Milton Keynes District Scout Council

Scouts
Milton Keynes



Annual Report 2025-2026

Milton Keynes Scouts - A Place To Belong!

MILTON KEYNES DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting
23rd September 2026
The Quadrant, Milton Keynes
Agenda

1. Introduction and welcome

2. Apologies for absence

3. Explorer Scouts - All About The Netherlands

4. Governance topics.
    - Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 25th September 2025
    - Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)
    - Note the District's financial year
    - Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
    - Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

5. Review of the previous year
    - The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouting in Milton Keynes
    - Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts

6. Making appointments
    - Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
    - Appoint the Independent Examiner

7. Awards and Recognition

8. County Representative - Kimberley Cochran

9. Guest Speaker - Network Rail

10. Closing Remarks

MILTON KEYNES DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on the 23rd September 2025 at 7.30 pm at The Quadrant, Milton Keynes

PRESENT : There were 63 attendees

1.	**Welcome and Opening remarks** Bernard Hancox as Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Also to Network Rail for the use of facilities at Quadrant House for the evening.
2.	**Apologies for absence** There were apologies from The Mayor of Milton Keynes, Bev Delaney, Debbie Pritchard, Dave Pollington, Darren Smith, Ian Short, Phil Curwood, Ruth Staff and Adrian French..
3.	**Governance Topics** a) **Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 25th September 2024.** The Chair reported that the District Trustee Board had reviewed the AGM Minutes at their meeting held on the 21st October 2024 and approved them with the following amendment namely at 3(e) it should read 'The Trustee Board recommended that this should be set at 15 and this was agreed by all'. These minutes as amended as read are presented as a true record. This was agreed. **b) Adoption of the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules In line with recommendation that model constitution Chapter 5 of POR.** Approved by a show of hands **c) Noting of the District's financial year** – The Chair confirmed that the financial year would be the 1st April to the 31st March. d) **Agreement to the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board –** The Chair stated that following good practice and recommendations there be a minimum of 5 and no more than 12 members. The District Lead Volunteer and the District Youth Commissioner are ex officio members and the Chair proposed that including these the Trustee Board should comprise of 12 members. This was agreed. e) **Agreement to the quorum for each District Scout Council meeting (excluding this AGM)** The Chair recommended that this be set at 15. Agreed by all f) There are no sub committees at the present time.
4.	**Review of the previous year** **a. The Lead Volunteer review of Scouting in Milton Keynes District** Jason Raggett, the District Lead Volunteer presented this having previously circulated the annual review from the District teams. Jason thanked everyone for working in teams and it is this that makes the District work. Waiting list grows and people are still knocking on the door wanting to join Scouting. Jason thanked all the Teams for their support over the year. There is atarget of three new Squirrel dreys in the District in 2025 and this could be reached before the end of the year. Gary Staff was thanked personally for Milton Keynes Gang Show. b. **To receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board including the annual Statement of the Accounts.** Ashley Pankhurst stated that the accounts had been circulated over the weekend and he apologised for the late submission. These are in a different format as previously required as we now need to use accrual

	accounting and this goes into more details. Any questions please ask. Ashley thanked Iona Plain Gang Show treasurer and to Paul Munro for The Quarries. Thanks also goes to Simon Gill for preparing the receipts and payments over the last few years who suddenly realised that the income for the District had exceeded the monetary limit for his qualification. Being retired he was no longer a certified accountant anymore, Vanessa Bowyer who is qualified stepped in and had inspected and signed off the accounts despite her laptop breaking. Ashley again asked for someone to be an Explorer treasurer. BH thanked Ashley for the work he does over the year with the accounts for the District.
5.	**Making Appointments** a) **Appointment members of the District Trustee Board following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board.** The Chair informed the meeting that there were four vacancies on the District Trustee Board and these has been advertised and five applications were received. In the late stage of the election a flaw was identified and accordingly there was no alternative but to declare the election null and void and the election will be re-run shortly. There was no sign of any wrong-doing and just a hiccup in the IT side and until the result of the election is known the Trustee Board will remain as it is at present and this was approved by a show of hands. Jason Raggett thanked Bernard for his support over the year. **b) To appoint the Independent Examiner** Ashley Pankhurst requested that this be deferred. **c) To nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council** No nominations
6.	**Address from County Representative** James Williamson, County Lead Volunteer. Annual Review summarises what MK is all about. MK sets the District apart from everyone else and its great to see. The events have been amazing and its good to see young people enjoying their Scouting. James hoped that MK would be part of the County Camp next year.
7.	**Awards and Presentations** The following Awards and Certificates were presented, Mike Gibson stated there are also a number who are nearly there to obtaining them and this will be reflected next year. **Awards** **Chief Scouts Platinum Award** – Charlie, James and Sophie (Explorer Scouts) Lily (Scout Network) **Chief Scouts Diamond Award** – James (Explorer Scout) Lucas (Scout Network) **Young Leaders Award** – Explorer Scouts that go and help with other sections. Gabriel **YouShape Award** - Izzy
8	**Guest Speaker** Matt Batcherlor was asked to talk about what he does at Network Rail and talked. through Network Rail facts and figures. Matt works in early engagement ie 7 – 18. Network Rail wants young people to look at working within Network Rail and

	being role models. Diversity targets and looking at interaction with ethnicity backgrounds and females. Also looking at SEND within our community. Looking at outreach, T-levels, graduate schemes. There is a STEM lab on site which looks to promote and encourage different careers at Network Rail. They are always encouraging more involvement and engagement. Matt invited those present to go along and look at what he does and how Scouting can get involved. His e-mail address is earlyengagement@networkrail.com

The main business closed at 8.05 pm

District Lead Volunteers Report :

As I reflect on another incredible year in Milton Keynes Scout District, I do so with an overwhelming sense of pride, gratitude and optimism. Looking back over the past twelve months, I am reminded that the true strength of our District lies not in any one individual, but in the extraordinary commitment, passion and kindness shown by our volunteers, young people and supporters every single day.

