



Glamorgan West Area Scouts

Annual Report 2023/2024

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Area Trustee Board Report

Report to follow

Area Lead Volunteer Report

Scouting is a movement, and as a movement we are constantly adapting, changing and ensuring that we have the right structures in place to ensure that we can deliver good quality Scouting to the young people in our care. We must ensure that our Movement does not stand still but 'moves' forward to cater for the interests of the young people of today and the future.

As we have reached milestones in Transformation, we have shared updates with you all about new structures, new names and new processes, all targeted towards keeping our young people safe and to increase participation in activities.

Whilst there are always some doubts, I believe that the difficulties that change brings can be overcome and that the successful growth of Scouting will follow.

There is an ongoing need to build on the strengths within our Area and to recognise our weaknesses so that we can make progress. To achieve this, we will continue to build on our forward plan so that everyone involved in Scouting in Glamorgan West can work towards the common goals of developing a focussed, sound, relevant, diverse and growing youth movement.

A slight 1% decrease in our numbers, but a fantastic 4% rise in Scout Section numbers, which is great for such a challenging age range. However, with 227 young people on our waiting lists, I'm sure this 1% dip will soon be resolved.

Scouting in Glamorgan West is full of fantastic people who give of their time for the benefit of others and I ask everyone involved in our wonderful Movement to pull together to ensure that we continue to promote the development of young people to achieve their full potential, physically, intellectually, socially and spiritually.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support and guidance over the past 12 months, and particular thanks to Jess Williams who has decided to finish as DC for Cwm Newydd after 5 years in the role.

Graham Rees-Evans - Area Lead Volunteer

Area Youth Lead Volunteer Report

Position vacant

Area Activity Team Report



The water activities team has taken off well in the area and year on year grown in respect of the amount of scouts we have introduced to the water. Since the day it started our bookings grew and the year 2023 to 24 was no exception to this as we saw the largest amount to date with a final number on the water of 368 young people from all the sections of the movement, even Squirrels took to the water on the Mega sup in June on Swansea bay a 1st for the water activities team!

Development sessions were suggested, advertised and Seven explorer scouts took up the challenge to develop their skills. These were taken out multiple times using the full range of equipment we hold and were also utilizing the off peak season of the team as most of this was done during the autumn/ winter months with a final afternoon paddle in kayaks down the river wye.

For the 1st time the Water Activities Team of Glamorgan West hosted the South Wales Paddle weekend with Short notice and it was a huge success, scouts, Leaders and helpers came from many parts of the country to take part in this activity held on spring Valley Lakes whilst at the same time holding a permit prep weekend also for persons in scouting interested in developing themselves to support such activities. Many thanks to the SWAT team for supporting us as without them we would not have been able to hold such an event.

Our kit continues to be well used and as time goes on needs to be replaced, a few new helmets were purchased as well as some additional buoyancy aids. It is essential that this happens over time as even though annual checks are carried out to confirm if they are all fit for use as well as checks at time of use all this equipment has a lifespan and over time needs to be replaced. The team is growing and has become embedded within Glamorgan west and will continue to introduce many more young people to the water for years to come.

Chris Cheley

Area Training Report



What a year! Still waiting for transformation! So we continue as normal! Training has been a bit slack due to not knowing which way to go. However, we have tried to support and assist leaders by holding regular workshops to help with validations and direction to completing training

We shall continue with the monthly evenings or weekend workshops. This is essential to ensure that training is not lost when the change over to the new learning and systems arrives in 2024. Until then the TAs and line managers will be busy and hopefully proactive to get Compass correct and up to date!

Compliance figures are coming down and are now at the 2% level but still needs to be better. UK are sending emails regularly to ensure the National levels are kept low, so we need to ensure that all Leaders, Managers and Supporters keep their Safety and Safeguarding training up to date. First Response training figures are also good, as we have been running monthly training courses this year along with the blended model.

There have been 10 Wood Badges presented during the period Apr 23- Mar 24. Congratulations and thank you to them all for their achievement and their continued support to the young people and Scouting in the Area. But we need more please!!!

