

Together we are stronger



Wrexham District Scout Council
Annual Report & Accounts 2023/24



Scouts
Wrexham

Front page: 1st Rossett Scouts on a night hike

From the District Chairperson

Looking back to this time last year, we were waiting for transformation, all a little unsure about what this would require and how it would play out. Fast forward 12 months, and Wrexham District has helped pave the way for groups and our new team's back approach means that together we are stronger and ready for the future.

The District Trustees have focussed on supporting all Groups across the District to establish working Group Trustee Boards. Information evenings, information packs, meetings with parents and advice to Group Trustee Board Chairs and Treasurers have left in a good position with all but two of our groups now having at least the minimum number of trustees. A particular thanks go to Mike and Rob for their tireless efforts in meeting with parents and local groups.

Whilst financially we have been challenged by rising utility costs, we managed to not increase HQ rental costs, offset in part by a long-term contract to use the facilities in the mornings. Our finance sub-committee has streamlined and improved our financial processes and has given us greater visibility over our reserves and expenditure. Thanks to Karen and Jen for their work and support with this. We are mindful that running and maintenance costs are high and will need to be

carefully monitored. We have continued to administer the Quiet Fund having made over 12 grants in the last year and recently announced details of a Group Development and Support Fund through which we will be looking to help groups. Group Chairs and Lead Volunteers – please, please do consider how you could use these additional funds.

The ongoing potential move of HQ has at times dominated our meetings. We are now entering (hopefully) the final stages of agreeing plans and terms with Wrexham County Borough Council. The outline plans look exciting and will give us a fit for the future modern building. Thanks go to Sue, Paul and Butch for their work on this project. In the meantime, Paul continues to oversee ensuring we are minimising risks and we recently installed a new fire alarm system in the building.

Thanks to everyone who volunteers with Scouting in Wrexham. On a lovely warm (and dry) summer day, we celebrated the contributions of many of you at Cox Wood. I should have added up the years of experience and contribution being celebrated. You are what makes scouting so thank you.

Finally, the District Trustees wish to place on record their thanks to Moz for all he has done. As sad as it is to see you move on to a new role, we know you have left the district in a strong position. We will miss you (but don't worry we have your number!).

Nicola Morris



1st Overton-on-Dee Cubs at Gilwell Takeover

From the District Lead Volunteer

In this, my last report as District Commissioner/Lead Volunteer, you'll excuse me looking back a little bit further than the last 12 months, but to the last 9 years - if briefly!

It's been quite the term in office - starting with all guns blazing with so many plans, different ways of doing things, and also the many challenges that leading such a large organisation brings.

But then two major events changed the path I had expected. First the pandemic, then the preparations for the huge change we are about to see in the transformation of our volunteer experience.

While we as a District faced these two challenges impressively - bouncing back from the pandemic with new skills and better ways of doing things, and being at the forefront of transformation - I'll be honest I don't think I ever personally got back to normal.

I think this does however show that the changes that are coming are right for the future. It's not about individuals with grand - some may say archaic - titles of Commissioner anymore, but about team work.

As a District over the last 12 months we've achieved so much together. Preparing for the future while still

ensuring top quality activities for the young people.

We've launched another Squirrels Drey at 41st Wrexham with another to come at 1st Overton.

At the other end of the age range we've now got an active Scout Network - so essential in supporting our growing 18-24 membership, but also allowing them to get together and have adventures of their own.

A massive thanks to our Youth Leads Ethan and Meg for starting this - especially as they had the small matter of their wedding this year too! Congratulations on that!

Two of these Network Scouts, Dave Jones and Sian Hughes were awarded His Majesty's Coronation Medal for their service at the event last year, with Sian also travelling to Windsor to receive her King's Scout Award. We're so very proud of both of them.

It's not just young people who've received recognition. Some of the slightly less young were also thanked for their service at a lovely afternoon in glorious sunshine at Cox Wood. Congratulations particularly to Malcom Seller who received the highest award in Scouting, the Silver Wolf.

Nicky has outlined the exceptional work the District Trustee Board has put in over the last 12 months in her report, but I'd like to echo her thanks to Rob Hilton and Mike Meadows - and to all the parents that came to their sessions and stood up



Bishop's Own Squirrels

to be Trustees - but also add my immense thanks to her for what she's done as Chair over the last year and to Karen who's not only an amazing Treasurer but a good laugh!