Scouting continues to evolve, and this year has seen us embrace change whilst remaining focused on what matters most – delivering exceptional experiences that help young people gain skills for life. Whether adapting to new ways of working, embedding the Membership System, supporting our volunteers through ongoing learning, or finding new and innovative ways to grow Scouting, you have all risen to the challenge with enthusiasm and determination. Thank you for everything you continue to do.

One of the highlights of the year has been seeing our District continue to grow. Across Milton Keynes we have welcomed new young people and volunteers into Scouting, strengthening our sections and enabling even more young people to benefit from the adventure, friendship and opportunities that Scouting offers. Whilst growth is always important, what makes me even prouder is the quality of experiences that are being delivered week after week by our amazing leadership teams.
Throughout the year I have had the privilege of visiting many groups and sections across the District. Whether presenting Chief Scout Awards, celebrating Young Leader achievements, recognising King's Scout Awards or thanking volunteers with Length of Service Awards, Awards of Merit and Silver Acorns, these occasions never fail to remind me why Scouting is so special. Every award represents hours of commitment, perseverance and teamwork, and every recipient should be immensely proud of what they have achieved.







Our District has enjoyed another fantastic year of activities and events. From our annual St George's Day Parade, which once again brought together members from across Milton Keynes to celebrate our values and traditions, through to Beaver Camp, Cub Camp, Fortress, Explorer activities and countless local adventures organised by our Groups, there has been no shortage of opportunities for young people to challenge themselves and create lifelong memories.
One event that perfectly demonstrated the power of Scouting in our community was our involvement in the Milton Keynes Marathon Weekend. Hundreds of volunteers came together to support the baggage operation for over 8,000 runners, raising vital funds whilst showcasing the professionalism, teamwork and community spirit that Scouting is renowned for. Thank you to every volunteer who gave up their Bank Holiday to support this fantastic event.

This year also marked a significant milestone as we celebrated 110 years of Cub Scouts. Seeing Cubs from across the District celebrating such an important anniversary was a wonderful reminder of the rich history of Scouting and the lasting impact it continues to have on generations of young people.

Adventure remains at the heart of everything we do, and I was incredibly proud to wave off our Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members as they embarked on their long-awaited international expedition to the Netherlands. This adventure represented over two years of planning by volunteers and young people alike, and I know the experiences and memories they created will stay with them for a lifetime.

Our District Youth Team continues to go from strength to strength. Youth shaped Scouting is no longer simply an aspiration—it is becoming embedded in the way we deliver Scouting across Milton Keynes. Thank you to every member of the Youth Team for your energy, ideas and willingness to challenge us to think differently. Your voice is making a genuine difference.

During the year we also continued to strengthen the way we communicate with our members and the wider community. Our District's social media presence has grown significantly, with more stories being shared than ever before. I would like to thank our District Media Team and our Youth Media Team for capturing and celebrating the fantastic work happening across Milton Keynes. Every photograph, video and story helps showcase the incredible impact Scouting has within our communities and encourages others to volunteer.

Behind the scenes, we have continued to invest in the future of our District. Work has progressed on plans for the development of a new lodge at The Quarries Scout Campsite, ensuring that our much-loved campsite continues to meet the needs of future generations. This is an ambitious project which will require significant planning, collaboration and fundraising, but it represents an exciting vision for the future of Scouting in Milton Keynes. The Quarries continues to be one of our District's greatest assets, and I would like to personally thank Andy and the entire Quarries Team. Their tireless work maintaining and improving the site often goes unseen, but without their dedication the campsite simply would not be the fantastic resource it is today.

Volunteer recruitment and support has remained a priority throughout the year. We have introduced new recruitment initiatives, strengthened our induction processes and continued to look at innovative ways of making volunteering more accessible. Scouting simply cannot happen without volunteers, and every new adult who joins us helps transform the lives of more young people.







Milton Keynes Scout District was incredibly well represented at the Bucks County Carnival Camp, with a fantastic turnout of young people and volunteers from across the District. It was wonderful to see our Scouts, Explorers and Network members getting fully involved in everything the camp had to offer, making new friends, taking on new challenges and creating memories that will last a lifetime. Our volunteers also played a key role in supporting the wider County event, and I was incredibly proud to see MK Scouts making such a positive contribution. The enthusiasm, energy and sense of community shown throughout the camp was a fantastic reflection of the Place to Belong that we are creating across Milton Keynes.

As District Lead Volunteer, I have always believed that leadership is about enabling others to succeed. I am incredibly fortunate to work alongside an outstanding District Team, Trustee Board, Team Leads and Team Members who continually give their time, expertise and encouragement to help make our District stronger. Thank you for your unwavering support, your challenge when it is needed and your shared commitment to delivering the very best for our young people. I would also like to thank every Group Lead Volunteer, Section Team Leader, Trustee, occasional helper, parent and supporter across the District. Whether you volunteer every week, once a month or just a few times a year, you are making a difference. Every campfire lit, every game played, every badge awarded and every encouraging conversation helps shape the future of a young person.

As we look ahead, there is much to be excited about. We will continue our focus on sustainable growth, supporting volunteers, expanding adventurous activities, strengthening youth-shaped decision making and developing The Quarries for future generations. We will also continue embracing innovation and technology to ensure we remain a modern, inclusive and welcoming Scout District.

Finally, I simply want to say thank you.

Thank you for your commitment.

Thank you for your friendship.

Thank you for your belief in what Scouting can achieve.



It remains an absolute privilege to serve as your District Lead Volunteer. I am immensely proud of everything we have accomplished together this year, and I cannot wait to see what we achieve in the year ahead.

Together, we continue to provide young people with skills for life, unforgettable adventures and a place where everyone belongs.

