



# A year of two halves

Wrexham District Scout Council  
Annual Report & Accounts 2019/20



**Scouts**  
Wrexham



# From the District Chairperson

The District Executive Committee exists to support our District Commissioner, in his responsibilities, and therefore plays a vital role in the running of Wrexham District Scouts. This year in particular has been given a brand new challenge when face to face scouting was suspended in March resulting in a shift to digital scouting but despite this we are continuing to support the DC in the delivery of quality programmes to the young people involved in order to keep Scouts going.

I have been District Chair since April 2017 and with me is a growing committee of dedicated members who are all actively involved in some area of our remit. We had six new appointments made at last year's AGM and they have all agreed to stay on for another year along with the longer term members, which was very pleasing to hear and I thank them all for their hard work and commitment.

Together, we have continued to update and maintain the Scout HQ, this year installing new emergency lighting, replacing the old smoke detectors and installing a wet heating system and boiler to heat the remainder of the building and provide hot water in the kitchen and toilets. We have also negotiated a new contract with British

Gas who supply the gas and electric so overall we should see some good savings on energy usage in the building. The Scout Shop is now able to take cards payments which will be additionally useful when it is safe to reopen in the future.

I would also like to extend my thanks to all of the dedicated leaders, assistant leaders, occasional helpers, young leaders who all contribute to a quality programme for all of the young people who attend scouting in the district. Even more so, having been thrown a huge curve ball when scouting face to face was stopped and digital scouting became the new norm. We have seen some immensely inventive scouting which people have become engaged with. Not everyone has found the transition easy, but there has been much support out there to help these groups overseen by Moz who put together a District Programme for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts as an excellent starting point if needed. New risk assessments are being written ready for when scouting becomes face to face again, and there is District Team ready to approve these.

Although running the District Executive Committee is a challenge, it is one I enjoy and I am looking forward to continuing my role over the coming year.

**Alison Dwight**



Cubs Water Camp

# From the District Commissioner

It seems really difficult to think back to a time before everything stopped that fateful Monday night back in March – but this report is for the last twelve months so think back we must.

In fact, it's quite nice to look back to times pre-COVID 19. It shows how easy it is to forget what we used to do. Fingers crossed it's a reminder of what we will soon be doing again soon, albeit in a different way.

From July 2019 to March 2020 we were carrying on as normal, with District events, meetings and plans for how to make things even better. In fact we started the period of this report with two calendar planning meetings – where we decided not to have any more calendar planning meetings! There are better ways to do this (we'd not even heard of Zoom back then).

Following the All Leaders' Meetings in January 2019 we implemented a new communications strategy and held some sessions to show people how to use email properly, how to use Slack amongst other things. These meetings were very poorly attended which goes to show how people don't seem to take communications seriously despite it being one of the biggest issues we have.

Summer 2019 saw the biggest events

that Scouting sees - the World Scout Jamboree - this time hosted by Mexico, the USA & Canada. Wrexham Leaders Aaron Wright and Claire Fanson led the Fluffy Dragons Jamboree Unit - including 14 from Wrexham - to West Virginia for an amazing three weeks meeting the World!

A personal highlight of the year was seeing my own mum attending her first Gilwell Reunion after almost 30 years as a Leader - and she even camped!

District activities included a Beavers trip to Drayton Manor, DofE training and expeditions for Explorer Scouts, an amazing Water Camp for Cubs, the District Panto at the Stiwt, a return to St Giles for Carols, and Cubs DIY Day.

We once again tried to recruit students from Glyndwr University by attending their Freshers' Fair and even put on Student Speed dating, but sadly didn't manage to convince any to join.

At our All Leaders Meetings in January, which were amazingly well attended (nothing to do with the cakes and biscuits I made) we looked at training.

Mandatory training for all our volunteers has never been more important. We both need to ensure that all those looking after our youth members have the knowledge to keep them safe - but also to be able to prove it! It may be a pain, but safety is the most important thing there is.



