, I did one or two, but it was not the same as Face to Face. It has been very difficult for some of our young people because this is what they had been using for school and the last thing the scouts wanted was to be sitting on another zoom meeting after being on them most of the day at School.

We managed to get through our last AGM's on Zoom again strange, short & sweet but I think we all said it, "where is the Cheese and Wine and our get together afterwards" it just wasn't the same.

So today this is our first AGM in 2 years where we are all sitting here face to face we may be a bit rusty as to what we need to say or do but I am sure we will get there.

Well as they say we just need to get on with our day-to-day things now Covid seems to have taken a back burner and all restrictions have now been lifted and it is something we have all just got to live with.

As soon as all restrictions were finally lifted groups started camping again, if you have not done one, yet I am sure you have got one booked somewhere and I'm sure the Jubilee Celebrations were a good excuse to be outside. It is just great to see everybody getting together again and going out enjoying what we've missed for the past couple of years.

The groups that had booked camps abroad have now had the go ahead

The jamboree at Korea in 2023 is back on track and the participants are now busy fundraising for the event.

So, whatever you have got coming up this year whether it is Camping, Hiking, Climbing, Abseiling Shooting Archery Sailing Canoeing, or cycling, go out be safe and enjoy what you have missed.

I am very proud to each and everyone of you in Stafford District for everything that you have done over the last 2 yrs it has been very challenging, but we met it head on.

WELL DONE TO YOU ALL

Sue Hewitt

District Commissioner

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the Council Chambers and our first "face to face" AGM for two years!! Although zoom has been invaluable during the pandemic - nothing beats individuals interacting together as I'm sure all troops and leaders would agree.

2021 presented many challenges, however the sad passing of Val Wilson our treasurer and life long scouter was a shock for us all. Many of us joined her family in a service that saw uniformed and non-uniform colleagues pay their respects.

On a brighter note, Stafford District - thanks to its dedicated team remained strong and well prepared for the future, both financially and with expanding facilities such as the new canoe & Kayaking centre plus enhanced activities at Sherratts Wood camp site.

We look forward to offering the whole Scouting experience to more young people as Stafford District grows.

Considerable thanks has go to the whole team- Leaders, Executive Committee and Sue our District Commissioner for all their considerable efforts.

In summary I'd like to quote - Amy Poehler

"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend time - a lot of time with them, and it will change your life forever"

Nick Lloyd

District Explorer Unit

With the worst of the Covid pandemic hopefully behind us, Stafford District Explorers are slowly recovering in terms of numbers and activities. This year has seen a change of DESC with Craig Ansell stepping down and Effy Preston taking on the role. There is also a new Young Leader Coordinator, Sam Scrivens.

In late June / early July the delayed Explorer Belt expedition is finally going ahead in northern France. The participants are now in Network but hopefully they'll 'blaze a trail' for other Explorer Belt expeditions within the District. The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has re-started with 7A leading the way in terms of numbers involved. In addition, the District have 5 candidates busy fundraising for the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea next year - exciting times.

It is intended that a full programme of District Explorer events will be established, starting with the reintroduction of the OB cup in October.

Effy

Stafford Networks report

No report available

Stafford District Beaver report

No report as no ADC

Cub Scout Section Report

As we have come out of the pandemic it has been encouraging to see so many packs running at capacity again.

I have had the pleasure of visiting some packs in the last couple of months while they have been on camp or out & about enjoying proper scouting again

Due to time constraints, we have not yet reconvened the Cub Council but plans are in place to restart in September with a view to starting District events early in 2023.

The contact I have had with packs throughout the District shows that all packs are actively scouting & enjoying it.

Lydia Hilton

ADC Cubs

Scout Section Report

2021 proved an interesting year for Stafford Scout Troops in the early part all leaders were going the extra mile to deliver innovative online programmes.

I was really impressed with the way that the teams stepped up to the mark and found new activities to do or new ways in which to deliver more traditional scouting. Then of course thankfully we returned to some sort of "normal" and face to face meetings again. I believe we have made it through the lock downs and come out the other side hopefully stronger. Youth membership is very healthy. However, we are in somewhat of a crisis with Leaders. I have 2 Troops that are in dire need of more Adults and I'm sure there will be others who struggle on without letting us know.

My thanks go to Darren Horden and his team who recently ran a very successful Skills weekend at Sherratts Wood. Lucie and Dave Francis have been working hard to put together our forth coming Lord Stafford Cup. Which is hopefully due to take place on the weekend of the 15th July. I hope Troops will support this event, that the scouts have always had so much enjoyment from.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel this year's Raft Race. As we have found it impossible to source a venue. However, we are very confident that we will see it return next year. Thanks to Kevin Hewitt for his efforts.

There have been few Chief Scout Gold Awards this year. Mainly because of the limitations on meeting and being able to get out and complete Expeditions. Hopefully in the very near future we will see more coming through.

All, the Troops have at least one camp each organised for this Summer and I'm sure that they will be delivering the usual high standard of activities during these.

The district activity team has been instrumental in delivering activities at the climbing wall and at our new canoe centre based at Stafford Boat Club. My thanks to Paul Askey, Nigel Hill, Chris Rafferty and their teams for their continued support.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Scout Leaders, Section helpers and Young leaders, who have worked so hard and dedicate their spare time to delivering excellent Scouting in Stafford District. Without you all Scouting just would not be possible.