Rob Platt (CSL Swansea and Gower)	Loz Kingdom (SL Swansea and Gower)
Tracy Margetts (CSL Swansea and Gower)	Sian Watts (Sql Afan Nedd)
Celvin Davies (CSL Swansea and Gower)	Poppy Tucker (Sql Swansea and Gower)
Ben Eagle (ESL Swansea and Gower)	Jess Jones (SL Swansea and Gower)
Sian Francis (BL Swansea and Gower)	Mark Jones (ASL Swansea and Gower)

Young Leader training has been running slowly this year and a more concerted effort from all those involved should now be a priority as these are the Leaders of the future.

Changes to 'learning' is coming with the new National systems, and it looks very exciting and hopefully we shall have a smooth conversion. The time is fast approaching, but we carry on as normal and continue to complete our Wood Badges and work to get Compass up to date ready for the conversion.

My thanks go to the members of the training team for their support, commitment and friendship which has enabled us to achieve much during the past year and hopefully continue to a better and rewarding 2024/25

Pat Thomas
ATM Glamorgan West
pat@afannedd.org.uk

Campsites and Activity Centres

Moorlakes Wood Scout Centre



Slowly the main emphasis (and income) for the site is changing from the sale of logs (a by-product of maintaining and keeping the site safe) to that of providing good camping areas and getting people to stay. Whereas log sales have been reasonably steady over the last couple of years, camping income has gone up from just under £2000 in 2022 to just under £10,000 last year. The site is getting busier with use from both community groups and from local and outside Area Scouting groups.

We could probably take bookings most weeks from community groups, but we have taken the decision to keep vacant those traditional Scouting camping weeks, and weekends, for booking by Scouts only, so if you are thinking of a week, or weekend, for your group, let us know as soon as you can so that we can reserve the site for you. Some comments have been made that we take too many community groups, but the income from them help us offer free nights at the site for Colony or Pack meetings, and also helps us keep the costs for Scouters using the site down.

Apart from those benefits, that additional income is also helping us build up a 'pot' so that we can further develop the facilities on the site for the benefit of all users.

We now seem to be the spring/summer weekly 'residence' for sections from the Dunvant and Penclawdd groups, and we are pleased that we have been able to accommodate at various times, sections from Killay, Ffforesfach, Loughor, Clydach, Baglan, Gowerton and Sketty groups. From outside our area, we have welcomed Strood Sea Scouts, 1st Cam Scouts, Blackwell Scouts, Cwmamman Guides, and Llanelli Scouts.

This summer is also expected to be busy with four outside-Area Scouting Groups all staying for the same week, and then local groups staying immediately after them. Throughout the year, we have continued to host community groups such as the Gower Society youth, schools, DofE 'walk-ins', youth movement residentials, women's refuge, yoga and relaxation, a multitude of drum workshops and of course, the Gower Climbing Festival! The latter were in again for the last weekend of June and it was amazing to see over 450 people camping everywhere, having fun, and unlike Glastonbury, leaving the site in an immaculate condition. They are welcome to come back every year.

The provision of the mains water supply has made things a lot easier for us, as well as those staying, with no more having to bring in your own supply or hiring in a water bowser (and finding somewhere to fill it). We have had much debate on how to further develop the site. There are the easy things we can do, such as putting in additional fire pits, putting up notice boards etc but the biggest question we have is how to put in 'proper' toilets and showers, and when we do, what type they should be. Do we construct a breeze block building, or do we try and keep the site as eco-friendly as we can by constructing a wooden-type building, in keeping with the rest of the site? We hope to make these decisions within the next few months, so if anyone out there has any ideas, or suggestions, please send them in. (If anyone has any architectural or planning skills, that would be very welcome too!). We have also started to look at activities we can provide. Work has started on clearing a space to provide for archery. We need to get scaffolding to hold the nets, put in a safe waiting area, get all of the necessary equipment, and we are then good to go. This could be ready before the end of summer but realistically, it is likely to be sometime in the autumn now.

Sadly, we said goodbye this year to Daisy, our faithful digger of the last 10 years. She was a great asset to the site over the years and was well worth the money that we paid for her. She was third hand when we bought her and like most of us up on the site now, had started showing signs of her years. I would like to report she retired gracefully, but no, someone came in to buy her and such is the value of used diggers these days, the price we got was only just under what we paid for her!