**District Commissioner Moz Morris  
presenting the Chief Scout's  
Commendation for Good Service to  
Dave Drew, Group Scout Leader of  
Bishop's Own Scout Group**

The second half of the year - OK so it's less than a half but feels more like three quarters - was spent without any face to face Scouting.

All I can say is WOW! I genuinely thought when they first said we wouldn't be able to meet that a) that was it, we'd just stop and b) it'd only be for a month maximum.

Well I was wrong about both! It's been a lot longer than a month, and in no way did we stop! Our Leaders, young people and parents have just been incredible. From stay home sleepovers to chatting online to Everest mountaineers to Zooming around the world we have not stopped. We've also hiked to the moon, joined Scouts from across Wales at virtual camps and events and helped those isolated in care homes.

The Lockdown has taught us so many lessons. Most excitingly for me is that it's actually possible to have a meeting in 30 minutes, where before it took that long to get to HQ and open up before the meeting even started. I've also been amazed at how flexible we can be, how quickly leaders have learned new skills and how much parents are happy to get involved.

Coronavirus has of course also been a huge challenge. It's not all been good news. Many of our members will have lost loved ones, people will have lost their jobs, and our whole world has

been turned upside down.

As a District we have lost people this year too. We said goodbye to Brian Doyle and Ron Edwards, both of whom are immensely missed. It seems like only yesterday that Ron was looking through records in the Resource Centre and Brian was zipping round Cox Wood on his scooter. We are lucky to have known them.

I've spent a bit of time this year trying to recruit Group Scout Leaders. I've been successful for some Groups, less so with others. This is such a crucial role and the best use of my time is spent directly supporting them. Groups and Units is where the Scouting actually happens after all!

A massive thank you to the amazing team of people who help me to support the Groups and Units. From my amazing Assistant District Commissioners, Sue, my Deputy District Commissioner, all those who do amazing behind the scenes roles such as Sandra, and of course Ali and the rest of the District Executive who support us all so well.

I'm sure all of those above would like to share those thanks with every leader, parent and young person in the District who make Wrexham Scouts what we are!

**Moz Morris**



**Pete Jones of 1st Esclusham Scout Group with a hut working party**

# What does Wrexham District do?



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



We maintain links between our District and our neighbours, inside Scouting and externally, and promote what we do to the wider world



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



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



We ensure that we shout about our successes and recognise those who help us achieve them!

# Annual Accounts 2019/20



# WREXHAM DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

## Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

For the year from	06-Apr-19	05-Apr-20
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### Receipts and payments

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>		
<b>Donations, legacies and similar income</b>		
Membership subscriptions	41,120	69,046
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area)	- 34,590	- 64,196
Net membership subscriptions retained	6,530	4,850
Donations	965	-
Loans		-
Gift Aid - ESU		-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>7,495</b>	<b>4,850</b>
<b>Grants</b>		
Sale of Hanmer Scout Hut		49,388
Youth Strategy Grant - Activity Training		0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49388</b>
<b>Fundraising (gross)</b>		
Scout Shop Sales	10,695	15,711
Miscellaneous		760
Badge Secretary Sales	7	
Coxwood	38,256	15,383
Explorer Scout Unit	21,838	39,282
District and Groups	8,898	39,244
Bishops Own	2,805	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>82,500</b>	<b>110379.46</b>
<b>Investment income</b>		
Bank interest & Short term investments	19	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	78	61
District HQ Rent & Car Park Rent	7,267	8,459
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>7,365</b>	<b>8519.57</b>
<b>Total Gross Income</b>	<b>97,360</b>	<b>173,137</b>
<b>Asset and investment sales, etc.</b>		-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>97,360</b>	<b>173,137</b>

## WREXHAM DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	06-Apr-19	05-Apr-20
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### Receipts and payments