Graham Smith

ADC Scouts

Stafford District

District Activities Report

Overall, given the spectre of covid hanging over us, activities in the district fared pretty well. This has been mainly due to the activity teams rising to the challenge and finding ways for climbing, kayaking and caving to go ahead.

Kayaking

We started the sessions last year with covid restrictions giving the team a considerable challenge. Working within the restrictions we had managed to finish the kayaking centre at the Boat Club. The facility consists of a boat and equipment store plus male and female changing rooms. The Boat club is in the process of building a toilet block about 50m from our centre which will be a great help to us. Over the winter the team excavated a few tons of soil and built the slabbed launching steps at the centre which has made getting on to the water much easier. The team managed to get over 300 young people on the water over the season which was amazing considering the restrictions they were working under. This season it is planned to run 28 sessions so even more scouts will be able to experience the activity. None of this would be possible without the support of the members of the Boat Club. I was hoping to have organised an opening ceremony towards the end of this month but we have received some sad news that John Mountford, the Boat club Commadore, died recently. John was instrumental in us getting the use of the club and permission to build the centre. We owe him a great debt of gratitude so I thought it appropriate to delay the official opening.

Climbing

Given the challenges the climbing team had to overcome with the restrictions imposed on us they have done an amazing job. For obvious reasons numbers using the wall has been down on previous years although they are now starting to pick up and we expect in September to be back to the pre covid numbers.

A number of new belayers and instructors have joined the team and we plan to run more courses in the autumn.

Caving

Due to the confined spaces in caves, it made it impossible to run any trips but now restrictions have lifted we have started to run trips again.

Hill Walking

A number of trips took place in the Lake District, Wales and the Peaks. A number of leaders attended County hillwalking courses and have gained permits to take their members into the hills. Thanks must go to the County Mountain Activity Team for putting on the courses for leaders in the county.

It has been my privilege to work with such an amazing dedicated group of individuals who have given many hours of their time to put on these activities and work on the various facilities and to overcome the challenges that covid presented us with. On behalf of the District, I would like to thank them for all their efforts.

Paul Askey

ADC Activities.

Sherratts Wood District Camp Site

Sherratt's Wood during 2021 was largely of recovering and making good the difficulties resulting from COVID and its consequence. The Storm Damage to the mature Oak Trees in the adventure play area was cleared after the trees were made safe professionally and the features repaired, renewed, or added to by our extended Crew.

Routine programme of mowing, cleaning, tree management and general maintenance was continuous with improvements in security, telecom, and our range of activities available to our visitors.

Scouting and camping began to recover, and we welcomed Groups from all Staffordshire and further in addition to most of our own Stafford groups.

We had generous welcome support from Grants from East Staffs and a reduced NFU insurance premium.

Looking after our environment included planting native tree whips from the Woodland Trust, installing 60+ nesting boxes with a high % of success including a Tawny Owl chick. Wildlife cameras recorded Badgers, Foxes and a Muntjac.

A new Website is in preparation. A new "Classroom" for training social events and specialist courses is planned.

Sadly, we lost our Vice-Chair Val Wilson who loved the Wood and will be remembered in a specially made dedicated area to celebrate her special contribution to scouting in Stafford.

Our thanks to the Crew and all the people involved during the year, every week, for their time, humour, and dedication in an eventful year.

Keith Low

Chairman Sherratt's Wood

Sherratt's Wood Site Warden

I would firstly like to say thank you to all the site crew who have all worked feverishly over the last 12 months to put the site in an even better condition now than it was before covid.

The main projects started and finished off since the last AGM are the shooting range is now finished bigger and better than ever and is being well used

The junior activity area has been completely cleared and new equipment designed , built, and fitted and as a consequence it is in almost constant use.

The assault course has been stripped out with some existing equipment being refurbished and having the addition of several new and exciting elements installed each week.

One of the port a cabins has been removed from the carpark and to facilitate the removal of the final one a 5mtr X 5mtr shed has been purpose built to store the equipment in the last port a cabin and when that is removed a new living fence will be installed along the boundary of the carpark.

The Askey lodge have been fitted with a new larder fridge a small freezer along with an electric range type cooker and a new extractor system. Which will reduce the need to store liquid gas on site.

New rainwater drainage has also been installed for the toilet block and rifle range.

Since the lifting of the covid restrictions we have seen the site slowly move back to normality and an increase in campers although the "Summer Camp" season is quite sparse this year, we have seen a number of new groups visit and promise to return.

We do have some tentative plans to increase the activities on site but that will hopefully all start to take some sort of shape over the winter months.

Thanks to everyone who helps make my job easier.

Kevin hewitt

Site Warden

Appointments Committee

Please find below a brief summary of progress of the Stafford District Appointments committee, the Panel is going from 'strength to strength' with the ability to operate two panels on one day (due to increased numbers of the appointments team). Covid has still had an impact with a number of sessions needing to be re-dated, an unintended benefit of covid has been the ability to use 'Zoom' / on line for appointments sessions. Which has proved a successful for midweek evenings.

Sessions held this year: -

3rd July 2021 – 2 candidates.

19th October – 3 candidates.

9th January 2022 – 1 candidate

25th January – 3 candidates.

29th January – 6 candidates.

15th February – 2 candidates.

2nd April – 1 candidate.

10th May – 3 candidates.

Standard interview pro forma introduced & now refined (Including GSL management interview template).

Juliet Maiden has been providing sterling support on gathering references and co-ordinating.

I would like to Juliet for her on-going support and professionalism.