We've had a calendar packed with events including our District Carol Service, two Scout Troops visiting Ireland, Explorer Scout Duke of Edinburgh's expeditions (which I even got involved with - great to do some hands on Scouting again), and amazing turn out from Wrexham at the All Wales Scout Camp and GIAdStOnBuRy, the Beavers had a great Sleepover, the Cubs visited Liverpool and had a District camp in May, and we all joined together at the Crocky Trail in April for Promise Day.

In sad news this year we lost Sandra Jones who'd been Appointments Secretary for many years, and John Lovatt who had served in many roles at District including being Deputy District Commissioner. Both will be very much missed and remembered by us all.

In much happier news we had one big welcome to the District! Joanne Briggs will be taking over as Lead Volunteer in January and many of you will have met her already and been impressed. She is going to be fantastic in the role and will have my full support whenever she needs it.

But as I said earlier, this new role is not that of District Commissioner. We must change how we volunteer and share the tasks out more evenly.

Jo will be the Lead Volunteer but she will need people to join the many Teams we are setting up to support the volunteers at Section level.

We have made a lot of progress towards this - much more than many other Districts - but we still have a long way to go.

Finally, I'd like to single out Sue Lister as the person who's helped me the most while I've been in this role. She works so hard, covering so much of the things I should really be doing, but doing a much better job of it. The District wouldn't have run at all without her. Thanks so much Sue.

Lots of people over the years have said I'm much better starting things than finishing them, and it remains the case with this report! I've probably missed so much of what's happened over the last year, so apologies if I've offended anyone - the perils of coming back from holiday two days before the AGM!

Thanks to everyone in Wrexham Scouts for all the support, friendship and laughs over the last nine years.

Moz over and out!

David Morris

From the District Youth Leads

The past few months we have both been working on opening a Scout Network for Wrexham. Network is for ages 18-24.

We had our first meet up the end of August before people went back to university. We had a good turnout of 12 people with many more interested in joining in the future, this is a really positive step for Wrexham Network.

We've decided as a group that we'd like to meet once every half term with our next meet up in the works with Flintshire and Cheshire Network, to join them in a Halloween party.

If you know people who are interested or have any questions about network, please come and let us know and we will do our best to answer any questions.

Thank you.

Ethan & Meg King



Network inaugural bowling meeting

From Cox Wood

Another busy year at the camp site with bookings keeping us busy through the Easter to Halloween period with several weekends fully booked.

The Cox wood crew has worked hard on maintenance and development of the site. The new crate stacking and leap of faith activity area opening in February this year. The go-cart track has been moved to avoid the hill and a new flatter track created. The driveway lighting has been replaced and we also have portable lights available for activity areas on autumn nights.

Chris stepped down from bookings in January and we welcomed Angie on board and now run a team of volunteers to handle bookings and invoicing. The Thursday crew said goodbye and thank you to Karen and Dave when they moved away to Yorkshire.

A generous donation from Mr Peter Fox has meant we can start work on the bunk room and so far we have the electric supply in place and the insides cleared out ready for further work over the winter months.

Thank you to all the volunteers who give their time each Thursday to keep the site looking beautiful and running smoothly, and of course to the permit holders who attend to run activities for campers. We are very lucky to have a small team of permit holders who run the lion's share of activities for visiting groups and we

need to grow this team to help share out to sessions.

Additional volunteers are welcome to join our Thursday maintenance team from 10am every week, along with plenty of tea and biscuits

Sue Lister



R.OCK WA

SAFETY ZONE
Climbing helmets must be worn at all times.
An authorized leader must supervise this activity.
Wrexham District Scouts - Cox Wood Camp Site

1st Gwersyllt Cubs at Cox Wood

Youth Awards

Chief Scout's Bronze Award

Osian Barlow
Jaimee Bellingham
Jenson Bogger-Hughes
Rhys Briggs
Elliott Butler
James Chudley
Tommy Crawford
Aidan Dunley
Thomas Edney
Tobias Edwards
Rhys Evans
Sebastian Fell-Groom
Ada Finlayson
Martha Harris-Beck
Elijah Hoare
Liubomyr Horelov
Rhys Jones
Freddie Knight
Jack Lloyd
Caleb Massie
Atticus Matthias
Harry Moore
Finley Moss
Ieuan Norton
Lili Peace
Elis Phillips
Elliot Plack
Amelia Prior
Theo Ravenscroft
Elsie Rose
Samson Saunders
Dylan Singleton
Joshua Smith
Jan Szczgiel
Emily Thornton
Buddy Valentine
James Waite

