

SKILLS FOR LIFE!



**WREXHAM DISTRICT SCOUTS
ANNUAL REPORT 2017/8**



Front cover picture: 1st Esclusham Scouts on night exercises!

From the District Chair

It has been quite a whirlwind of a year for me having taken over the role of Chair of the District Exec last April. I didn't quite realise the time and effort that was required to keep, what was already a well-established Executive Committee, moving forward. Despite my initial reservations, everyone has been extremely supportive, guiding me in the right direction and I quickly settled into the role.

I want to thank everyone involved for their dedication to the functioning of the district team by attending meetings and taking on extra tasks as it has to be remembered everyone who helps is a volunteer who give up their spare time to help ensure the Wrexham and District Scout Groups get the support they need. Dave Cheesbrough has decided to step down as District Secretary after stepping in as a stop gap and ended up doing it for three years. I would like to thank him on behalf of the committee for his commitment to the role.

I also extend my thanks to all of our dedicated leaders, assistant leaders and occasional helpers who plan exciting programmes week in week out to provide all the young people in the area with a wide range of challenging, educational and fun activities taking them out into the community and beyond to help them develop lifelong skills they otherwise may not get. The support of their parents and carers are also of paramount importance to enable these activities to take place and I thank you all for doing so.

As a committee, we strive to ensure the monies that come into the District accounts is managed correctly and one of the results of this is we have been able to keep the membership fees the same for the coming year. We have also continued to maintain the District Headquarters by fitting new fire doors, new windows and patching the heavily potholed car park, the latter requiring a team effort one weekend in July. Our wonderful Site Manager at the HQ, Chris Jones, very sadly passed away earlier this month and has left a very large gap to fill. He was totally devoted to maintaining the building and its grounds as well as running the Scout Shop and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

There have been some big changes going on down in the woods at the Cox Wood Campsite, led by the site manager, Chris Maddocks who has overseen the demolition and removal of the old toilet and shower block to be replaced with brand new and up to date facilities to be enjoyed by the many visitors to the site. He has been heavily supported by the campsite committee and other volunteers who have attended meetings and given up numerous weekends to ensure the changes were made and to a good timescale. Thank you to everyone involved with this and to those who, as and when required, act as wardens or lead activities and help maintain the site, keep it tidy and ready for use throughout the year.

I am very much looking forward to continuing in my role for the coming year and for all the challenges that are thrown in the District's direction. If there is anyone who would like to join us on this dedicated team, we will be delighted to have you on board.

Alison Dwight



District Cubs trip to Speke Hall

From the District Commissioner

It's been a year which to me has massively highlighted the amount of work that our fantastic volunteer leaders and supporters do to ensure our members learn the skills for life that Scouting offers.

The need for more of these volunteers has never been more apparent. Scouting continues to grow and grow: our youth numbers are up again this year. But while our overall adult numbers have also risen slightly, it seems more of a challenge to find people who will take on more involved roles such as Section Leader - the people who plan and deliver the weekly programme - and those in support and management roles.

The risk of this is that a smaller number of the same faces are doing more and more and burn-out is often just around the corner if we're not careful. These same faces are usually very nice people who find it hard to say "no"!

The only answer to this in my view is to continue to recruit more adults across the board, but also to look at ways to make the jobs of those who are running and supporting Scouting easier.

Sadly we lost two people from such roles this year: Jim Butcher - the man who organised me, chased me, was my sounding board - stood down as Deputy District Commissioner; and Sam Wilde stood down as District Youth Commissioner. Sam's role was vital as the voice for young people, but I'm pleased to say we've recruited some impressive Explorer Scouts who've formed a District Youth Team so Wrexham is still #YouShaped. Thanks to Butch and Sam for all their hard work and support, and to Sue Lister my other Deputy for sticking with me!

Training is something which is both vital to ensure all our volunteers have the skills, knowledge and support to do their role as effectively as possible, but also which creates a lot of work for volunteers. Jill, Jan and their team have been working hard to ensure we all have the training required by our roles. The recent priority has been mandatory training which is there to keep the young people in our care safe, leading to quite huge numbers on first response training for example.