Forthcoming appointment dates for 2022.

o 21st June Zoom- (3).

o 25th June Sea Scouts (5)

o 26th November

Work in progress

Catching up with any backlog following COVID.

Issue with references (quality, compliance & supply) – Although this has improved.

Andy Clode

Stafford Active Support Unit Report

Not a great deal to report, we still have a small, dedicated group of Individuals which always step up to the plate when asked.

The only major activity we have covered since our last encounter was the St Georges day parade and Church Service. Generally it went well, we had to adapt a few things as we went owing to the incident in town, but all in all a success in my opinion.

We had a working party at Sherratt's wood where we did a bit of Timber treatment to the Wardens Den, Archery Shed and some of the cooking shelters.

SAS in the main also continue to play a major part in the Warrants Committee with its membership accounting for around 30% of the overall committee.

We are always pleased to accept New members into SAS, either as occasional helpers or full blown members, so if you are interested in joining our merry band please have a word with one of the team, you can't miss us, were the ones with the Purple and Lime Green neckerchiefs.

Stay safe Roland

4th Stafford Scout Group Report

We have continued to provide our children with a wide variety of activities. From day camps to nights away, in tents, hammocks and bivvies. Hiking, climbing, sailing and building we haven't sat down long enough to digest the amount of fun we have packed into the last 12 months. After being

released from Covid restrictions, we hit the ground running across all the sections and have not looked back. Numbers remain steady and the leadership team although has seen one or two movements remains strong and there is always plenty of support from parents.

We have the honour of leading the St George's Day parade, at the time of writing this it is 3 weeks away. Planning the event has brought the group closer to St Paul's and we are grateful for the support we have received from Rev's. Martin and Ian.

We are planning a massive group camp which will fall on Jubilee weekend and is looking to be well attended. Our Scout Leaders are also in the throes of planning a District Skills weekend which, is always a 'must attend' event.

Beavers have, as always been out and about, learning new sports and exploring Stafford landmarks.

Cubs, have been visited by the armed response and police dogs, which is always an enjoyable evening. We have just taken on an allotment next to St Peters, bringing the group closer to the community it serves.

Scouts, as always pushing the boundaries of scouting #PioneeredAtThe4th

We are excited for the coming 6 months when we will welcome Elements Explorer Unit into our group umbrella, utilising our Scout Leaders, allowing us to continue our scouting programme with our Scouts who are ageing out.

Congratulations to all my leaders who have obtained special permits to ensure that our YP can undertake new activities safely. Without your effort and sacrifice of family time, we just wouldn't be able to provide such a varied and exciting programme.

Cathy Hordern

4th Stafford GSL

6th Stafford Scout Group Report

2021/22 has been a year of ups and downs, starting with meeting restrictions and ending with our Group Camp at Sandon with relative normality for the past few months.

All sections have met face-to-face almost every week this year, with quite a lot of outdoor activities taking place and scouting skills / camping sessions to rebuild some skills that have been lost or a little rusty following 2 years of restrictions and a severe lack of camping.

We've been lucky to have been able to have a number of camps this year, bookended by the re-introduction of our annual group camp held on the Sandon Estate, something very special to us as a Group and we appreciate the relationship that we have had with the estate and Lord Harrowby for over 60 years now.

We congratulate our members on achieving 6 'Chief Scout's Bronze Awards', 4 'Chief Scout's Silver Awards' and 2 'Chief Scout's Gold Awards' in the past year.

We have welcomed a couple of new Young Leaders to the Group – Dylan (AKA Leaf who assists with our Beaver Colony), Chloe (AKA Karela who assists with the Cub Pack) as well as another Chloe who assists with Cubs as a Scout Helper and Cameron (Tabaqui) who is working with both Cubs and Scouts.

We have also welcomed back Ant (known to everyone as 'Beany') who was an ACSL with our Group around 20 years ago, he has now returned as a SA with Scouts and also helps with Cubs as well as acting as Cook Crew for a number of camps.

A couple of members of our exec committee have also been extremely active as helpers with different sections and camps and we are greatly appreciative to Kelly (Chair) and Emma (Secretary) for this.

Our numbers currently stand as follows:

Beavers – 17

Cubs – 25

Scouts – 23

During the past 12 months we have taken part in a number of events such as:

- Fundraising for Monkey World and Dudley Zoo
- Our very popular and enjoyable Christmas Trip to Chester Zoo (which is becoming an annual event!)
- Our first ever Group Christmas Party, which included fun, games, music, a visit from Santa as well as the first '6th Stafford Group Oscars' with prizes voted for by our members for both leaders, young leaders and our young people.
- 5 camps, with attendees from all sections: Group Camp in July, our Cubs autumn camp at Kinver with a Lord of the Rings theme, Late autumn 'Halloween' Camp at Kibblestone in October, Winter 'Superhero' Camp in March at Kibblestone and ending the year with our Group Camp in early June which will take place of the Jubilee bank holiday.

Some of the Group leaders and Exec Committee had the opportunity (finally after being cancelled for the past 2 years!) to camp on Brownsea Island at the site of the first Camp back in 1907. A fun weekend has had, including recreating a previous picture taken in 2002 (coincidentally the Diamond Jubilee year), this is the last time that the National Trust are allowing adults-only Scout camping on the island.

We were pleased that the District St George's Day parade was able to take place this year and we were extremely proud of the behaviour of our members and the high turnout that we had. We were very proud that 2 of our young leaders and 2 of our Scouts were part of the Parade's lead Colour Party.