Jason Raggett
District Lead Volunteer
Milton Keynes Scout District







Trustee Board Report:

MILTON KEYNES DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1150177
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Registration Number: 1150177

Trustees:
Bernard Hancox District Chair
Ashley Pankhurst Treasurer
Jason Raggett District Lead Volunteer
Michael Gibson District 14 – 24 Team Lead
Nathan Robinson District Youth Lead
Elisa McCarthy
Alexander Garner
Beverley Delaney
Andrew Frogbrook
Daniel Shipley
Paul McCarthy
David Roberts
Alex Thumm (From 23rd September 2025)

Principal Address:
51 Carey Way
Olney
Bucks
MK46 4DR

Bankers

Milton Keynes District Scout Council
Lloyds Bank PLC
NatWest Bank PLC

Milton Keynes Gang Show
Milton Keynes District Explorer Scouts
The Quarries Scout Campsite
Network MK
Lloyds Bank PLC

CONTENTS **PAGE**

Trustees' annual report	1 – 2
Independent examiner's report	3
Statement of financial activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the accounts	6

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Structure, Governance and Management
The District is a trust established under its rules, which are common to all Districts. The 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 of The Scout Association.
Trustees are appointed in accordance with the policy, organisation and rules of The Scout Association.

The Milton Keynes District Scout Council includes the following subsidiaries:

1. Milton Keynes District Explorer Scouts
2. The Quarries Scout Camp Site
3. Milton Keynes Gang Show
4. MK Scout Network

The Trustees have identified the major risks to which they believe the charity is exposed. They have established systems to mitigate these, hold regular liaison meetings and are continually monitoring the individual finances of each subsidiary.

Objectives and Activities
To promote and support successful Scouting throughout the Milton Keynes District. In planning activities for the year, the Trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission with regard to public benefit. There are five different age groups covering ages 4 to 25 and all young people are welcome to join regardless of personal background, faith or personal circumstances. Members benefit greatly in developing their self-confidence and social skills as well as learning new practical and life skills.

Achievements and performance
As ever, a large number of successful District activities and events have taken place including a themed Cub Camp at The Quarries, Beaver Camp at Leslie Sell Centre at Bromham. Fortress 25 for the Scout section organised and run by the Explorer Scout team.
Leaders from the Scout team have organised and held a number of events aimed the Patrol Leaders.
The Explorer Scouts have also organised and run many activities during the year.

Selection events took place for young people to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027, toether with the Bucks Grand Tour.

The Explorer Scout team are working towards a major camp in the Netherlands in 2026.

The Scout Shop and the Badge Secretaries continue to provide a valuable service to the parents and Groups respectively and make a small financial surplus over the year.

The Quarries saw a very busy year with many non-local campers and visitors. The replacement of The Lodge edges slightly closer with a small team moving this important project forward.

Financial review
At the end of the year, total bank and cash funds amounted to £379,491 with a liability (for Annual Membership Subscriptions) of £95,589.00 together with advance payments in for the Netherlands 2026 event.

Reserves policy
The District Trustee Board's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income fall short.

The District Trustee Board considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 10 months running costs, circa £90,000. In addition, the District Trustee Board continues to build a fund for the future replacement of buildings at The Quarries Scout Campsite.

Additionally, the Trustee Board will continue to allocate 20% of it's proportion of the Annual Membership Subscription towards funding future World Jamboree participants.

Investment policy
The District Trustee Board has adopted a low-risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

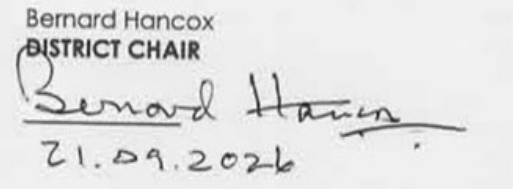
Public benefit
The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Plans for future periods
Milton Keynes Scout District intends to continue developing opportunities for young people to experience Scouting. It also intends, to increase the participation of young people in decision-making at all levels.

The Trustees will continue to support the excellent work being carried out by the District Lead Volunteer and his team.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name: Milton Keynes District Scout Council

On accounts for the year ended	31 March 2026	Charity no (if any)	1150177

Set out on pages 1-18

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member and fellow of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: V. Bowyer **Date:** 19 September 2026

Name: Mrs Vanessa Bowyer FCCA

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body : Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Milton Keynes District Scout Council				
Annual accounts for the period				
Period start date	01-Apr-25	To	31-Mar-26	

Section A Statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Incoming resources (Note 3)				
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	9 083	-	9 083	13 711
Charitable activities	246 129	-	246 129	249 700
Investments	4 053	-	4 053	3 272
Total	259 265	-	259 265	266 683
Resources expended (Note 4)				
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	227 380	-	227 380	242 113
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	227 380	-	227 380	242 113
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	31 885	-	31 885	24 570
Net income/(expenditure)	31 885	-	31 885	24 570
Transfers between funds			-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):				
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	31 885	-	31 885	24 570
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	547 733		547 733	523 163
Total funds carried forward	579 618	-	579 618	547 733

Milton Keynes District Scout Council	Charity No	1150177
Annual accounts for the period		Period end date: 31/03/26

Section B Balance sheet

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	(Note 6)	427 980	-	427 980	423 847
Total fixed assets		427 980	-	427 980	423 847
Current assets					
Stocks	(Note 7)	16 758	-	16 758	17 660
Debtors	(Note 8)	11 227	-	11 227	11 017
Cash at bank and in hand	(Note 9)	379 491	-	379 491	305 614
Total current assets		407 476	-	407 476	334 291
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(Note 10)	255 838	-	255 838	210 405
Net current assets/(liabilities)		151 638	-	151 638	123 886
Total assets less current liabilities		579 618	-	579 618	547 733
Total net assets or liabilities		579 618	-	579 618	547 733
Funds of the Charity					
Restricted income funds	(Note 11)	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds		579 618	-	579 618	547 733
Total funds		579 618	-	579 618	547 733

Signed by trustee on behalf of all the trustees

Print Name	Date of approval
Bernard Hancox	
BERNARD HANCOX	21.09.2026

Section C Notes to the accounts

Note 1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

	✓	the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)
and with	✓	the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)

and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.	✓

1.2 Going concern

An explanation as to those factors that support the conclusion that the charity is a going concern;	**No material uncertainties**
Disclosure of any uncertainties that make the going concern assumption doubtful;	**N/A**
Where accounts are not prepared on a going concern basis, please disclose this fact together with the basis on which the trustees prepared the accounts and the reason why the charity is not regarded as a going concern.	**N/A**

1.3 Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note 2.

