

**AVON VALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
(SCOUT ASSOCIATION NO. 12062197)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2023**

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 524623

AVON VALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 524623

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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AVON VALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 524623
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees present their report, with the Financial Statements of the Charity, for the year ended 31 March 2023, in accordance with the Charity's trust deed and the Charities Act 2011.

Section A Reference and Administration Details

Charity's principal address:	Tim Smeaton 14 Gibbs Close Lower Moor Pershore WR10 2NQ
Scout Association Number:	12062197
Charity Number:	524623
President:	Vacant
Vice President:	Vacant
Life Members:	Peter Lippett
Trustees (Ex-Officio):	Term (if less than full year)
District Commissioner:	Tim Smeaton
Assistant District Commissioner:	Andrew Uncles
District Chair:	John Airey
District Secretary:	Jill Mustard (September 2022) Mary Furse (appointed November 2022)
District Treasurer:	Rita Grimes (July 2022) Mark Allen (appointed September 2022)
District Explorer Scout Commissioner	Graham Godwin (appointed November 2022)
District Network Commissioner:	James Rowberry

Trustees (Elected):

Steve Gathergood
Cameron Kelly
Paul Lees
Barbara O'Mahoney
Steve O'Mahoney
Jo Watkins

Trustees (Nominated):

Ann Davies
Arthur Williams

Trustees (Co-opted):

Roger Davies
Brian Warmington

**Custodian Trustees
(Abbey Road, Evesham):**

Chantelle Cain
Cameron Kelly
Michael Price
James Rowberry

Independent Examiner:

R. Bailey, F.C.A.
Sparrows Nest
Wood Norton
Evesham
Worcs
WR11 4TE

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank Plc
21 Broad Street
Persore
Worcs
WR10 1BD

Insurance Broker:

Unity Insurance Services Limited
Lancing Business Park
Lancing
Sussex
BN15 8UG

Section B Structure, Governance and Management

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.

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The District is managed by the District Executive Committee, the members of which are the Charity Trustees' of the District, which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Committee consists of the District Commissioner, nominated Chair, together with Treasurer and Secretary, and members elected by the District at the AGM, and any co-opted or nominated members as may be required. The number of co-opted or nominated members must not exceed the number of elected members. The District Executive meets around 5 times per year.

This District Executive Committee exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment and to provide support for Scout Groups, the Explorer Scout Units and District Scout Network:

- Promoting the development of Scouting in the District and arranging for co-operation with other organizations;
- The raising of funds and the administration of District finance;
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- District public occasions;
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
- Appointing any sub committees that may be required;
- Appointing Group Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

Risk and Internal Control

The District Executive Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss; these include requiring two signatories for all payments. There is a requirement that the District Treasurer should be a signatory on all District Bank accounts, including those of Explorer units. This is now in place.

The District is responsible for the property and equipment owned by Explorer units within the District. It is also responsible for insuring assets that belonged to Groups that have folded that have not been disposed of elsewhere.

Scout Groups and Explorer Units have suffered a loss of income as a result of the cessation of face to face meetings during the Covid19 pandemic and a reduction in the numbers returning once face to face meetings were reinstated. We will continue to provide advice and support for Groups and Explorer Units to enable them to benefit from Gift Aid on contributions and other fund raising activities.

The risks to health and safety in scouting is mitigated by the requirement for all groups and Explorer units to complete comprehensive Risk Assessments setting out the measures they will take to ensure that HQ guidance is followed to keep young people and adults safe. The District Commissioner and Executive will monitor and support this process.

Section C Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the District are as a unit of the Scout Association. Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and enjoy what they are doing and have fun, take part in activities indoors and outdoors, learn by doing, share in spiritual reflection, take responsibility and make choices, undertake new and challenging activities and make and live by their Promise.

The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Section D Achievements and Performance

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. The District Executive supports the District Commissioner by promoting and supporting Scouting within the District.