As GSL's we have had an extremely stressful and busy year and would like to express our thanks to all our leaders and exec for their assistance.

Regards, Justin L. & Vikki L. Williams (Group Scout Leaders)

7th Stafford Scout Group Report

Beavers

We currently have 27 Children and 13 on the waiting list.

There is me as the main leader and Sarah Nightingale as assistant leader.

Also have a section assistant.

Cubs

There are currently 25 children and the waiting list is closed, so we can ensure there is enough space for our beavers

Cubs have one leader and one assistant leader.

They also have a section assistant.

Scouts

There are currently 17 children and no one on the waiting list.

They have one leader and 2 section assistants who aren't available for all meetings.

It would be very helpful to have another Scout Leader.

I would absolutely love to open a Squirrel Drey, I know me and the cub leader have spoken previously about this as we are both keen to. But as we are already beaver and cub leaders we are not sure if we would be allowed to both run a Squirrel Drey together. I feel we would have the numbers as I could ask the children's parents who are currently on the beavers waiting list.

I would ideally run the group on a Wednesday before beavers. Could you let me know Sue what you think about this please. I can talk to Stef (cub leader) to ensure she would be still happy to do it with me.

Kirsty Watt

Group Scout Leader

9th Stafford Scout Group Report

Beavers finally wrapped up their online Zoom sessions and headed back to HQ with the onset of lighter nights and the wonderful world of face to face.

Coming out of Covid restrictions has been a challenge, the initial return came with fresh challenges and learning how to operate together again but keeping apart, but they got there.

Numbers remained good and we are now starting to see several enquiries coming through, the future looks promising. They have also sent a number of long-standing Beavers up to Cubs over the last few months.

Some of the things they have worked on this year have been knots, Lego building, safety, navigation, pioneering, natural art, money skills, space / star gazing and nature walks.

Cubs are doing well. We are seeing a steady stream of new Cubs arriving and are gradually moving the older Cubs up to Scouts. They have been refreshing the skills they already had and developing the new ones. They had a successful sleepover at HQ in October and have been working on badges throughout the year, pioneering, chef, knots, fire-lighting, local knowledge and more. A trip to the castle gave them an insight into the history of Stafford.

Scouts are coming back to face to face meeting well, although attendance fluctuates. The sailing season was cancelled again but they did manage to arrange a variety of outdoor activities.

They went kayaking on the Sow until the weeds got too bad. In place of summer camp they had a week of activities which included visits to the beach, the zoo, a tour around the Blue John mines and a cycle ride. With the onset of darker nights, a walk from the castle with chips in town was enjoyed by all.

They had several visits to Sherratts Wood including, a cooking day, weekend camp and an outdoor Halloween party which was particularly spooky in the dark

In response to a local request they collected donations for the people of Ukraine and took them down to the Polish Club. The support for this was very generous, thank you.

Badge work is progressing well.

Numbers dropped off in all Sections as lockdown took hold but they have steadily built back up again and I expect demand for places to be high in the coming months.

2022 saw some overdue Long Service and Commendation Awards presented to the Group Leadership Team.

Tim Small, Beavers, 5 years' service

Tiffany Sandy, Scouts, 10 years' service

Sion Richards, Scouts, 30 years' service

Kevin Hewitt, Scouts, 30 years' service and the Silver Acorn for services to the Movement

Sue Hewitt, Scouts, the Award of Merit for outstanding service

Douglas Smith, GSL, 40 years' service and Silver Acorn for services to the Movement

This impressive list highlights that we are not getting any younger and the importance of supporting and encouraging our younger adult Leaders, so that they are ready to take on the responsibility of running the Group when required.

The Leaders put a lot of effort into keeping their Sections going this year with Zoom and setting tasks for their members to do at home, helping to keep them involved in Scouting.

I am immensely proud of the Leaders for keeping things going during the year and their enthusiasm for getting their sections going again. I am confident of a healthy future for the Group.

My Thanks go to all the Leaders, adult helpers, Group Executive Committee and parents that helped to get the Group through this difficult year.

Douglas Smith GSL

11th Stafford Scout Group Report

Well, that's been a very difficult couple of years for the 11th. When the lockdown started, we obviously lost our home at the school, fully expecting to get back at some point in the near future. Unfortunately, this never happened. After terms spent having meetings in the park and temporary halls at Elim Hope Church, we have finally found what we are hoping will be a longer-term home. We are now meeting at the Exhibition space at the New Beacon Group on the old university site.

This lack of a home and the change of venue away from Wildwood has really hit our membership and we are currently down to very low numbers. This is a blessing in one way, as we are also very low on leaders, but it does make running meetings very difficult. Who would have thought you would hear a leader saying 6 young people at a meeting is far worse than 24!!

As we now settle into our new home, we are re-building and bringing the Young People in our care skills for life. It will take a while to re-build, but the leadership team have already been putting information out to the local community around the new venue and this is now starting to bear fruit, with people starting to re-join and get our numbers up. We now need to find the new leaders to allow the current team to not have to cover more than one section.

So as always and perhaps even more after the last couple of years, I cannot say enough about our small team of Leaders, Young Leaders and Executive members who continue to put 200% into the group.

Finally, I will say a bit thank-you to all our members of the district for your continued support of the group and let's continue to teach our members Skills for Life in these completely unprecedented times.

Dave

11th Stafford Scout Group

12th Stafford Scout Group Report

Like everyone else the 12th Leaders worked very hard to keep everything going during the Pandemic. Almost straight away we held meetings via zoom which we found to be very hard work. We were so relieved when we could resume meetings again face to face .