However, we are not that sentimental that we didn't replace her immediately, and we welcome Dolores, who is a bit bigger and a lot sassier than Daisy. She will no doubt be a formidable replacement and if she proves to be as half as good as Daisy, will also prove to be a valuable asset (and hopefully, another good investment when the time comes to move her on!).

We now have a monthly Work Party up at the site (who normally meet on the first Saturday of the month) and we are very grateful for those that turn up and help us with what needs doing. It's amazing how much can be done with more than a few pair of hands, so thank you to those that turn up regularly (and also than you those that turn up irregularly because no one has to be there every month, and we are grateful to anyone that turns up even for a few hours). You don't need any particular skills and if you can strim grass, mix concrete, use a shovel, you are more than welcome (and if you can't do any of those things, we will show you how to do them!).

By a country mile though, as ever, my biggest thanks go to Peter (Muxworthy) and Craig (Seaman), both of whom are amazing for the amount of time and effort that they put into the site. Having praised them, I am also delighted to see others getting more involved with the site and along with Craig (and all being a lot younger than me and Peter), are the future of Moorlakes, so 'thank you' Leah (Kendrick), Gemma (Watts), Chris and Tracy (Margetts), Paul (Davies) and Elsa (Jordan). If you too would like to get involved (or even more involved), please let us know.

Allen Aldred

Follow us on Facebook:

Bookings email:

Email:

Moorlakes Wood Scout Centre

moorlakeswood@gmail.com

moorlakes@gowerscoutcampsite.org.uk

Neath Scout Campsite, Cadoxton



The last 12 months for Cadoxton has been busy and it continues to look busy into Summer 2024,

This is largely to the success of online scout manager in attracting groups from further afield who did not know about us previously, we have also been largely supported by local groups from the Area who continue to support us year on year.

The Scout shop saw a renovation in the last year with a big thanks Graham who spent a lot of time organising contractors and purchasing new display units to clean the shop up.

The scout shop continues to be the largest part of our financial turnover which raises a significant amount of funds for the site although we are now seeing a significant increase in hall rental and camping income compared to the previous 10 years. This is great as unfortunately we have seen the loss of our regular hall user in the form of a local fitness instruction.

The committee and management team are still formed of the key core members as of previous years, but we always looking to grow this team.

We have future plans for the site including opening areas of the upper camping field so we can look to accommodate large multiple groups at the same time, this will come with the addition of further facilities to aid campers.

The main hall continues to be a considerable asset to site and its flexibility in hosting a variety of different events including the Area AGM in September 2023, however we are making enquiries into the feasibility of a replacement or a significant refurbishment in future.

I would like to thank all the members of the Cadoxton Committee and the Scout shop team for their continued support over the last 12 months and going forward. If anyone would like to join the committee, shop team or the campsite support team please get in touch.

Thanks again

Rhys Mainwaring
Chairperson.

Silver Cross Scout Activity Centre



The site has been busy over summer 2023 and through to spring 2024 with visiting groups from England and Wales, including from Birmingham, Llangennech, Epping Forest South, Reading, Peasedown St John, Beckenham South, Hastings, Hammersmith, Whitchurch and Walsall Wood. We saw 29th/30th Cork here for their first visit, while our good friends from Douglas, Cork had their fifth summer camp here since their first in 1988! It was also nice to see quite a number of Explorer Units using the site, from Beckenham South Vultures, Carmarthen Merlin's ESU, Solar ESU and Llanymddyfri Black Ox.

It's been great to see local groups using Silver Cross, either for day activities, or weekend camps, such as Sketty Scouts and Fforestfach Scout Group using the site frequently, plus also 14th Neath Cimla, 32nd Rhyddings and 8th Baglan. Other regular users of the site for outdoor meetings are 4th Cwm Newydd Pontarddulais Cubs & Beavers, 5th Cwm Newydd Penllergaer Beavers and Cubs and of course 1st Neath Beavers with their Beaver Fun Day in October. Draig Arian Explorers continue to use the site as their main base throughout the year. Bookings for 2024 are very strong so we look forward to yet another busy summer.