We've had a packed year of District events. Beavers been busy with an Adventure Challenge day, a Mad Science afternoon, and a trip to Gulliver's world - chosen by the young people themselves. Cubs had a water themed camp with the Scouts at Forest Camp in Cheshire, they took over Odeon Cinema in Wrexham for a sleepover - a first I'm told! - and visits to Speke Hall and Chirk Castle. Scouts had an Offa's Dyke hike, went to Alton Towers for Scarefest, and held the popular Frost Camp. Explorers kept awake for a full day & night at Gilwell 24, supported the usual Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions, and took to the hills for a few mountain walks.

The snow caused us a few challenges this year with Panto Pete having a stressful time watching the weather forecast leading to Snow White having to be postponed, the Beavers' trip to RAF Cosford met a similar situation, and the District Christmas Celebration seeing low numbers due to the weather.

We had a very successful St George's Day at Gwyn Evans Sports Centre, but this annual celebration of Scouting's Patron Saint is something I still something I don't think we've got right and will be looking at with the District Team - this year the Beavers & Cubs have been to Crocky Trail but unfortunately we don't have an event for Scouts & Explorers this year.

A huge thank you to the amazing District Team for putting on all these events and to all the Groups for supporting them.

Talking of the District Team, we've recently met and we saw a few new faces around the table: Neil Curtis joined us last year, and now Claire Fanson, Scott Bayley and Debbie Collins have added their experience - all are now District Leaders supporting the Assistant District Commissioners. You'll hopefully be seeing more of them as they join in with Sections over the next few months.

Lots of work has been going on to organise the District Scouts trip to Croatia this summer, thanks to Aaron and his team for putting this together - another event with youth input with the Scouts choosing Croatia at Frost Camp last year. K2 Explorers are also planning to go abroad this summer with an exciting trip to Hungary. Good luck to them!

In other international news, congratulations to Aaron Wright, our ADC Scouts, who's been selected as Unit Leader, and Claire Fanson who's been selected as Assistant Unit Leader, for The Fluffy Dragons who'll be representing North Wales at the 24th World Scout Jamboree in North America next year. We're delighted that 14 Scouts from Wrexham were also chosen to be part of the Unit!

Alison has mentioned the work down Cox Wood in her report. I'd like to add my thanks to all those involved in this amazing resource - we are so lucky to have it, and them. We're also very lucky to have Alison as District Chair. She has worked incredibly hard in the post since taking it on last year.

Just a few weeks ago I heard the terrible news that our incredible District HQ Manager, Chris Jones, had passed away suddenly. It was a huge shock to us all. Chris will be terribly missed both in the shop and around headquarters - he was such a kind, selfless, gentleman who just got on with things quietly without any fuss. Our thoughts are with Sandra, Mark and the rest of his family.

Chris's loss makes us appreciate all those who give up their time for Scouting even more. Thanks to each and every person who makes Wrexham Scouts what it is.

Moz Morris



Bishop's Own Scout Group Cox Wood camp

What does Wrexham District do?

As a District we have many functions which keep us really busy...



14+ Explorer Scouting, Scout Network and Scout Active Support are all District responsibilities



Activities We encourage Sections to run adventurous activities for young people and adults and support the acquisition of activity permits



Development Growing Scouting and supporting retention of members are key objectives of Scouting and we work hard to achieve these aims



Events District events are probably the most visible things that we do, bringing Groups and Units together to show everyone they're part of something big



Facilities We manage District headquarters, including the Scout shop, and Cox Wood campsite - all resources which directly benefit Scouting in Wrexham



Group Support Scout Groups & Units are where the magic happens - we provide direct support to help them run their weekly programmes and activities



LDH Keeping things legal, decent and honest is a vital function of District, through our own District Executive Committee and supporting Groups Execs



Links Maintaining links between our District and our neighbours, be they other Scouting Districts and Areas or external bodies, is essential



Training Working with Area and Wales we ensure all our adults have the skills and knowledge to deliver safe, quality Scouting



Youth Shaped We're committed to trying as hard as we can to get young people working in partnership with adults to run Scouting



Recognition Ensuring that we shout about our successes and recognise those who help us achieve them!