Even though the leaders were tired and under pressure to try and deliver a programme each week we didn't lose any adults for which we were so thankful and fortunately we didn't lose too many children either mainly because of the Zoom meetings and the leaders going that extra mile to ensure that they still worked for badges. And because of all this most Parents continued to pay subs which kept us afloat. I am happy to say that it didn't take long for our numbers to start going up again resulting in us now being back to about 280 again which is very pleasing. Our aim after lockdown has been to try and do as much scouting and outdoor activities as we can so that we can catch up with everything the children missed out on during lockdown. Because of this we have been all been very busy but I am happy to say that all Sections have made good inroads into the training programme.

With some trepidation some sections did hold camps in the Autumn. We really thought parents wouldn't like their children to come along but surprisingly enough they were all very supportive so we ended up taking good numbers away. This year all sections will be holding at least two camps on top of what we have already achieved since January. We have had sleepovers, been on outings done Kayaking, Hiking along with all the other outdoor pursuits.

The Group managed to do a bit of fund-raising last year by holding a Fun Dog show and a Christmas Market both of which we hopefully intend to do again this year.

All in all I am more than happy at our progress and along with everybody else hope that nothing else pops up to knock us all down again.

I have to thank everybody connected to the 12th or all that they have done and continue to do. They are all very special people and we consider ourselves very lucky indeed.

Last but not least I would like to thank our DC Sue Hewitt and of course Kevin for all the help and support they have continued to give me. Stafford are very lucky to have you both looking after us so well.

Doreen Smith. GSL 12th (Berkswich) Scout Group.

15th Stafford (Penkridge) Scout Group Report

Beaver section

We now have two healthy Beaver colonies which meet on a Monday evening our Beaver leaders are only available on a Monday due to other commitments and had a waiting list of twenty four and due to the age of some on the list they would be too old by the time a space became available. It was decided that if the running time was shortened by fifteen minutes they would be able to run two colonies with a fifteen minute break in-between for change over. The Beavers did their first sleep over and have a varied program that they all enjoy.

Cub section

We had our first camp at Kibblestone which was enjoyed by all after a long break away from camping due to covid restrictions, followed by our Halloween can at Beaudesert we are busy preparing for our trip to Southern Ireland in August and the Cubs are enjoying a varied programme of activity's.

Scout section

We have a new Scout leader and a new ASL the Scouts are enjoying a varied programme and the patrol leaders and APL enjoyed their first camp at Sherratt's Wood.

Sometimes the scouts have to miss a night due to our ASL not being able to make the meeting due to work commitments and at short notice not being able to arrange for another leader to help out. A shortage of leaders is our biggest concern and although we are growing in numbers none of the new parents are willing to step up to the challenge of helping out or taking a leadership role

We are waiting for a response from Penkridge Market to see if it will be possible to hold our Bonfire there this year.

I apologise for not being able to attend the AGM due to holiday commitments

Yours in Scouting

Terry Day

16th (Wheaton Aston) Stafford Scout Group Report

14 cubs now registered with small waiting list based on age

Potential new beaver leader (we're in discussion with her but it'll come down to volunteers to assist as always) we believe there's sufficient interest within the village to re-start beavers so hopefully this will happen, potentially early September

No scouts, guides etc

Thanks

Simon Heath GSL

17th (Gnosall) Stafford Scout Group Report

This has been a successful year for the Group, and all sections have managed to bounce back, holding face to face meetings and maintaining healthy numbers.

Beavers are currently full and we have a few names on the waiting list for places. Cubs are also full. Scouts have a couple of spaces available. We continue to have a strong demand for places.

I am happy to report that as things are now getting back to normal, Scouts held their first camp in two years at beginning of April, very cold one with hail attacking us while putting tents up, but didn't put any of the scouts off and they went on to attend the district scout skills camp in May which was very enjoyable for all.

The cubs have also booked a camp at Patshull which they are looking forward to.

They have had a very busy programme including making bird boxes and taking part in cycling proficiency and baking.

The Group's activities wouldn't be possible without the support of the adult, young leader and parent helpers who generously give up so much time, and also our Executive Committee members. I'd like to offer the Group's thanks to all of them.

We are very lucky to own our own building, shared with the guides. This is looked after by a wonderful team of volunteers, known as the management committee who raise the funds to pay the bills and keep it fit for use and for this we are very grateful. However, it is very evident we now need some 'new blood' added to the team and the aim for the year ahead is to get new adult members both on the committee and as leaders.

20th Stafford Scout Group Report

As a group we have meeting regularly to try to give as many the opportunity to learn new Scouting skills. The Scout group attended the District skills camp 13th -15th May, and a camp later on in the year. Weekend activities for Beavers and Cubs has not taken place due to leader numbers and work commitments.

The group is in need of not only leaders but committee members, with our wonderful treasurer retiring after 22 years. Cubs require at least 2 leaders and another in Scouts.

Our Fete is on 9th July where we hope to have a good turnout.

Joanna Miller Scouter in charge

20th St Bertelin's

21st Stafford Scout Group Report

Are you really well we are engaging from all the parents and we have done previously I suspect even better than pre-Covid.

We had our AGM last week and we managed to recruit quite a few parents to help the group.

CUBS is by far the strongest section with the current membership of 32, thereafter for that move up to Scouts. Beavers now has 14 members with six recently moved up to Cubs. Scouts is running with 16 names on the books however attendance is sporadic with some of them due to shall we say family issues, They usually get about 11 a week but not the same ones every week.