There has been a gradual increase in membership this year. Crowle, after a successful recruitment campaign run by the team at Crowle with help from Julie Turbutt from County, re-started Beavers and now have a full complement of Beavers and 4 leaders. Peopleton have re-started Scouts to complete the group (and are even talking about Squirrels). We are now concentrating on Bredon beavers with a recruitment campaign starting in September which will, hopefully, be as successful as Crowle and then on to Badsey, who lost their Beaver leaders earlier this year – one retiring and one, sadly dying. Black Pig Explorers currently have no youth members but there are moves to start units at groups elsewhere. Graham Godwin has taken on the role of District Explorer Leader so the District Leadership team is expanding – DESC, Network and Scouts.

The Appointments Committee has continued to meet remotely via Zoom to ensure the timely approval and review of Leaders and Assistant Leaders from across the groups and sections in the Avon Vale District.

The District Commissioner and Executive will continue to do everything in their power to enable Groups to run imaginative and exciting scouting programmes for young people of all ages, following all safeguarding guidance from HQ, County and the Government.

Following the closure of the 1st Pershore Scout Group and successful negotiations with Warwickshire College Group college the lease for the Pershore Scout Group was taken over by the District from August 2022. The hut will in future be used on a regular basis by The Avonvales Scout Group, and it is hoped that this new location will enable them to continue to meet the need for scouting in Pershore and the neighbouring villages. As a District facility, the hut and its surroundings provide an excellent opportunity for other Groups to enjoy a range of outdoor scouting activities.

The parcel of land at Abbey Road Evesham was sold on 11th January 2023 resulting in proceeds of £35,000 less associated fees of £5,574 being transferred to a restricted fund for the future development of scouting within the District.

Section E Financial Review

Receipts and Payments, Statement of Assets and Liabilities, Notes to the Accounts, and the Independent Examiners Report are attached at the end of this Trustees' Report.

Section F Future Plans

The District Executive will continue to support all Scout Groups and District Units and the District Commissioner in his work through this challenging period.

The Avon Vale District Development Plan for 2023/24 has been proposed in draft form by the District Executive. This will be a dynamic document, put to the Annual General Meeting for endorsement and then circulated to Group Leaders and Executives for comment and suggested amendments. The Development Plan will be updated in the light of the feedback received and reissued to Groups.

The main targets suggested are:

- To ensure that each Scout Group has completed a Risk Assessment for all scouting activities in each of their sections.
- To provide support, where necessary, to enable Groups to grow their sections and membership and provide a range of exciting scouting activities within Government and HQ guidance.
- To recruit more adult volunteers.
- To encourage more parental engagement and flexible volunteering.
- To improve the effective operation of youth forums in Groups and District
- To increase the coverage of nights away and adventurous activity permits within the District.
- To promote the full use of the Scout Hut and outdoor space at Pershore College for District and Scout Group activities.
- To remain flexible in supporting Groups and the District to adapt to any changes proposed by Headquarters.

The District Executive will monitor progress towards these targets.

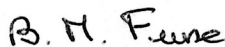
Section G Declaration

The Trustees declare that this report was approved on 19th September 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees of Avon Vale District Scout Council



John Airey
District Chair



Mary Furse
District Secretary

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
AVON VALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 524623**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 1 to

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Robert Bailey, F.C.A.

Date: 1st September 2023

AVON VALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 524623
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Receipts			
Membership Subscription (nett)	8	-	1,362
Income from sale of Evesham land		35,000	-
Interest Received	10	276	5
Section Income	11	3,606	3,509
Badges		813	799
Funds from closure of 1st Pershore Trust a/c (on closure)		7,552	273
Sundry Income		20	3
Total Receipts		47,267	5,952
Payments			
Membership Subscription (nett)	8	915	-
St George's Day		267	95
Section expenses	11	3,978	2,603
Insurance		52	514
MPLC Licence		219	199
Legal fees		5,574	-
Administration expenses		70	121
Young Leader expenses		24	52
Network Expenses		175	-
Maintenance		259	-
Badges		819	569
Bank charges		15	24
Sundries		15	275
Total payments		12,382	4,453
Net movement in funds		34,886	1,499
Cash funds last year		37,822	36,323
Cash funds this year end	9	72,707	37,822