Youth Awards

Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Bishop's Own

Jake Griffiths
Joshua Williams
Dylan Murt
William Fitzhugh
Caden Smith
Brody Burgess
Scarlett Poole
Jake Griffiths

1st Bwlchgwyn

Teddy Lewis
Rupert Hext
Owen Rayner
Starr Axtell
Toby Anderson

1st Coedpoeth

Lovie Jones
Llewelyn Crewe
Toby Wynne

1st Gwersyllt

Jessica Green
Ben Diamond

1st Moss

Dominik Gmys
Matthew Edwards

1st Rhosnesni

William Frankel
Elliot Smith
Ebi Razavi
Thomas Gaulton
Rosemarie Theunissen

41st Wrexham

Daniel Owens
Jack Murray
Aaron Hodson
Aleksander Wyszyriski

6th Wrexham

Harry Ratcliffe
Ifan Evans
Deacon Thomas
Joseff Owen

Sam Lloyd
Gwion Jones

Chief Scout's Silver Award

1st Hope

Kitty Jones
Megan Robinson
Ethan Gordon

1st Rhosnesni

Ella Jones
Samuel Griffiths
Katie Gregory
Emily Vening

41st Wrexham

Ethan Tyzack

6th Wrexham

Soni Jones
Jayden Paddock
Joseph Jones
Zak Graham
Leo Ellison

Chief Scout's Gold Award

1st Coedpoeth

Harry Rickets
Ollie Rickets
Maisie Hughes
Branwen Vernon
Daniel Jackson

1st Esclusham

Bethan Houghton
Lauren Galt

1st Hope

Meilir Roberts
Abbie Evans

41st Wrexham

Cameron Ramage

Chief Scout's Platinum Award & Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze

Rhys Jones - K2
Tomos Durnell - K2
Liam O'Toole - K2
Maddie Rouse - K2
Oliver Williams - Atlas
Josh Roberts - Atlas
Tom Marles - Atlas
Sarah Marles - Atlas

Chief Scout's Diamond Award & Duke of Edinburgh's Silver

Rohan Patel - Atlas

Young Leader Belt

Abbie Whiting - 1st Coedpoeth

Ellie Hulmes - 1st Gwersyllt

Dylan Collins - 1st Hope

Luke Holt - 1st Hope

Kian Paddock - 6th Wrexham



Cox Wood Campsite scrambling wall

Adult Awards

Wood badges

Presented to Leaders on completion of their adult training

Daniel Jones, 1st Rhosnesni

Tanya Piggot, Bishops Own

Nick Price, Bishop's Own ESU

Jason Topliss, Bishop's Own ESU

Claire Fanson, Atlas ESU

Paul Marles, 1st Gwersyllt

Chief Scout's Long Service Award

60 years

Ron Edwards

50 years

Brian Doyle

40 years

Malcolm Seller

30 years

Gerry Lister

25 years

Paul Forret

Sue Mort

20 years

Anne Scard-Jones

15 years

Olwen Ruscoe

10 years

Pete Leach

Gareth Lewis

Pete Jones

Mike Wilde

Deborah Jones

5 years

Emma Evans

Chris Jones

Claire Fanson

Paul Marles

Neil Curtis

Andrew Peffers

Sam Clutton



Last year...

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting at Catrin Finch Centre Wrexham on 5th April 2017

Welcome and Introductions by District Commissioner

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Wendy Davies

Approval of minutes from the AGM held in April 2015

The Minutes were proposed by L Dodman and seconded by D Lesbirel. They were then signed in to the record.

Acceptance of the statement of accounts

The statement of accounts was presented by the District Treasurer, Karen Cheesbrough. Proposed to be accepted by G Lister and seconded by R Dodman. Approved by the meeting.

Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination for Chairperson

The District Commissioner (DM) thanked Mike Meadows as outgoing chair. Mike thanked all on the Executive Committee, the Cox Wood Committee and all supporters for their help. DM thanked Mike for his service and presented a gift. He then nominated Alison Dwight for the post of District Chairperson. All present were in agreement.

Nomination and election of District Secretary

M Jones proposed Dave Cheesbrough for the post of District Secretary seconded by Sue Lister and accepted by all present

Nomination and approval of District Treasurer

Karen Cheesbrough was nominated by P Dell Smith and seconded by P Morris. All present accepted.

Approval of persons nominated by the DC to serve on the Executive Committee

DC nominates Jim Butcher, Sue Lister and Alison Dwight. All accepted by the meeting

Nomination and election of members to serve on the Executive Committee

Nominations were Sue Lister as DDC, Dean Edwards, Alison Pawley and Anne Scard Jones. All were duly accepted by the meeting. Elected members were Sharron Davies, Ian McLean, Alex Jones and Liz Dodman.