Holly Ward
Osian Willaims

Chief Scout's Silver Award

Aiden Arthur
Chase Conroy
Charlie Cook
Rory Crowley
Oliver Davies
Evie Divine
Gabriel Gozdur
Leo Hamilton
Ethan Hill
Grace Hilton
Isaac Hoare
George Holmes
Erin Jones
Sam Jones
Samuel Jones
Ryan Kirby
Eliza Kosicka
Barnaby Lloyd
Taliayna Lloyd
Jack Mackay
Lucas Mayo
Orin McGregor-Andrew
Charlie Morris
Leon Orloeski
Jacob Pate
Harvey Pratt
Huw Price
Riley Roberts
Ethan Scott
Matthew Tomlinson
Llinos Vine
Joshua Wood

Chief Scout's Gold Award

Starr Axtell
Jessica Cook
Oliver Cook
William Cook

Verity Ellis
Thomas Goodhall
Elijah Jones
Oskar Kryzma
Teila Lloyd
Summer Murphy
William Price
Ruby Reed
Skye Rogers
Morgan Smedley
Isabella Swift
Dion Weatherall
Joseph Whiting

Chief Scout's Platinum Award

Oliver Coull
Seren Dodds
William Frankel
Dawid Greyling
Dylan Hughes
Daniel Jones
Sam Jones
Tygan Millington
Tegan Shepherd
Elliott Smith
Gareth Williams
Oliver Williams
Jack Wilson

Chief Scout's Diamond Award

Oliver Coull
Millie Griffiths
Finley Holdsworth
Jack Wilson

Volunteer Awards

Wood Badge

Jo Briggs
Maisie Harlow
Pari Hine
Sam Roberts
Lynda Sayer
Damien Shepherd

Chief Scout's 5 years Service Award

Molly Connolly-Brooks
Nicky Morris
Laura Watkins

Chief Scout's 10 years Service Award

Ray Lindley

Chief Scout's 15 years Service Award

Josh Hughes
Anne-Marie Roberts

Chief Scout's 20 years Service Award

Chris Maddocks

Chief Scout's 25 years Service Award

Dorothy Lesbirel

Commissioners Commendation

Sheila Dawson
Michael Dawson
Sian Hughes
David Morris

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Elizabeth Dodman
Rachel Lacey
Mike Meadows

Award for Merit

Paul Forret
Angela Hardwell
Mark Jones

Bar to the Award for Merit

Tony Grice
Robert Hodges
David Huyton
Sam Roberts

Bar to the Silver Acorn

Susan Mort

Silver Wolf

Malcolm Seller

Annual Accounts 2023/24



41st Wrexham making bird boxes

Wrexham District Scout Council Receipts and payments

	CONSOLIDATION	
Receipts		
Admin	£3,503.93	
Badges	£246.00	
Bank Interest	£375.13	
Donation	£1,128.06	
Events	£4,956.60	
Events - Beavers	£4,115.00	
Events - Cubs	£9,028.21	
Gift Aid	£0.00	
Membership Fees	£40,177.00	
Rent	£9,753.50	
Training	£5.25	
Uniform	£10,888.19	
Transfer from Nat West 30728	£49,388.00	
Investment cashed in	£15,474.29	
Hanmer credit	£7,026.63	
Sub total	£156,065.79	
Coxwood	£19,233.65	
Explorer Scout Unit	£35,849.78	
Bryn y Pys	£0.00	
Sub total	£55,083.43	
Total receipts	£211,149.22	Note 1

Payments

Admin	£9,381.40
Badges	£4,009.56
Bank Fees	£60.00
Events	£136.53
Events - Beavers	£2,993.76
Events - Cubs	£9,193.81
Insurance	£1,405.20
Membership fees	£0.00
OSM Fees	£975.40
Uniform	£5,375.00
Utilities	£7,126.99
Venue Maintenance	£2,062.92
Transfer to Nat West 64722	£49,388.00
Quiet Fund donations	£180.00
Coedpoeth	£3,134.37
K2	£100.00
Sub total	£95,522.94
Coxwood Campsite	£14,568.76
Explorer Scout Units	£51,962.49
Bryn Y Pys	£809.34

Sub total **£67,340.59**

Total Gross Expenditure **£162,863.53** **Note 2**

Assets and Purchases - Grant Assisted £0.00

Total payments **£162,863.53**

Net of receipts/(payments) £48,285.69
Fund Balances brought forward £121,464.86
Fund Balances carried forward £169,750.55