Leader wise cubs is very healthy, we could do with one to Beavers and we could do with three in Scouts as it appears that mini Riley does have other commitments and can't make every week. We have full compliment on the exec now having recruited a new secretary and a couple of parent representatives.

On the subject you are already briefed on our plans regarding project bushy tailed we have three leaders that came forward at the AGM to run the section, I think we may have a 4th to join them. Therefore completed the paperwork for the DBS one has had theirs back already and they've started doing their basic training Paul Askey has been asked to make contact with them to sort out their PLP's

Still waiting to hear back from HQ however the email that you get was not dismissive and I think we will be able to carry on despite not being in the 1 to 5 category that was a initial requirement. They will be putting us in touch with a cohort coach and 19 other cohort leaders.

We now have all sectioned meeting in the church hall instead of HQ which is better with the space that we need. This does mean of course our overheads have gone up so our subs will increase next year.

--

Roy Clarke

Group Scout Leader

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures

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Full names

--	--

Position

--	--

Date

.....

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
Receipts and Payments					
Receipts					
Donations and other income					
Membership	35,532			35,532	46,671
Less Member	33,264			33,264	36,246
Net Members	2,268			2,268	10,427
Donations	2,878			2,878	357
Payments Received				0	292
Section Repa	1,722			1,722	2,892
M & G Divide	1,679			1,679	1,521
Transfers	222			222	3,892
Explorer Inco	8,373			8,373	8,527
Insurance Claim/Refund				0	7,986
Minbus Incon	200			200	410
	17,342			17,342	36,303
Grants					
Maintenance					
Other	16,864			16,864	21,334
	16,864			16,864	
Fundraising					
Collections				0	0
Shop Sales	340			340	133
Badge Sales	1,602			1,602	921
Activity Fees	1,245			1,245	870
Advertising				0	1,210
Campsite Fee	8,192			8,192	826
Subscriptions				0	0
Gang Show Sales				0	2,778
Gang Show Ticket Sales				0	6,120
	11,379			11,379	12,857
Investment Income					
Bank Interest	0			0	4
Building Society Interest		77		77	242
Property Rent Income					
Other Investment Income					
	0	77		77	246
Total Gross Income	45,586	77		45,663	70,740

Asset & Investment Sales				
Total Receipts	45,586	77	45,663	70,740

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
Receipts & Payments					
Payments					
Youth Programme & Activities				0	337
Training				0	191
Membership Fees				0	352
District Purch	726			726	186
Minibus Purc	1,045			1,045	1,131
Rent	655			655	0
Water & Sewerage				0	337
Savings Tran	3,892			3,892	0
St Peters Exp	2,263			2,263	0
BT				0	522
Electricity & C	2,198			2,198	296
Insurance	3,288			3,288	1,944
Repairs & Re	8,777			8,777	11,913
Materials & E	2,494			2,494	1,480
Printing & Po	173			173	123
Travel and Van Hire				0	520
Explorer Unit	6,744			6,744	7,576
Grants not tra	2,826			2,826	12,375
Events				0	272
Development Fund				0	2,409
Trustee Expe	388			388	44
District Loan to Group				0	2,202
Donations & C	191			191	100
Other Expens	792			792	30
	36,451			36,451	44,339
Fundraising Expenses					
Camp Shop	1,081			1,081	1,124
Gangshow				0	8,959
County Jamboree Fund				0	0
Badges	2,254			2,254	435
	3,335			3,335	10,519
Expenditure	39,787			39,787	54,858

Loan Repayment				
Total Payments	39,787		39,787	54,858
Receipts/(payments)	5,799	77	5,876	15,883
Transfers Between Funds				
Cash Funds Balance at End of This Year	90,887	51,396		142,283
	85,113	51,473	136,586	

Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
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Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Cash Funds

Bank Current	83,760		83,760	75,343
Bank Savings	15,109		15,109	11,216
Building Society Account		51,473	51,473	54,828
The Scout Association	400		400	404
Cash/Floats	1,355		1,355	492
Cash Funds	100,624	51,473	152,098	142,283

Other Monetary Assets

Tax Claim				
Debts due from County/District/Groups				
Insurance Claim				

Investment Assets

Investment Property				
Quoted Investments		35,326	35,326	31,157
Other Investments				
		35,326	35,326	31,157

Non Monetary assets for Charity's own use

Badge Stock	3,999		3,999	3,069
Shop Stock				
Other Stock				
Land and Buildings				
Motor Vehicles				
Scouting Equipment, furniture et				
Internal Loans				
	3,999		3,999	3,069

Total	104,623	86,799	191,423	176,509
Liabilities				

Accounts not paid				
Expenses incurred but no yet invoiced				
Subscription not yet paid				
Loan				
Other Liabilities				

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

and signed on their behalf by

Chairman
Nick Lloyd

District Commissioner
Sue Hewitt



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's report
on the accounts**

Report to the trustees/ members of		Stafford District Scout Council	
On accounts for the year ended		31/12/2021	Charity no (if any)
Set out on pages			
Responsibilities and basis of report		<p>I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2021.</p> <p>As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").</p> <p>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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.</p>	
Independent examiner's statement		<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or • the accounts do not accord with the accounting records <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn 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.</p>	
Signed:		Date: 18/07/22	
Name:		ROLAND SKELTON	
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):		AAT: Part Qualified IPFA	
Address:		29 HEATH DRIVE STAFFORD ST16 1RB	
		Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.		/	