Maintenance has again been the main focus again since the end of the second lockdown and we finally see us gaining against Nature's onslaught! The shop has had a big make-over and the site office is now situated in the shop building. The Pembroke Building has had all new flooring throughout, including industrial lino in the dining area to make cleaning after meals much easier. Thanks to a very generous donation from the Shapton family, the Laundry now has three washing machines working and also two new fridge freezers to complement the ones we already have – plenty for all visiting groups even in our busiest time.

The “Lid” (our covered seating area) continues to be used extensively and is a huge asset to the site. It has lighting and power outlets and is great in evenings or in a downpour. As a result of re-organising the shop, we have organised our games equipment, much of which is available to hire for a very minimal cost. This includes a full size parachute (including a list of parachute games), numerous bat & ball games, badminton, croquet, petanque (boules), and by the time you read this also giant chess, giant kerplunk and golf OXO.

As many of you are aware, the abseil tower is no more, having been professionally dismantled and removed this year. We do have plans for a brand new activity for this location but not until 2025 – watch this space! All the other activities are now up and running, with Archery, Tomahawk Throwing, Splatapult, Crate Stacking, Spiderland, QR Code Trail, Soft Crossbows, Team Building, Orienteering and Pioneering Spars available. A brand new activity started in summer 2023 - Laser X Tag - which was trialled by Douglas Scouts on their summer camp and has proved very popular. We have 24 guns so can cater for reasonably large groups at a time.

Sadly, our usual tree surgeon, who has worked on the site for years, passed away in the summer. However, we have approached a new tree surgeon and our annual tree safety survey work was carried out professionally by them in April, and all remedial work was undertaken. We try to be as proactive as we can by engaging professionals who know what they're doing to undertake the safety survey for us annually and to carry out any remedial work needed. If the unthinkable should happen when people are camping we have the peace of mind that we've done as much as we can to keep the campsite safe. We also carry out a visual check of the trees on the main field after every storm for any obvious damage which may have happened. These are all recorded and kept for any future reference.

Unfortunately, Las Vegas Night had to be cancelled at short notice, but we hope everything will be up and running for Saturday Nov. 30th 2024 – make a note in your diaries! It's a great evening for those who attend, and if you've not been before, please come along – it's guaranteed fun!

A reminder please, also, that we've signed up to Easyfundraising, so if you can, please support us on <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/silvercrossscoutcentre/>.

As you buy anything online, or with a card, a donation will be made to us if you go via the easyfundraising website first – it will not cost you anything, you will get your shopping normally, but it can help us. Thank you.

Finally, I really need to thank the members of the Service Team who as usual have pulled out the stops to get things running on the site this year. I know I say this every year but I can't over emphasise how amazing these people are, some spending many weekends in the year here at the site. A HUGE thank you to you all – it would not be possible for Silver Cross to function as it does without you :)

Don't forget to keep checking our website, and while you're at it check out our Facebook page as well to keep up-to-date with what's happening. Here's to a good 2024 and even better 2025!

Andy Shurey, Warden

www.silvercross.org.uk

Facebook: Silver Cross Scout Centre

Area Membership Census

	2023					2024					2023 vs 2024					% change
	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total	
Squirrels	42	17	0	0	59	40	16	0	0	56	-2	-1	0	0	-3	-5%
Beaver Scouts	291	77	0	0	368	292	78	0	0	370	+1	+1	0	0	+2	1%
Cub Scouts	392	118	0	0	510	396	101	0	0	497	+4	-17	0	0	-13	-3%
Scouts	256	89	0	0	345	258	102	0	0	360	+2	+13	0	0	+15	4%
Explorer Scouts*	69	19	3	0	91	50	18	2	0	70	-19	-1	-1	0	-21	-23%
Total Membership	1050	320	3	0	1373	1036	315	2	0	1353	-14	-5	-1	0	-20	-1%

*Explorer Scouts figures include Young Leaders

	2023	2024	2023 vs 2024
Squirrel Scout Dreys	3	3	0
Beaver Scout Colonies	29	29	0
Cub Scout Packs	31	31	0
Scout Troops	26	26	0
Explorer Scout Units, including YL Units	11	11	0
Groups	37	37	0