Yes	✓	* -Tick as appropriate
No		

Please disclose:

(i) the nature of the change in accounting policy;	The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis
(ii) the reasons why applying the new accounting policy provides more reliable and more relevant information; and	This policy has been adopted based on the levels of charity gross income for the year ended 31 March 2026
(iii) the amount of the adjustment for each line affected in the current period, each prior period presented and the aggregate amount of the adjustment relating to periods before those presented, 3.44 FRS 102 SORP.	See note 2.1

1.4 Changes to accounting estimates

No changes to accounting estimates have occurred in the reporting period (3.46 FRS 102 SORP).

Yes	✓	
No		

Note 2 Accounting policies

2.1 RECONCILIATION WITH PREVIOUS GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRACTICE

Accounts prepared on an accruals basis as last year.

Reconcilation of funds per previous GAAP to funds determined under FRS 102

	Start of period £	End of period £
Fund balances as previously stated		
Adjustments:		
Recognition of subscriptions in advance		
Fund balance as restated		

Reconcilation of net income/(net expenditure) per previous GAAP to net income/(net expenditure) under FRS 102

	End of £
Net income/(expenditure) as previously stated (receipts and payments)	
Adjustments:	
Debtors and stock	
Fixed assets	
Creditors and accruals	
Previous period net income/(expenditure) as restated	

Note 2 Accounting policies

2.2 INCOME

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those ticked "No" or "N/a". Where a different or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

		Yes	No	N/a
Recognition of income	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: • the charity becomes entitled to the resources; · it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and • the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.	✓		
Offsetting	There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.	✓		
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).	✓		
	In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).			✓
Legacies	Legacies are included in the SOFA when receipt is probable, that is, when there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.			✓
Government grants	The charity has received government grants in the reporting period		✓	
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.	✓		
Contractual income and performance related grants	This is only included in the SoFA once the charity has provided the related goods or services or met the performance related conditions.			✓
Donated goods	Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.			✓
	The cost of any stock of goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries is deemed to be the fair value of those gifts at the time of their receipt and they are recognised on receipt. In the reporting period in which the stocks are distributed, they are recognised as an expense at the carrying amount of the stocks at distribution.			✓
	Donated goods for resale are measured at fair value on initial recognition, which is the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale, and recognised in 'Income from other trading activities' with the corresponding stock recognised in the balance sheet. On its sale the value of stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds from sale are also recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'.			✓
	Goods donated for on-going use by the charity are recognised as tangible fixed assets and included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable.			✓
	Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as income from donations when receivable.			✓
Donated services and facilities	Donated services and facilities are included in the SOFA when received at the value of the gift to the charity provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably.			✓
	Donated services and facilities that are consumed immediately are recognised as income with an equivalent amount recognised as an expense under the appropriate heading in the SOFA.			✓
Support costs	The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.	✓		
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.			✓
Income from interest, royalties and dividends	This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.			✓
Income from membership subscriptions	Membership subscriptions received in the nature of a gift are recognised in Donations and Legacies.			✓
	Membership subscriptions which gives a member the right to buy services or other benefits are recognised as income earned from the provision of goods and services as income from charitable activities.			✓

		Yes	No	N/a
Settlement of insurance claims	Insurance claims are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP) and are included as an item of other income in the SoFA.	✓		
Investment gains and losses	This includes any realised or unrealised gains or losses on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.			✓

2.3 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

		Yes	No	N/a
Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.	✓		
Governance and support costs	Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.	✓		
	Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.	✓		
Grants with performance conditions	Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SoFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.			✓
Grants payable without performance conditions	Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the donor charity to realistically avoid the commitment, a liability for the full funding obligation must be recognised.			✓
Redundancy cost	The charity made no redundancy payments during the reporting period.			✓
Deferred income	No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.		✓	
Creditors	The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts	✓		
Provisions for liabilities	A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date	✓		
Basic financial instruments	The charity accounts for basic financial instruments on initial recognition as per paragraph 11.7 FRS102 SORP. Subsequent measurement is as per paragraphs 11.17 to 11.19, FRS102 SORP.			✓

2.4 ASSETS

			Yes	No	N/a
Tangible fixed assets for use by charity	These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least				
	They are valued at cost.		✓		
	The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 9.2.				
Intangible fixed assets	The charity has intangible fixed assets, that is, non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are identifiable and are controlled by the charity through custody or legal rights. The amortisation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 9.5				✓
	They are valued at cost.				✓
Heritage assets	The charity has heritage assets, that is, non-monetary assets with historic, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture. The depreciation rates and methods used as disclosed in note 9.6.1.4.				✓
	They are valued at cost.				✓
Investments	Fixed asset investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued at initially at cost and subsequently at fair value (their market value) at the year end. The same treatment is applied to unlisted investments unless fair value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment.				✓
	Investments held for resale or pending their sale and cash and cash equivalents with a maturity date of less than 1 year are treated as current asset investments				✓
Stocks and work in progress	Stocks held for sale as part of non-charitable trade are measured at the lower or cost or net realisable value.		✓		
	Goods or services provided as part of a charitable activity are measured at net realisable value based on the service potential provided by items of stock.				✓
	Work in progress is valued at cost less any foreseeable loss that is likely to occur on the contract.				✓

		Yes	No	N/a
Debtors	Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.	✓		
Current asset investments	The charity has has investments which it holds for resale or pending their sale and cash and cash equivalents with a maturity date less than one year. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity date of less than one year held for investment purposes rather than to meet short term cash commitments as they fall due.			✓
	They are valued at fair value except where they qualify as basic financial instruments.			✓

Section C Notes to the accounts (cont)

