

Back together at last!



Wrexham District Scout Council
Annual Report & Accounts 2020/21



Scouts
Wrexham

Front page: 6th Wrexham Beaver Scouts building dams

From the District Chairperson

As you should know, the District Executive Committee exists to support our District Commissioner, Moz Morris, in meeting the responsibilities of his appointment, and therefore plays a vital role in the running of Wrexham District Scouts.

As was last year, Scouting has had to have a lot of re-thinking done to it in order for the young members of the association to continue with Scouting which could easily have been suspended until face to face meetings could be resumed.

But being the excellent team that Wrexham District Scouts are, Scouting has gone on and perhaps been even better as new ways of delivery have been thought out to maintain and enhance the Scouting experience.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of the dedicated leaders, assistant leaders, occasional helpers, young leaders who all contribute to a high quality programme for all of the young people who attend Scouting in the District, getting them excited and engaged with the range of activities they are presented with.

The District have advised and approved risk assessments for face to face Scouting outdoors and indoors and ensured the Scout HQ was ready for use which included setting up a covered outdoor area to allow groups to meet outdoors whatever the weather.

The Scout Shop has adopted more of a click and collect system to allow people to check stock in advance before making the journey to the HQ. Furthermore, badges can all be ordered online and are posted out now.

Cox Wood, too, has been utilised a lot more and has seen even more improvements made to the facilities that make it an excellent resource for everyone to use.

I have been District Chair for four years which has been both a challenging and enjoyable experience getting to know people associated with Scouting and have been continually amazed by the commitment of everyone who all have a common goal to make Scouting great.

With me have been a growing committee of dedicated members who are all actively involved in some way driving ideas forward and supporting where we can.

You might not get to see everything we do but there is a lot of hard work going on behind the scenes fitted around our normal daily lives as you do too.

Meetings have had to have been held via Zoom which in some ways have been much easier to organise and attendance to these has greatly improved. We actually had one meeting where everyone attended which was a first so maybe online isn't so a bad.

I feel that over this last year, I have made more of a connection with Scouts Cymru and the Scout Association through webinars and training sessions than ever before and spoken directly with people that I might not have if the pandemic had not occurred.

Although running the District Executive Committee was a challenge, it is a role I am really pleased to have undertaken as it has improved my confidence, my resilience and my patience as well as arming me with new skills that I can take forward to my new life in Malaysia.

However, no-one is irreplaceable and therefore I would like to extend my very best wishes to Nicky Morris who will, with the AGM's approval, continue in the role of District Chair.

Alison Dwight



1st Moss Cubs using Cox Wood's newly reopened archery range

From the District Commissioner

At the last AGM, we were still in the depths of lock-down at the red readiness level with no face to face Scouting allowed.

Doesn't that seem so long ago now!

Soon we would be moving through the levels to amber, then yellow in the autumn term. But then it all came slamming closed again and we were back in red, not being able to meet.

Despite this however, Scouting continued as it did last year, as Leaders got used to writing COVID risk assessments, and we at District level got used to approving them with sometimes hours to spare before a meeting!

The last AGM was on Zoom as were many Section meetings - in fact all sorts of meetings. This year's AGM will also be on Zoom as... isn't it so much easier!

Saying that, while we can and still will have occasional meetings on Zoom, it was amazing when we were at last able to meet up face to face again.

Across the District the news spread of Sections reopening proper, outdoor, face to face Scouting, like the first buds of spring (though it was confusingly in the autumn).

And overwhelmingly the news was good news. Leaders who had worried whether young people would come back realised they never had anything to fear. In fact in some cases young people who'd left before COVID was even a thing came back!

It was clear that everyone had missed being together, getting muddy, covered in PVA and smelling of wood smoke so much.

We had worried too about what all this would do to our adult volunteers, and while in many cases we also had nothing to fear, in lots of other cases our predictions of a drop in adult numbers came true.

In the last year a quarter of our adult volunteers decided to call it a day. Many because of COVID, but for lots I think the break gave them the chance to think about what they were doing with their time and they decided they wanted to do new things.