Appointment of Honorary Auditor

This appointment was confirmed as Coxkeys of Wrexham after being proposed by S Davies and seconded by K Vernon

Election of a representative to the Area Scout Council

Jan George was proposed by M Meadows and seconded by J Myatt. Duly accepted by the meeting.

Election of a representative to the Gladstone Centre Committee

Steve Davies was nominated to represent the District on the above committee.

Election of Members for the Cox Wood Sub Committee

Mike Meadows for the post of Cox Wood Chair. Sue Lister as Cox Wood Secretary. Karen Cheesbrough as Cox Wood Treasurer. Other members are Chris Maddocks as Manager, Gerry Lister, Bob Hodges, Ian Maclean and Josh Hughes. All the above were accepted by the meeting.

Following the conclusion of the above official matters the district Chair informed the meeting that all Officers and Members of the District Executive were available to answer questions. He then brought the meeting to a close.

WREXHAM DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL Receipts and Payments Account

	Year start date	Year end date
For the year from	1-Jan-17	31-Dec-17
Receipts and payments		
	2017	2016
	£	£
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	37,178	39,514
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area)	- 29,964	- 34,224
Net membership subscriptions retained	7,214	5,290
Donations		
Loans	- 0	- 0
Gift Aid - ESU	924	876
Sub total	8,138	6,166
Grants		
Cox Wood - CFAP Grant		0
Youth Strategy Grant - Activity Training	243	1,135
Sub total	243	1,135
Fundraising (gross)		
Scout Shop Sales	14,092	11,609
Badge Secretary Sales	- 0	3,486
Coxwood	15,671	11,138
Explorer Scout Unit	28,641	30,022
District and Groups	33,651	45,623
Training	- 0	- 0
Sub total	92,055	101,878
Investment income		
Bank interest & Short term investments		
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	68	95
District HQ Rent & Car Park Rent	5,074	3,589
Sub total	5,142	3,684
Total Gross Income	105,578	112,863
Asset and investment sales, etc.	0	0
Total receipts	105,578	112,863

WREXHAM DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Receipts and Payments Account

	For the year from	1-Jan-17	31-Dec-17
Receipts and payments			
		2017	2016
		£	£
Payments			
Premises Costs			
District Headquarters		5,365	7,482
Coxwood Campsite		5,823	6,222
Explorer Scout Units		18,827	34,761
Donations			
Scout Active Support			
District Grants & Donations		- 0	1,020
Administration Expenses			
Support Teams, Training & Administration		1,642	597
Depreciation		6,855	3,620
Activities			
District Section Activities		21,697	43,548
Sub total		60,209	97,250
Fundraising expenses			
Scout Shop - Cost of Sales & Expenses		13,025	8,598
Badge Secretary - Cost of Sales & Expenses		1,699	3,497
Sub total		14,724	12,095
Total Gross Expenditure		74,933	109,345
Assets and Purchases - Grant Assisted		0	0
Total payments		74,933	109,345
Net of receipts/(payments)		30,645	3,519
Fund Balances brought forward		88,267	84,748
Fund Balances carried forward		118,912	88,267

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	For the year from	1-Jan-17	31-Dec-17
Current Assets			
Cash at bank & in hand		84,151	62,063
Debtors			0
Loans to Scout Groups			0
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service		12,250	12,250
National Savings account		0	3,214
Total cash funds		96,401	77,527
Other monetary assets			
Sub total			0
Fixed Assets			
Coxwood Site Development & Machinery - written down value		11,321	5,694
District Equipment - written down value		4,233	1,241
Explorer Scout Unit Equipment - written down value		185	816
Sub total		15,740	7,751
Non monetary assets for charity's own use			
Badge stock		0	1,625
Shop stock		3,751	3,879
Sub total		3,751	5,503
Liabilities			
Accounts not yet paid		739	0
Activity Grant not yet utilised		0	0
K2 ESU - Croatia Fund		0	59
Section funds held over		-5,483	5,829
Sub total		-4,745	5,888
Net Assets Less Liabilities		120,636	84,894

Represented by:-

General Fund	88,267	84,390
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The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 11th April 2018 (the date of the Executive Committee meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature

Mr David Morris

District Commissioner

Mrs Karen Cheesbrough

Treasurer



1st Bwlchgwyn Scouts go karts