Note 3 Analysis of income

	Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	2 413	-	2 413	5 800
	Gift Aid	6 670	-	6 670	2 111
	General grants provided by government/other charities	-	-	-	5 800
	Total	**9 083**	**-**	**9 083**	13 711
Charitable activities:	Membership subscriptions and Gang Show	122 908	-	122 908	114 266
	Site fees : The Quarries	37 196	-	37 196	33 815
	Sale of clothing and badges	25 645	-	25 645	15 390
	Camps and activities	52 001	-	52 001	69 785
	Other receipts	8 363	-	8 363	8 543
	Jamboree/Damboree/International	-	-	-	-
	Gang Show and tickets	16	-	16	2 551
	Profit on disposal of assets	-	-	-	5 350
	Total	**246 129**	**-**	**246 129**	249 700
Income from investments:	Interest income	4 053	-	4 053	3 272
	Total	**4 053**	**-**	**4 053**	3 272

Section C Notes to the accounts (cont)

Note 4 Analysis of expenditure

	This year			Last year		
Analysis	**Unrestricted funds**	**Restricted income funds**	**Total funds £**	**Unrestricted funds**	**Restricted income funds**	**Total funds £**
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Membership subscriptions	95 589	-	95 589	90 125	-	90 125
Stock of clothing and badges	25 417	-	25 417	10 823	-	10 823
Camps, activities and hall hire	55 933	-	55 933	55 011	-	55 011
Gang show expenses	45	-	45	2 372	-	2 372
Purchases and repair of equipment	-	-	-	2 612	-	2 612
Insurance	4 910	-	4 910	6 575	-	6 575
Utilities	5 219	-	5 219	11 033	-	11 033
Administration expenses	4 368	-	4 368	1 483	-	1 483
Site development expenses	2 068	-	2 068	7 036	-	7 036
Printing and stationery	350	-	350	310	-	310
Sundry expenses	1 337	-	1 337	1 781	-	1 781
Site maintenance	21 902	-	21 902	22 599	-	22 599
Trustee and Leader expenses	5 730	-	5 730	12 752	-	12 752
Jamboree/Damboree/Special projects	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and write downs	4 512	-	4 512	17 601	-	17 601
Total expenditure on charitable activities	**227 380**	**-**	**227 380**	**242 113**	**-**	**242 113**

Section C Notes to the accounts

Note 5 Details of certain items of expenditure

5.1 Fees for examination of the accounts

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's fees	-	-
Assurance services other than audit or independent examination	-	-
Tax advisory fees	-	-
Other fees (for example: financial advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner	-	-

Section C Notes to the accounts (cont)

Note 6 Tangible fixed assets

6.1 Cost or valuation

	Freehold land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
At the beginning of the year	420 000	-	38 707	458 707
Additions	-	-	8 645	8 645
Revaluations	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	**420 000**	**-**	**47 352**	**467 352**

6.2 Depreciation and impairments

	Not depreciated	Straight line	Straight line	Straight line
At beginning of the year	- 10 000	-	- 24 860	- 34 860
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	- 4 512	- 4 512
Impairments				-
At end of the year	**- 10 000**	**-**	**- 29 372**	**- 39 372**

6.3 Net book value

Net book value at the beginning of the year	**410 000**	**-**	**63 567**	**423 847**
Net book value at the end of the year	410 000	-	17 980	427 980

Section C Notes to the accounts (cont)

Note 7 Stocks

	Stock	
	2026	2025
	£	£
Charitable activities:		
Badges	7 792	9 028
Shop	8 966	8 582
Tuck shop	-	50
	16 758	**17 660**

Section C Notes to the accounts (cont)

Note 8 Debtors and prepayments

8.1 Analysis of debtors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade debtors	274	-
Prepayments and accrued income	10 953	11 017
Total	**11 227**	**11 017**

Section C Notes to the accounts (cont)

Note 9 Cash at bank and in hand

	This year	Last year
	£	£
Cash at bank and on hand	379 491	305 614
Total	**379 491**	305 614

Note 10 Creditors and accruals

10.1 Analysis of creditors

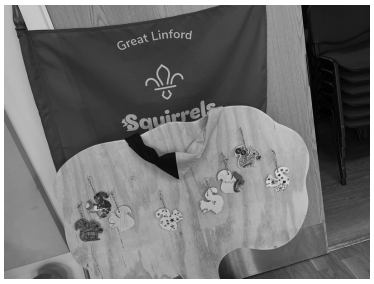
	Amounts falling due within one year	
	This year £	Last year £
Netherlands 2026 trip	44 076	11 330
County and HQ Membership fees	95 589	90 125
Annual Group Memberships in advance	116 173	108 950
	255 838	**210 405**

Programme Team :

Squirrels

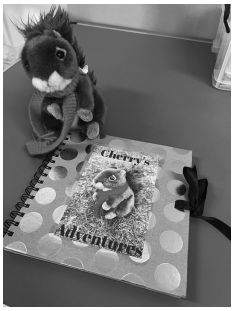
This year we have been able to open two more Squirrel Dreys in Milton Keynes, taking the total to 4, with some more in the pipeline.











Beavers

Over the past year Beavers have had a busy year with District events, Beaver camp at Bromham, Gullivers day trip, Hike to Quarries with camp fire & smores, Land of Lights, Sleepover at MK Safari and a 3-mile Hike around Caldecotte Lake and a social evening for leaders at Christmas.

This year our Beavers enjoyed a fantastic trip to Warwick Castle, where Beavers, along with leaders and parent helpers, spent the day exploring the castle grounds, watching the birds of prey display / climbing the towers / the knight's tales.







The Beavers were enthusiastic and well behaved throughout, and it was a great chance to build teamwork and friendships outside our usual meeting place.

We also celebrated 40 years of Beaver Scouts with a special Beaver Birthday, marking four decades of fun, friendship and adventure for young people. The Colonies joined in with activities, e.g. games, a birthday cake, badges, crafts, and the Beavers loved being part of such a milestone for the section. Thank you to all the leaders, parents and volunteers who made the event possible.

We have a busy year ahead planed with Hikes, Beaver camp , Cotswold Wildlife Park and the usual sleepovers.