All of this is fine, but it does leave us with less adults doing more.

So, I've spent the last 9 months trying to reverse this, encouraging more adults to do less.

I've been to several Groups and met with parents to chat about how they can help, but in a big team each doing a little bit, rather than one of them becoming the 'one in charge'.

I'm glad to say it's worked quite well so far, and while we have a long way to go - and it's created so much more work for me - it is meaning we are able to reopen Scouting in at least six more Sections which were previously closed or struggling.

All of this was part of our District Development Plan which we launched this year. What better year to do this!

For a while now we've been working on the UK Skills for Life plan of Growth, Community Impact, Inclusivity and Youth Shaped. But there are lots of aspects of District life which weren't covered by this



1st Hope Cubs enjoying the climbing tower at Cox Wood

and for which we weren't firing on all cylinders.

So we gathered a reasonable amount of people down Cox Wood, did an online survey too, and worked out - as if we hadn't had enough of reds, ambers and greens through COVID - how we were doing in certain areas.

To cut a long story short (you can read much more on our District website) we came up with Adults, Diversity, Young Adults and Accountability as our four areas of improvement.

So far we've just focused on Adults - and adult growth particularly - but we will get round to the others soon.

We're 100% right to focus on Adults. Together with our amazing Young Leaders they should be our focus at District level. With well supported adult volunteers the youth programme will look after itself.

Yes it's nice to run District events, and we all desperately miss coming together on camps and hikes, but the core work of District is making sure that the Akela in that hut on Thursday night has all the support she needs to run great activities for young people.

It's also our job - all of us - to continue to recruit more adults so that when that Akela decides she wants to do something else with her life, she is able to without fear that the Cubs she leads will miss out if she moves on.

Talking of moving on, as you may have gathered from the District Chair's report, and the mention of a 'new life in Malaysia', Alison has left the country to teach English on the other side of the world. Yes, those

endless Exec Zoom meetings finally got to her! Seriously, we will miss Ali so much. She has been an amazing District Chair and support to me in my role. We wish her so much luck and happiness in her adventures, and welcome Nicola Morris who is my nominee to carry on Alison's good work.

The last 12 months has also seen some much more sad good-byes. We started 2021 with the news that we had lost David Burton, or 'Skip' as he was known to many, who for many years had been Group Scout Leader amongst many other roles at 1st Overton-on-Dee after a long fight with illness.

Then just weeks later the absolute shock that was the passing of Phil Bentley of 1st Rossett. Not just of 1st Rossett, Phil was 1st Rossett.

One of the great reliefs of the work I'm doing trying to recruit new adults was managing to get Phil's Group going again. It's going to be tough, but I hope we'll all do him proud.

I was contacted this year by a gentleman who had been a member of 5th Wrexham Scouts in the 1950s. He was in his more senior years and was looking back at what he had achieved in his life, and what experiences had led to these achievements.

Safe to say that Scouting was near the top of his list, and while he had not been in a position to help out in the past, he still remembered with gratitude what he'd learned.

What we do today in 2021 makes a difference today just as it did in 1951. Thank you to the part you play.

Moz Morris

Annual Accounts 2020/21



1st Esclusham Scouts litter picking in Rhostyllen village

WREXHAM DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from	06-Apr-20	to	05-Apr-21
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Receipts and payments

2020-2021

2019-2020

£

£

Receipts

Donations, legacies and similar income			
Membership subscriptions		28,403	37,756
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area)		- 29,651	- 31,740
Net membership subscriptions retained		- 1,248	6,016
Donations		113	833
Loans		-	-
Gift Aid - ESU		-	830
Sub total		- 1,135	7,679
Grants			
Sale of Hanmer Scout Hut			
Grants		-	2,000
Sub total		-	2000
Fundraising (gross)			
Scout Shop Sales		3,410	9,728
Miscellaneous		10,819	1,606
Coxwood		2,939	19,525
Explorer Scout Unit		11,397	11,269
District and Groups		-	8,898
Bishops Own		1,194	
Sub total		29,759	51025.703
Investment income			
Bank interest & Short term investments		4	27
WCBC Covid Grant		10,000	
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service		78	78
District HQ Rent & Car Park Rent		867	7,267
Sub total		£ 10,947.78	7372.21

Total Gross Income

39,571

68,077

Asset and investment sales, etc.