Cont'd on next page

AVON VALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 524623
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Restricted Fund - G.D. Harding Memorial Fund	7	£	£
Opening Balance		745	745
Receipts:		-	-
Payments:		-	-
Closing Balance		<u>745</u>	<u>745</u>
 Restricted Fund - Explorer Unit Development Fund	 7	 £	 £
Opening Balance		638	638
Receipts:		-	-
Payments:		-	-
Restricted Funds this year end		<u>638</u>	<u>638</u>
 Restricted Fund - "Persnore Hut" Fund	 7	 £	 £
Opening Balance		273	-
Receipts:		7,552	273
Payments:		-	-
Restricted Funds this year end		<u>7,825</u>	<u>273</u>
 Restricted Fund - "Evesham Land" Fund	 7	 £	 £
Opening Balance		-	-
Receipts:		29,426	-
Payments:		-	-
Restricted Funds this year end		<u>29,426</u>	<u>-</u>
 Total Restricted Funds this year end	 7	 <u><u>38,634</u></u>	 <u><u>1,656</u></u>

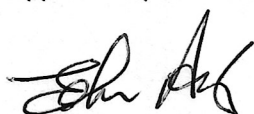
The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these accounts

AVON VALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 524623
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Current Assets			
Cash / Investment Funds	9	72,707	37,822
Fixed Assets	4	-	-
Total Assets		<u>72,707</u>	<u>37,822</u>
Accrued Expenses		-	-
NET ASSETS		<u><u>72,707</u></u>	<u><u>37,822</u></u>
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted Funds		34,073	36,166
Restricted Funds:	7		
DD Harding Memorial Fund		745	745
Explorer Unit Development Fund		638	638
"Pershore Hut" Fund		7,825	273
Evesham Land Fund		29,426	-
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>72,707</u></u>	<u><u>37,822</u></u>

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these accounts

Approved by the Trustees on 19th September 2023



John Airey
District Chair



Mary Furse
District Secretary

AVON VALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 524623
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with Charity Commission guidance, the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations. The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts.

Funds Structure

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses on the general funds and are available to use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general charitable objectives.

Restricted funds comprise income designated to be used for specific purposes only, and are not available for general use.

Income Recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has received the income.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included upon date of the interest paid by the Bank.

Memberships subscription collected on behalf of other parts of the Scout Movement are reported in the Receipts and Payments account as both income and expenditure, but is treated as nett income for turnover purposes. This is because these subscriptions are in effect held as Agents, before being paid out.

Volunteer help - the value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Expenditure Recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on a payment basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities.

Liabilities

Liability recognition - liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Assets

Tangible assets for use by the charity - these are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £5,000. They are valued at cost or a reasonable value on receipt.

2 Reserves Policy

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income fall short. A common reserves policy for Avon Vale District has been set at the reserve of £10,000 as a simple model which would cover this requirement. The balance held during the year was consistent with this policy.

AVON VALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 524623
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

3 Investment Policy

The District's Income and Expenditure is modest and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-terms investments such as stocks and shares. The District has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies, or C.O.I.F. charities deposit or investment accounts.

The District Executive regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the District obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn. Before doing so the District Executive considers the cash flow requirements.

4 Fixed Assets

Land at Abbey Road, Evesham

Although originally valued at £25,000 the land in Evesham was subsequently sold to developers for £35,000 with the completion on 11th January 2023. It was subsequently decided that the proceeds less associated professional fees would be ringfenced as a restricted fund.

Trailer/Camping Equipment owned/used by Explorer Scout Units or from Closed Groups

Has not been capitalised in the accounts, and is recorded in the income/expenditure of the separate units.

The items purchased and used by Great Bear Explorer Scout Unit are insured for the following values:- Trailer £2,989 - Camping equipment £7,287.

The items/camping equipment purchased and used by Black Pig Explorer Scout Unit are insured for £7,281. There is an exclusion in respect of this equipment for theft (unless there is physical evidence of break-in) as the equipment storage area is shared with other users.

The items/camping equipment previously owned by Honeybourne Scout Group is currently insured by District for £5,000 - pending disposal to other Scout Groups/being written off.

5 Related Party Transactions and Trustees' Expenses and Remuneration

The Trustees all give freely of their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefits in kind. No remuneration directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity was paid or payable for the year to any person known to be connected with any of the Trustees.