	2019-20	2018-19
	£	£
<b>Payments</b>		
<b>Premises Costs</b>		
District Headquarters	14,641	13,275
Coxwood Campsite	34,706	29,193
Explorer Scout Units	16,856	52,652
Bishops Own	8,794	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>74,998</b>	
<b>Donations</b>		
Scout Active Support		-
District Grants & Donations		-
<b>Administration Expenses</b>		<b>255</b>
Support Teams, Training & Administration	1,318	1,427
<b>Depreciation</b>		
<b>Activities</b>		
District Section Activities	6,684	10,087
International Camp		28,665
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>8,002</b>	<b>135,554</b>
<b>Fundraising expenses</b>		
Miscellaneous - incl. Hanmer Scout Hut	155	1,070
Scout Shop & Badges - Cost of Sales & Expenses	12,966	11,430
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>13,121</b>	<b>12,500</b>
<b>Total Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>96,120</b>	<b>148,054</b>
<b>Assets and Purchases - Grant Assisted</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>96,497</b>	<b>148,054</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>25,083</b>
<b>Fund Balances brought forward</b>	<b>125,548</b>	<b>118,912</b>
<b>Fund Balances carried forward</b>	<b>126,410</b>	<b>143,995</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	For the year from		01-Jan-18
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at bank & in hand		126,460	108,759
Debtors			0
Loans to Scout Groups			0
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service		12,250	12,250
National Savings account			0
<b>Total cash funds</b>		<b>138,710</b>	<b>121,009</b>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>			
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>0</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Coxwood Site Development & Machinery - written down value			0
District Equipment - written down value			0
Explorer Scout Unit Equipment - written down value			0
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>0</b>
<b>Non monetary assets for charity's own use</b>			
Badge stock			0
Shop stock			0
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>0</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts not yet paid			0
Activity Grant not yet utilised			0
K2 ESU - Croatia Fund			0
Section funds held over			0
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>0</b>
<b>Net Assets Less Liabilities</b>		<b>138,710</b>	<b>121,009</b>

*Represented by:-*

**General Fund**

138,710

121,009

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 15th April 2015 (the date of the Executive Committee meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature

<b>Mr David Morris</b>	
<b>Mrs Karen Cheesbrough</b>	



Young Leader Matthew from 6th Wrexham Beavers demonstrating via video

# Last year...

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting at Maesgwyn Hall Wrexham on 3 July 2019

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from D Burton, S Jones, N Morris.

### **Approval of minutes from the AGM held on April 5th 2017**

The minutes were proposed by Debbie Collins and seconded by Anne Marie Roberts. 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 Liz Dodman and seconded by Rob Dodman. Approved by the meeting.

### **Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination for Chairperson**

The District Commissioner (DM) nominated Alison Dwight for the post of District Chairperson. All present were in agreement.

### **Nomination and election of District Secretary**

Paul Forret was nominated for the position of District Secretary. Proposed by Karl Gunning and seconded by Louis Gunning. All present were in agreement.

### **Nomination and approval of District Treasurer**

Karen Cheesbrough was nominated by Lisa Jones and seconded by Rose Corbett Thomas. All present accepted.

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

Moz Morris nominated Sue Lister, Dave Cheesbrough, Ian Mclean, and Neil Curtis. It was proposed by Sian Dent and seconded by Laura Camps that this be accepted. All accepted by the meeting.

### **Election of members to serve on the Executive Committee**

Liz Dodman, Steven Brown, Karina Pitoors, Lisa Jones, and Nicky Morris were duly elected by those present. It was proposed by Arron Wright and seconded by Chris McLean that this be accepted. All accepted by the meeting.

### **Appointment of Independent Scutineer**

This appointment was confirmed as Karen Williams after being proposed by Mike Meadows and seconded by Ian McLean.

### **Election of a representative to the Area Scout Council**

No-one present was willing to stand for this position.

### **Election of Members for the Cox Wood Sub Committee**

Mike Meadows, Susan Lister, Gerry Lister, Ian McLean, David Burton, and Brian Doyle were duly elected by those present. It was proposed by Colleen Graham and seconded by Lesley Cole that this be accepted. All accepted by the meeting.

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