Glamorgan West Area Scout Council						Report and Financial Statements for Year ended 31 March 2023									
AREA	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Totals		
Income															
2023 Insurance	£	694.56	£	11,854.25	£	636.20							£ 13,185.01		
2003 Census	£	561.00	£	6,630.00	£	2,958.00	£	1,173.00					£ 11,406.82		
M&G Inv dividend		£	810.77			£	692.53	£	84.82				£ 2,449.19		
Bus Hire/refunds/scrappage					£	472.58		£	350.00	£	390.00		£ 1,898.64		
Western Power rental			£	32.80						£	230.00	£	£ 32.80		
2024 Insurance prepayments												£	£ 3,444.55		
2024 Census prepayments												£	£ 34,028.00		
Bank Interest	£	180.65	£	118.75	£	141.23	£	152.03	£	163.88	£	206.64	£ 411.00		
Cash in hand banked									£	411.00			£ 411.00		
30th Swansea Charity account closure													£ 1,584.88		
Hall Hire refund									£	12.00	£	1,584.88	£ 32.00		
Insurance refund									£	208.10			£ 208.10		
													£ 110,541.26		
													£ 84,878.82		
													£ 16,629.56		
													£ 411.00		
													£ 8,621.88		
Expenditure															
Trawler Rd - Welsh Water - 4122055801					£	42.77					£	36.01	£ 78.78		
Trawler Rd - British Gas - 603393679		£	41.76	£	19.75	£	19.24	£	29.46	£	29.55	£	£ 337.03		
Trawler Rd - E.On - electricity 9A35EAEA		£	74.23				£	76.46			£	86.33	£ 334.85		
Trawler Rd - repairs/service	£	80.00							£	560.00		£	£ 760.00		
Depot, Bryn Rd - BT Group - 07055650	£	31.00	£	31.00	£	31.00	£	31.00	£	31.00	£	31.00	£ 372.00		
Depot, Bryn Rd - British Gas/Lite - 183897	£	63.88	£	45.33	£	22.72	£	18.30	£	23.04	£	23.97	£ 512.57		
Depot, Bryn Rd - PlusNet -	£	15.91	£	15.91	£	15.91	£	15.91	£	15.91	£	15.91	£ 190.92		
Depot, Bryn Rd - Welsh Water - 3034571501	£	20.00	£	20.00	£	20.00	£	20.00	£	20.00	£	20.00	£ 240.00		
Depot, Bryn Rd - repairs										£	390.00		£ 390.00		
2023 Census	£	69,336.50											£ 69,336.50		
Keen Insurance	£	14,155.39											£ 30,336.29		
Silvercross loan												£	£ 3,500.00		
Minibus - purchase			£	8,750.00									£ 8,750.00		
Minibus - DVLA tax					£	165.00							£ 165.00		
Minibus - MOT/repairs/recovery			£	246.00	£	550.00		£	439.00		£	1,446.97	£ 2,681.97		
Minibus - Insurance						£	851.00						£ 851.00		
HQ - room hire	£	48.00	£	12.00					£	24.00	£	32.00	£ 260.00		
Silvercross skills Day			£	50.00									£ 50.00		
Manchester Conference				£	108.95								£ 108.95		
Swansea Airshow table															
Website hosting/domain	£	15.00	£	15.00	£	15.00	£	15.00	£	15.00	£	15.00	£ 323.88		
Cardiff conference													£ 271.99		
Expenses	£	198.84									£	271.99	£ 627.32		
Scouts visits abroad- donation			£	100.00				£	171.98	£	220.63	£	£ 500.00		
Cwmavon Scouts - rent support													£ -		
Mileage costs													£ -		
Postage	£	5.44						£	12.00				£ 17.44		
													£ 120,996.49		

Glamorgan West area Scout Council
Report & Accounts 2023-2024

Summary – Cash & Bank Balances	2024	Income	Expenditure
Area	£330,787	£110,541	£120,996
Area Events	£8157	£0	£0
Silvercross	£8526	£29711	£33942
Moorlakes	£54669	£22688	£6195
Neath scout Campsite & Shop	£49059	£27680	£33244
Training	£1907	£0	£366
Totals	£453107	£190621	£194745

I confirm I am satisfied with the financial information provided and there is no cause or issue for concern.



David Butler
AAT

20/8/2024