Stafford District Scout Council

England & Wales - Charity number 524528

Accounts

STAFFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Registered Charity No 524528

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020

For the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on 7th June 2021

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the charity

Sue Hewitt	District Commissioner
Nick Lloyd	District Chair Nominated
Val Wilson	District Treasurer Elected
Helen Ashwood	District Secretary Elected
Craig Ansell	District Explorer Scout Commissioner
Chris Rafferty	District Scout Network Commissioner
Elaine Neville	Nominated
Juliet Maiden	Nominated
Keith Low	Nominated
Paul Askey	Nominated
David Brass	Nominated
Cathy Hordern	Elected
Graham Smith	Elected
Paul Evans	Nominated
Andrew Clode	Chairman of Appointments
Steve Smith	Nominated
Sam Scriven	District Youth Commissioner
Roland Smith	Scout Active Support Manager
Kevin Hewitt	Camp Warden

Type of governing document

The District's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association

How the charity is constituted

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association

Risk and Internal Control

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments and a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Purpose of Scouting – Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society

The Values of Scouting – As Scouts we are guided by these values. Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Co-operation

The Scout Method – Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of scouting

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have an awareness of the Public Benefit Guidance with regard to Scouting's involvement with the local community. The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Financial Review

Reserves Policy – The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Executive Committee considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to six months running costs, circa £7,500

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year as set out in the following reports –

District Commissioners Report

Well, it was the 17th of March 2020 Scouting all stopped we were in Lockdown.

Then restrictions started to improve, and we were almost there to get back to some normality and all of a sudden scouting went back to square one back on zoom with most of us leaders pulling their hair out and clutching at straws trying to keep everyone's interest.

2020 saw our first District AGM on Zoom with a very limited number of people on the screen, now that was very strange as we normally have the Council Chambers and Cheese and Wine for afters, instead we just looked at our screens with all these faces on, but it worked for us.

Our appointments committee got the go ahead to hold the interviews online, so they got their heads together, and they have now done 3 sessions of appointments on zoom, and everyone agreed that it worked well.

Unfortunately, there was no Christmas Carol Concert and again no St. Georges Day Parade but this year the 6th did a virtual St Georges Day service on zoom which worked very well, so my thanks go out to all the people who were involved and worked so hard to make that possible.

Highlights of this year saw the opening of our new boat store at the Stafford Boat Club on Wildwood lots of work has been put into that so thank you to all involved in the organising and building.

Sherratts Wood had some storm damage too which a big oak tree came down and destroyed most of the junior activity area.

They have also had to replace the rifle range due to a rotten roof. This was dismantled and is now being rebuilt, my thanks go out to all the Sherratts Wood Team who have put a lot of time in to making this possible.

It is now 7th June 2021 we are in yellow and getting very close once again to going back to as they say business as usual? But will it?

My final thanks go to everyone in the District who has supported me over the last 12 months.

Sue

District Commissioner

Chairman's Report

Welcome to yet another "Zoom" AGM.

By its very nature the Chair's message is one of reflection and anticipation.

2020 will be remembered by all of us for being both stressful and challenging.

Against considerable odds the Stafford District continued to offer children and young adults a wide range of opportunities, whether it be the Gang Show early in the year to "Zoom" experiences as troops wrestled with the lockdown situation.

However, the pandemic challenged our movement to adapt/innovate and offer Scouting challenges, sadly not "face to face".

The extraordinary effort by our Leadership Teams to find new ways to engage with the membership has been superb and has to be commended.

However this time was put to good use by many volunteers to advance such projects as the new Rifle Range at Sherratts Wood, a new purpose built Kayak centre at Stafford Boat Club (supported by the Donald Bean Fund) & continued upgrading of the St Peters facility.

These put us in an excellent position as we slowly resume normal Scouting.

My thanks has to go to all for the enormous amount of dedication and commitment during a very unexpected 2020.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our DC (Sue) and the District Executive Committee.

Nick Lloyd – District Chairman

District Activities Report

Due to Covid very few activities took place during 2020. The only notable thing to report during the year was that during the weeks between lockdowns the activity team managed to erect and kit out the new kayaking centre at the Boat Club. The building is about three metres from the canal. It has male and female changing rooms and racks for the kayaks and other equipment. Many thanks must go to the team and especially the Boat Club for hosting us on their premises.

All the risk assessments have now been signed off, so we have opened up the kayaking centre and climbing wall.

Hopefully the young members can get out and enjoy both facilities.

Once again, many thanks to the team who give up their time to make these facilities and activities possible.

Paul Askey

ADC Activities.

Sherratts Wood District Camp Site

As you all know it has been a challenging and somewhat different 12 months since the last AGM.

The main projects on site have been

The clearing of fallen trees from the Junior activity area and we are now at a stage where we are starting to rebuild and improve the equipment with the first being the Aerial runway. Thanks to Paul Askey and his cohorts for the work they have put into that area.

What started off as reroofing the shooting range, after finding rotted timbers throughout the original building, has now become a complete rebuild.

As you can see we are now partially through fitting out the new interior and should soon be ready for the first shooters.

We have also put in place procedures to make the site Covid Compliant These include reviewed entrance and exit system hand sanitisers, social distancing regulations and rigorous cleaning and sanitising of buildings and equipment. Along with covid compliant Risk Assessments for the site and all the activities we supply.