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Current Assets		
Cash at bank & in hand	£169,800.55	
Debtors	£0.00	
Loans to Scout Groups	£0.00	
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service		
National Savings account	£0.00	
Total cash funds	£169,800.55	Note 3
Other monetary assets	£0.00	
Fixed Assets	£0.00	
Coxwood Site Development & Machinery - written down value	£0.00	
District Equipment - written down value	£0.00	
Explorer Scout Unit Equipment - written down value	£0.00	
Sub total	£0.00	
Non monetary assets for charity's own use	£0.00	
Badge stock	£0.00	
Shop stock	£0.00	
Sub total	£0.00	
Liabilities	£0.00	
Accounts not yet paid	£0.00	
Activity Grant not yet utilised	£0.00	
K2 ESU - Croatia Fund	£0.00	
Swiss and Section Assets Held over	£0.00	
Sub total	£0.00	
Net Assets Less Liabilities	£169,800.55	
Represented by:-		
General Fund	£169,800.55	

Notes:

- 1 - Transfer from Acct 30728
- 2 - Transfer to Acct 64722
- 3 - Includes £50 cash float

The above receipts and payments accounts were approved by the Wrexham District Board

Nicola Morris, District Chair



1st Overton-on-Dee Beavers baking

Last year...

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Wrexham District Scout Headquarters on

Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

Approval of minutes from the AGM held on 25th September 2022 at Bradley Cricket Club

The minutes were proposed by Karen Cheesbrough and seconded by Anne Marie Roberts. They were then signed in to the record.

Acceptance of the statement of the 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 Nicky Morris for the post of District Chairperson. All present were in agreement.

Nomination and election of District Secretary

This position no longer exists

Nomination and approval of District Treasurer

Karen Williams was nominated by Lisa Jones and seconded by Ian McClean. All present accepted.

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

Sue Lister, Mike Meadows. Rob Hilton, Paul Forret., Liz Dodman
Proposed by Sian Dent and seconded by Sue Mort

Appointment of Independent scrutineer

Karen Cheesborough
Proposed by Mike Meadows and seconded by Ian McLean

Election of representative to the Area Scout Council

Rob Hilton
Proposed by Mike Meadows and seconded by Ian McLean

Election of Members for the Cox Wood Sub Committee

Chris Maddox. Mike Meadows,, Gerry Lister, Ian McLean, Dave Cheesbrough. Bob Hodges.
Proposed by Colleen Graham and seconded by Sue Lister

About us...

1. Name of charity as listed with Charity Commission is Wrexham District Scout Council, Registered Charity number
2. Names of all positions held: District Chair - Nicola Morris, District Treasurer - Karen Cheesbrough, District Secretary - Paul Forret, District Executive Committee members: Sue Lister, Mike Meadows, Dave Cheesbrough, Lisa Jones, Neil Curtis, Elizabeth Dodman, Steven Brown, Sam Wilde, and Ian McLean, District Lead Volunteer - David Morris, District Youth Leads - Ethan King and Megan Sayer, District Explorer Scout Commissioner - Steve Love
3. 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 (POR) of the Scout Association. The District is a trust established under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.
4. The trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.
5. The District is led by the District Leadership Team and managed by a District Trustee Board. They are accountable to the District Scout Council for the satisfactory running of the District.
6. The Trustee Board exists to support the District Leadership Team in meeting their responsibilities.
7. Members of the Trustee Board act collectively as charity Trustees of the Scout District, and in the best interests of its members to:
 - a) Comply with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association
 - b) Protect and maintain any property and equipment owned by and/or used by the District
 - c) Manage the District finances.
 - d) Provide insurance for people, property and equipment.
 - e) Provide sufficient resources for Scouting to operate. This includes, but is not limited to, supporting recruitment, other adult support, and fund-raising activities.
 - f) Promote and support the development of Scouting in the local area.
 - g) Manage and implement the Safety Policy locally
 - h) Ensure that a positive image of Scouting exists in the local community.
 - i) Appoint and manage the operation of any sub-Committees, including appointing a Chair to lead the sub-Committees
 - j) Ensure that Young People are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels within the District
 - k) The opening, closure and amalgamation of Groups as necessary.
 - l) And all other duties as set out in Policy, Organisation and Rules.
8. Risk and Internal Control.
 - a) The Trustee Board is responsible for risk management and ensures a risk register and risk assessments are in place.
 - b) The Trustee Board is responsible ensuring sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

- c) The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fund-raising.
 - d) The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there were a reduction in the number of volunteers to an unacceptable level, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of activities or Groups.
9. The primary objective of the District is that of the Scout Association generally, namely: 'to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.'



Scouts

Wrexham

wrexhamscouts.org.uk