Barbara Smith
Programme Team - Beaver Lead









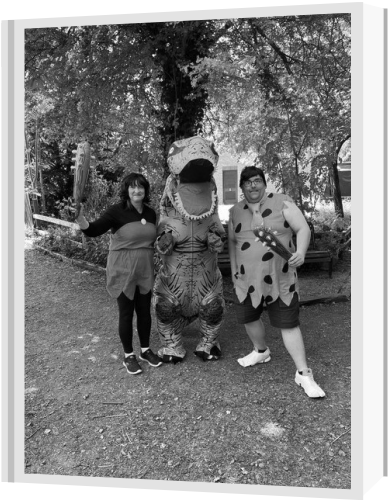








Cubs



The “Meet the Flintstones” camp in May 2025 was a fantastic success, with an excellent turnout from Cub Packs across Milton Keynes. We were delighted to welcome experts from Bradwell Abbey, who brought the Stone Age to life through a range of engaging, hands-on activities. Cubs also had the opportunity to enjoy many of the exciting activities that The Quarries has to offer.A huge thank you goes to the Quarries Site Crew, Catering Team and all our Cub volunteers, whose enthusiasm, hard work and dedication helped make the weekend such a memorable experience for everyone involved.



In November, our Cubs proudly supported a local Milton Keynes charity helping children in Ukraine. They created Scout-themed comfort bears, complete with woggles and outfits handmade from fabric, alongside Christmas decorations, letters and cards.



These thoughtful gifts were included in comfort bags that were personally delivered by the charity to children in hospitals, orphanages and families facing hardship. We are incredibly proud of the kindness, creativity and generosity shown by our Cubs. Their efforts helped bring comfort, hope and smiles to many children at what can be a very difficult time of year.

To mark 110 years of Cubs, the District held a Cubs Fun Day in May 2026 at The Quarries attended by Cubs from across Milton Keynes. The day featured activities and gave Cubs from different Packs the chance to come together, make new friends and celebrate the milestone.

The event was well received by Cubs, leaders and parents alike, and reflected the strength of Cubs in the District. Thanks go to all he Leaders, Young Leaders, Quarries Crew and other volunteers whose hard work made the day possible.

Claire Harris
Programme Team - Cub Lead







Scouts

The 14 – 24 team ran another hugely successful Fortress event with the district scout team running pioneering practice weekends leading up to the event to help Scouts develop the skills needed.







In September teams of Scouts completed to collect all the Milton Keynes Monopoly Squares across the city centre, for many of us it was the most steps we did in any single day!

The Scout Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders joined training sessions throughout the year, helping to develop their skills in various activities and leadership.

Dave, Kevin, Mike & Danni
Programme Team - Scout Team















14-24 Team:



In last year's review, I reflected on how Explorers and Network had transformed; how we had grown, adapted, and learned together under a new structure. This year, we have built on those foundations, strengthening and securing our place within the District, creating and testing new opportunities for young people at both here in Milton Keynes and national level, and continuing to provide a place where everyone belongs — long before it ever became a new tagline.

This year has taken us all over - We've spent the day hurtling around Thorpe Park, supported thousands of runners at the MK Marathon, and welcomed over 270 people to Fortress26. We've watched our Young Leaders inspire the next generation of Scouts, while our Network members have continued to demonstrate that Scouting definitely does not stop at 18.






For many, this year will be remembered for one thing above all else: The Netherlands 2026. Two years of planning, fundraising, training days, risk assessments, and countless spreadsheets all came together to deliver an incredible ten day long international experience that many of our young people will never forget. From paddle boarding through The Hague and exciting Amsterdam adventures to clog painting, tree top climbing, and late-night conversations, it was a reminder of why we do what we do.
But the real success of the year can't be measured in air miles travelled or the collective one thousand, six hundred and seventy four nights away undertaken this year. It can be found in the 14-year-old who walked through the door for the first time and found their people. In the Explorer who stepped up to lead an activity for the very first time. In the Network member who stayed behind to help pack away when nobody asked them to and the incredible leaders who have learnt new skills through helping others.

This year, we have continued to invest in our programme, our people, and our future. We have introduced new equipment, delivered bigger and better events, strengthened our volunteer team through training and permits, and created more opportunities for young people to develop skills for life.




Explorers have continued to go from strength to strength, while Network has firmly established itself as one of the largest, most active and engaged Scout Networks in the County. Together, they have created something special: a community where everyone is welcome, everyone has a voice, and everyone has the opportunity to make memories that will last a lifetime.
There have been challenges along the way, as there always are - but this year has shown us that when a thriving community of over 150 young people and volunteers come together, there is very little we cannot achieve.

Explorer Scouts — Year in Review

What a year it has been for our Explorer Scouts! The past 12 months have been packed with activities, camps, events, challenges and opportunities, with our Explorers getting involved across Milton Keynes, the wider county and further afield.

From camps and international adventures to community events and theme parks, it has been another non-stop year — and one that has seen our Explorers continue to grow in confidence, learn new skills and, most importantly, have a lot of fun along the way.

Skycamp - September.
We kicked off the year with Skycamp, with our Explorers throwing themselves into one of our favourite events. The weekend saw teams competing across a range of challenges, and our Explorers came away with a raft of awards — a fantastic start to the year.

Scarefest - October.
October saw around 65 Explorers head to Gilwell Park for Scarefest. Alongside
the usual mix of activities and challenges, the team took on the Trek Cart Challenge, run by Lincolnshire Scouts. Our team proved their skills and speed by taking the fastest time on the course, giving everyone another reason to celebrate.

Christmas Camp - December.
We rounded out 2025 with our Christmas Camp, welcoming around
60 people for a weekend packed with activities. The programme included a hike, shooting, green-screen photography, a movie night and a quiz, alongside plenty of time to relax and spend time together. It was a brilliant way to finish the year and get everyone ready for what was to come in 2026.







Endurance 80 January Onwards.
As the new year began, we teamed up with Network to run a series of practice walks for the Endurance 80. These gave participants the opportunity to build up their fitness, navigation and confidence ahead of the main event, while also bringing our Explorer and Network sections together.







Back to Basics Camp - March.
A brilliant weekend focused on traditional Scouting skills, with Explorers camping in bivvies, cooking over open fires and practising knife and axe skills. It was a great opportunity to strip things back to basics and give young people the chance to develop practical skillsand confidence in the outdoors.