Alongside of these projects the day-to-day maintenance of grass cutting, strimming, tree planting and building repairs has been going on throughout the pandemic.

And for all of the above my thanks have to go to the site crew and many "occasional helpers" we have drafted, in to use the skills the have and sometimes the skill they didn't know they had.

Some local groups have been using the site for their evening section meetings if they had no outside facilities at their regular meeting place.

We are now seeing an increase in the use of the site all be it in one day activities which is in keeping with the Scout Association traffic light system.

I think it will beat least a couple more months before the Scout Association move to a green State and allow Camping to a degree we remember but we are ready when they are.

Thanks Again to Everyone that help.

Kevin Hewitt - Site warden

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures	<i>Nick Lloyd</i>	<i>Sue Hewitt</i>
Full names	Nick Lloyd	Susan Hewitt
Position	District Chairman	District Commissioner

Date6th June 2021.....

Stafford District Scouts
for the year from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020

Receipts and Payments

Receipts

Donations and other income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
Membership Subscriptions	46,671			46,671	38,272
Less Membership Paid on	36,246			36,246	29,391
Net Membership Subscriptions	10,427			10,427	8,881
Donations	357			357	4,620
Payments Received	292			292	8,090
Section Repayment to District	2,892			2,892	0
M & G Dividend to Current Account	1,521			1,521	1,884
Transfers	3,892			3,892	0
Explorer Income	8,527			8,527	17,903
Insurance Claim/Refund	7,986			7,986	0
Sectional Income	410			410	0
	36,303			36,303	41,378
Grants					
Maintenance					
Other	21,334			21,334	
	21,334			21,334	
Fundraising					
Collections	0			0	400
Shop Sales	133			133	4,358
Badge Sales	921			921	3,016
Activity Fees Received	870			870	1,638
Advertising	1,210			1,210	0
Campsite Fees	826			826	14,469
Subscriptions				0	40
Gang Show Sales	2,778			2,778	6
Gang Show Ticket Sales	6,120			6,120	0
	12,857			12,857	
Investment Income					
Bank Interest	4			4	6
Building Society Interest		242		242	426
Property Rent Income					0
Other Investment Income					0
	4	242		246	432
Total Gross Income	70,498	242		70,740	65,737
Asset & Investment Sales					
Total Receipts	70,498	242		70,740	65,737

Stafford District Scouts
for the year from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
Receipts & Payments					
Payments					
Youth Programme & Activities	337			337	772
Training	191			191	196
Membership Fees	352			352	189
District Purchases	186			186	437
Minibus Purchase & Running Costs	1,131			1,131	8,774
Rent				0	0
Water & Sewerage	337			337	1,203
BT	522			522	533
Electricity & Gas	296			296	1,789
Insurance	1,944			1,944	1,971
Repairs & Renewals	11,913			11,913	5,237
Materials & Equipment	1,480			1,480	1,712
Printing & Postage	123			123	105
Travel and Van Hire	520			520	687
Explorer Units	7,576			7,576	13,996
Grants not transferred from DB	12,375			12,375	3,027
Events	272			272	1,571
Development Fund	2,409			2,409	3,070
Trustee Expenses	44			44	22
District Loan to Group	2,202			2,202	791
Donations & Gifts	100			100	785
Other Expenses	30			30	43
	44,339			44,339	46,910
Fundraising Expenses					
Camp Shop	1,124			1,124	2,754
Gangshow	8,959			8,959	725
County Jamboree Fund				0	366
Badges	435			435	3,674
	10,519			10,519	7,519
Total Gross Expenditure	54,858			54,858	54,429
Loan Repayment					
Total Payments	54,858			54,858	54,429
Net of Receipts/(payments)	15,641	242		15,883	11,307
Transfers Between Funds					
Cash Funds Last Year End	77,929	51,154			118,796
Cash Funds End This Year					129,083

Stafford District Scouts
for the year from 1/1/2020 to 31/12/2020

Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
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Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Cash Funds

Bank Current Account	75,343			75,343	59,651
Bank Savings Account	11,216			11,216	11,212
Building Society Account	3,432	51,396		54,828	53,913
The Scout Association Short Term	404			404	403
Cash/Floats	492			492	774
Total Cash Funds	90,887	51,396		142,283	125,953

Other Monetary Assets

Tax Claim					
Debts due from County/District/Groups					
Insurance Claim					

Investment Assets

Investment Property					
Quoted Investments		31,157		31,157	37,698
Other Investments					
		31,157		31,157	37,698

Non Monetary assets for Charity's own use

Badge Stock	3,069			3,069	
Shop Stock					1,651
Other Stock					
Land and Buildings					
Motor Vehicles					
Scouting Equipment, furniture et					
Internal Loan					
	3,069			3,069	1,651

Total	93,956	82,554		176,509	165,302
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Liabilities

Accounts not paid					
Expenses incurred but no yet invoiced					
Subscription not yet paid					
Loan					
Other Liabilities					

Contingent liabilities and future obligations

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 11th May 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Chairman
Nick Lloyd

District Commissioner
Sue Hewitt

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

of the

Stafford District Scout Council

I report on the accounts of the District for the year ended 31st December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes set out.

This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under Section 145 of the Charities Act)
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the District and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out on the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- To keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities;

have not been met.

Name and Signature ROLAND SKELTON Roland Skelton
Qualification AAT IPQ CIPFA ACCOUNTANT
Address 29 HEATH DRIVE, TILLINGTON
STAFFORD ST16 1RB
Date 21/5/2021