-

-

Total receipts

39,571

68,077

WREXHAM DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	06-Apr-20	to	05-Apr-21
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Receipts and payments

	2020-2021	2019-2020
	£	£
Payments		
Premises Costs		
District Headquarters	4,958	14,641
Coxwood Campsite	8,342	17,614
Explorer Scout Units	15,601	13,080
Bishops Own	3,906	
Donations		
Scout Active Support	-	
District Grants & Donations	-	
Training	-	12
Support Teams, Training & Administration	518	1,306
Depreciation		
Activities		
District Section Activities	1,375	6,684
International Camp	-	
Sub total	34,699	53,337
Fundraising expenses		
Miscellaneous	260	155
Scout Shop & Badges - Cost of Sales & Expenses	1,327	10,061
Badge Secretary - Cost of Sales & Expenses	-	
Sub total	1,587	10,216
Total Gross Expenditure	36,286	63,553
Assets and Purchases - Grant Assisted	0	0
Total payments	36,286	63,553
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,286	4,524
Fund Balances brought forward	125,857	116,778
Fund Balances carried forward	129,143	121,303

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	For the year from	06-Apr-20	to	05-Apr-21
		2020-2021		2019-2020
Current Assets				
Cash at bank & in hand		129,193		109,053
Debtors		-		0
Loans to Scout Groups		-		0
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service		12,250		12,250
National Savings account		-		0
Total cash funds		141,443		121,303
Other monetary assets				
Sub total		-		0
Fixed Assets				
Coxwood Site Development & Machinery - written down value		0		0
District Equipment - written down value		0		0
Explorer Scout Unit Equipment - written down value		0		0
Sub total		0		0
Non monetary assets for charity's own use				
Badge stock		0		0
Shop stock		0		0
Sub total		0		0
Liabilities				
Accounts not yet paid		0		0
Activity Grant not yet utilised		0		0
K2 ESU - Croatia Fund		0		0
Section funds held over		0		0
Sub total				0
Net Assets Less Liabilities		141,443		121,303

Represented by:-

General Fund

141,443

121,303

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 26th August 2020 (the date of the Executive Committee meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature

Mr David Morris	
Mrs Karen Cheesbrough	



Malcolm Seller celebrating 90 years - most of them in Scouting!

Last year...

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Zoom, August 26th 2020

Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

Approval of minutes from the AGM held on July 3rd 2019

The minutes were proposed by Teresa Brummell and seconded by Lisa Jones. 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 David Morris and seconded by Sue Mort. 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 Paul Maries and seconded by Sue Lister. All present were in agreement.

Nomination and approval of District Treasurer

Karen Cheesbrough was nominated by Olwen Ruscoe and seconded by Lindsey Godwin. All present accepted.

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

Sue Lister, Dave Cheesbrough, Ian Mclean, Neil Curtis. Proposed by Jill Lewis and seconded by Beccy Agrane

Election of members to serve on the Executive Committee

Liz Dodman, Steven Brown, Karina Pittoores, Lisa Jones, Nicky Morris. Proposed by Gareth Sandilands and seconded by Sandra Jones. All elected.

Appointment of Independent scrutineer

Karen Williams. Proposed by Anne -Marie Roberts and seconded by Chris McLean

Election of representative to to the Area Scout Council

Anne-Marie Roberts. Proposed by Ian McLean and seconded by Elizabeth Dodman

Election of Members for the Cox Wood Sub Committee

Mike Meadows, Sue Lister, Gerry Lister, Ian McLean, David Burton, Proposed by Neil Curtis and seconded by Nicola Morris.