Linking Events.
This year also saw the launch of our new Explorer linking events, designed to help Scouts feel more confident about making the move up to Explorers. So far, we have run a scavenger hunt around Campbell Park and a cooking event at The Quarries, giving Scouts the chance to meet some of the Explorer team, make new friends and experience what Explorer Scouts has to offer.

The aim is to continue building these events, with another linking event planned for November.

Wales Adventure - April.
April brought one of the biggest adventures of the year, with a coach load of Explorers heading to Wales for four days. The trip was packed with activities, including white-water rafting, gorge scrambling, kayaking and a RIB ride around Cardiff Bay. We also challenged everyone with a bargain hunt and a Ready Steady Cook competition.

It was four days of adventure, teamwork and plenty of memories — and a fantastic opportunity for our Explorers to try activities that many had never experienced before.



London Monopoly Run - April.
The London Monopoly Run continues to get bigger and better, and this year around 80 Explorers headed into London to take part. Teams navigated their way around the capital, completing challenges and collecting points along the way. With 80 young people involved, it was another fantastic opportunity for our Explorers to work together, navigate independently and explore London.

Warwick Castle - April.
At the end of April, we joined the Beavers for a trip to Warwick Castle, giving our younger sections an opportunity to enjoy a day out alongside the Explorers.



Milton Keynes Marathon - April.
Our Explorers also played a huge part in supporting the MiltonKeynes Marathon, with more than 50 Explorers volunteering across the event. It was a fantasticexample of our young people giving back to the local community. As well as providing valuable support to the event, the money raised made a significant contribution towards the cost of the coach for oursummer theme park trip.

Cubs 110th Birthday - May.
May saw us supporting the Cubs as they celebrated their 110th birthday at The Quarries. Our Explorers worked alongside Scouts to help set up the event the day before, demonstrating once again the willingness of our young people to get stuck in and support Scouting across Milton Keynes.

Bucks County Carnival - May.
At the end of May, we headed down to the south of Buckinghamshire for the Bucks Scouts County Carnival. With around 2,500 young people on site, it was a huge weekend for Scouting across the county. Our Explorers made the most of the evening programme, with highlights including the inflatables and roller rink.

Fortress26 - June.
Around 270 people were on site for a weekend packed with activities, challenges and entertainment. The programme included inflatables, an evening disco, a Taskmaster-style challenge run by our Youth Team, a drumming workshop, the Trek Cart Challenge once again run by Lincolnshire Scouts, and tomahawk throwing.

Fortress continues to be a fantastic opportunity for young people from across Milton Keynes to come together, and this year's event was another huge success.



Thorpe Park - July.
We rounded off the academic year with a coach trip to Thorpe Park, giving our
Explorers the chance to enjoy a day of rides, thrills and, most importantly, a well-earned celebration after another incredibly busy year. The trip was made possible thanks to the money raised through the Milton Keynes Marathon and a generous contribution from the District, helping us provide a fantastic end-of-year thank-you event for our young people.
And that's just the highlights...

Across the year, our Explorers have taken part in an incredible range of activities, from adventurous outdoor pursuits and traditional Scouting skills to volunteering, competitions, camps and huge county events. Behind every one of these events is a huge amount of work from our volunteers — planning, organising, transporting equipment, running activities, fundraising and giving up their time to make these opportunities possible.

Most importantly, the year has been about giving young people opportunities to try new things, challenge themselves, build friendships and create memories... And with plenty more already in the pipeline, there's no sign of things slowing down anytime soon.

Network:MK — A Year in Review

Network:MK has had a varied and active year, with members taking part in everything from adventurous
weekends and fundraising activities to community support and social events.

Skycamp - September.
The year began with Skycamp, where a Network team created a cinema-
themed treehouse. Their design, teamwork and attention to detail impressed the judges, earning them first place and giving Network an excellent start to the year.

Halloween Escape Room - October.
In October, 11 members took on a Halloween escape room. Working together to solve puzzles and complete challenges, the group enjoyed a suitably spooky evening and a chance to put their problem-solving skills to the test.

Christmas Bowling - December.
Before the Christmas break, Network members met for a bowling social. The evening provided an opportunity to relax, enjoy some friendly competition and celebrate the
end of the year together.

Racing Simulator— January.
The first activity of the new year was an evening using racing simulators. With plenty of close competition, members battled it out on the virtual tracks while testing their drivingskills and enjoying a fast-paced social activity.

Shooting - February.
February brought an opportunity to try shooting. The activity encouraged members to develop their concentration, accuracy and confidence while experiencing something a little different from the usual programme.

Endurance 80 - March.
Network played an important role in supporting the Endurance 80 in March by running the overnight base. Members helped support walkers throughout the night, providing encouragement and assistance while contributing to the successful delivery of this demanding event.

Revolution - April.
In April, Network travelled to the Isle of Wight for Revolution. The event offered a packed programme of activities, made even more memorable by some challenging weather. The thriller dance workshop was a particular highlight and proved popular with the group.

London Monopoly Run - April.
Twenty-five Network members took part in the London Monopoly Run, navigating their way around the capital while completing challenges and collecting points. The event combined teamwork, independent navigation and exploration, making it another memorable day out for the group.

Milton Keynes Marathon - May.
In May, 20 Network members volunteered at the Milton Keynes Marathon, supporting the Explorers throughout the day. Their involvement helped the event run smoothly and showed the continued willingness of Network members to give their time in support of others.

Peak District Camp - May.
A minibus of Network members travelled to the Peak District for a four-day camp. Some members used the weekend for King's Scout Award expedition practice, while others explored the southern Peak District. The camp offered a mixture of personal development, outdoor adventure and time to enjoy the countryside.





Fortress26 - June.
Eighteen Network members supported Fortress26 in June. They helped deliver activities and assisted with the wider organisation of the weekend, making an important contribution to the success of the event.

Summer Socials.
The summer term ended with a BBQ social and quiz fundraiser. It was a relaxed way to bring members together after a busy year, while also raising money to help fund future Network activities.

And that's just the highlights...