6 Employees

There were no employees during the year.

AVON VALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 524623
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

7 Restricted Funds

G.D. Harding Memorial Fund

This represents a bequest received in 2017 from the family of the late Geoff Harding, designated specifically for use in respect of a backwoods camping activity.

Explorer Unit Development Fund

The funds received from the bank account held by Wyvern ESU were transferred to the District account upon closure of the Unit, and it was agreed to retain these funds for use in future development of Explorer Units within the District.

Pershore "Hut" Fund

Following the closure of 1st Pershore Scout Group, the funds in a "Trust" bank account held by 1st Pershore Scout Group were transferred to the District upon closure of the account. As the District has taken on the lease of the Pershore Scout Hut, it was agreed by the Executive to retain these funds separately to cover any future costs incurred in maintaining the building.

Evesham Land Fund

Following the sale of the land on abbey Road in Evesham the net proceeds are to be held as a restricted fund for the future development of scouting in the District.

8 Membership Subscription

The nett membership expenditure of £915 is due to the late payment of 2023 capitation by Crowle group.

9 Bank accounts and cash held

	2023 £	2022 £
District Accounts		
HSBC Current Account	-	20,871
Lloyds Treasurers Account	17,719	273
Lloyds Business Instant Saver	38,679	-
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	12,976	12,750
Black Pig Explorer Unit	1,021	1,021
Great Bear Explorer Unit	2,312	2,684
Cash Float: Badge Secretary	-	222
	<u>£ 72,707</u>	<u>£ 37,822</u>

10 Interest Received

	2023 £	2022 £
Lloyds Instant Saver	50	-
CCLA Investment a/c (COIF)	226	5
	<u>£ 276</u>	<u>£ 5</u>

AVON VALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 524623
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

11 Section Funds

	Note	As at 31.3.2022 £	Income £	Expenses £	As at 31.3.2023 £
Black Pig ESU	13	1,021	-	-	1,021
Great Bear ESU	14	2,684	3,606	3,978	2,312
		<u>3,705</u>	<u>3,606</u>	<u>3,978</u>	<u>3,333</u>

12 Contingent Liabilities

The Trustees confirm that there were no contingent liabilities at the balance sheet date and that none have subsequently arisen.

AVON VALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 524623
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

13 Black Pig Explorer Unit - Income and Expenditure Account & Balance Sheet for the year to 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Income			
Subs		-	1,005
Gift Aid reclaimed		-	274
KISC2021 - insurance refund		-	250
Other		-	-
Total Income		<u>-</u>	<u>1,529</u>
Expenditure			
Capitation		-	595
Other		-	-
Total Expenses		<u>-</u>	<u>595</u>
Net Surplus/(Loss) for period		<u>-</u>	<u>934</u>
 Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023		2023	2022
Opening bank balance		1,021	87
Surplus/(Loss) for period		-	934
Closing bank balance		<u>1,021</u>	<u>1,021</u>

AVON VALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 524623
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

14 Great Bear Explorer Unit - Income and Expenditure Account & Balance Sheet for the year to 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Income		
Subs	1,164	1,032
Gift Aid reclaimed	-	165
Events	2,442	763
Gifts/donations received	-	20
Other	-	-
Total Income	<u><u>3,606</u></u>	<u><u>1,980</u></u>
Expenditure		
Uniform/badges	364	80
Capitation	1,002	650
Equipment	1,027	121
Camps/Activities	1,471	1,045
Meeting Nights	12	-
Rent / Heat & Lighting costs	-	100
Rent - storage space	12	12
Other	90	-
Total Expenses	<u><u>3,978</u></u>	<u><u>2,008</u></u>
Net Surplus/(Loss) for period	<u><u>(372)</u></u>	<u><u>(28)</u></u>

Notes:

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023	2023	2022
Opening balance: Bank	2,490	2,605
Opening balance: Petty Cash	195	107
<i>Sub-total</i>	<u>2,684</u>	<u>2,712</u>
Surplus/(Loss) for period	(372)	(28)
Closing bank/cash balance	<u><u>2,312</u></u>	<u><u>2,684</u></u>