This year has seen Network:MK members take part in a huge range of activities, including outdoor adventures, skills development, volunteering, fundraising, competitions and social events.For Network:MK, the year has been about building confidence, trying new experiences, supporting others and strengthening friendships.

There is already plenty more planned, so the year ahead promises to be just as active.

Netherlands 2026 - Ten Days of Adventure

One of the biggest highlights of the year was undoubtedly our 10-day international expedition to the Netherlands, bringing together Explorers and Network from across Milton Keynes for an action-packed trip filled with adventure, independence, new experiences and plenty of memories.This was a trip that had been in planning for a little over two years, with a huge amount of work going on behind the scenes to make it possible. From fundraising and training to accommodation, travel arrangements, risk assessments and the seemingly endless stream of paperwork required for an international expedition, this was a major undertaking for the 14–24 Team.

When we launched this mad cap plan we suggested that we might need 25 young people to make the event feasible and the response from our young people was fantastic, we ended up with 62 young people signed up and a few more on a waiting list. Along the way, participants completed training days, including a day of stand-up paddleboarding at Willen Lake, helping everyone prepare for the activities they would encounter in the Netherlands. After months of preparation, the adventure finally began with the journey from Heathrow to Amsterdam. From there, the group set about making the most of everything the Netherlands had to offer. One of the first major activities was a paddleboarding tour around The Hague, giving everyone the chance to explore the city from a completely different perspective - it was certainly an energetic way to get the trip underway!







The group stayed at Buitenzorg Scout Campsite, giving everyone the opportunity to experience international Scouting and spend time alongside fellow Scouts in a completely different environment to home. Of course, no trip to the Netherlands would have been complete without a visit to Efteling, Europe's largest theme park. The group spent the day exploring, taking on its rides, attractions and beautifully themed areas.

After days of travelling and activities, it was also a chance for everyone to relax, enjoy themselves and spend time with friends. The adventure continued in the Dutch capital as teams took to the streets of Amsterdam, navigating their way around the city and completing activities along the way. It was a fantastic opportunity for young people to explore one of Europe's most famous cities while putting their teamwork, navigation and problem-solving skills to the test. Rather than simply being tourists, participants had to work together, make decisions and find their way around the city — exactly the sort of experience that international Scouting trips are all about.

As part of this day the group also headed to A'DAM Lookout Tower, providing spectacular views across Amsterdam.
After spending so much time exploring the city at street level, seeing the scale of Amsterdam from above was a memorable experience and gave everyone a chance to appreciate just how much of the city they had managed to explore.

Although the trip was packed with exciting activities, the Netherlands expedition was about much more than simply visiting attractions. For many of our young people, this was an opportunity to travel internationally without their families, experience a different culture, navigate unfamiliar places and take on responsibility for themselves and others. Young people had to manage their belongings, work as part of teams, stick to meeting points and timings, look after one another and adapt when plans inevitably changed. Those are exactly the skills that are difficult to teach in a meeting room but come naturally when you're halfway across Europe with your friends. The trip also brought together young people from across our Explorer provision who might not normally spend much time together.

Friendships were formed, existing friendships strengthened and the group became a genuine team over the course of the ten days. A trip of this scale doesn't happen without an enormous amount of work from volunteers. Behind the ten days in the Netherlands were months of planning, training, fundraising and administration. The team completed a whopping 23 separate risk assessments, prepared the necessary international expedition paperwork, developed emergency and critical incident arrangements and worked through the many logistical challenges involved in taking a large group of young people overseas. There were also practical challenges to solve, including accommodation arrangements for both under-18s and over-18s, transport, equipment, finances and keeping everyone informed throughout the process.

So to summarise, the event; Ten days, hundreds of miles, countless adventures and a huge number of memories — the Netherlands 2026 trip was an experience that will stay with our Explorers and leaders for many years to come and we can't wait for our next international adventure in 2029.

Mike Gibson
14 to 24 Team Lead
Milton Keynes Scouts

















Volunteer Development Team:

It has been a busy year for everyone and, as I reflect on the past 12 months, I am incredibly proud of all that we have achieved.
Our District continues to grow, which means the Volunteer Development Team remains very busy, particularly with Welcome Conversations. At the time of writing, we have 57 Welcome Conversations waiting to be completed. If you would like to support this important area of work, I would be delighted to hear from you and welcome you to the team.



The team is also responsible for Volunteer Awards, and it has been a pleasure to recognise so many deserving volunteers this year. We have presented Length of Service Awards, Commendations, Awards of Merit and Silver Acorns. In July, we celebrated these achievements at a special recognition event hosted by Network Rail.

We have also recently launched our Thank You & Recognition Scheme, which is open to everyone and provides an opportunity to acknowledge those who support Scouting. Please take a moment to find out more about the scheme Thank You's & Recognition, as recognising and thanking our volunteers is an important part of celebrating the dedication and commitment that makes Scouting possible.

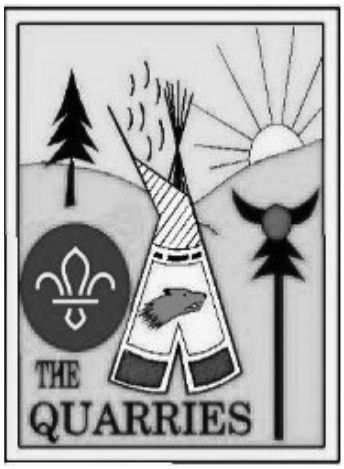
I would also like to thank all members who have completed their required learning. While we have seen great progress, we continue to face challenges with some members not completing their learning within the required timescales. Unfortunately, this has resulted in several memberships being suspended. Ensuring learning is completed on time helps us provide a safe, high-quality Scouting experience for all young people and volunteers.



If you have any questions relating to learning, Welcome Conversations or awards, please do get in touch. Together, we can find solutions and support one another.
Thank you for your continued commitment to Scouting. I look forward to the year ahead and to continuing to work alongside you all.

Janette Gibbs
District Volunteer Development Team Lead

Support Team:



The Quarries Scout Campsite:

The Campsite has had a successfully year with only a few weekends where we had no bookings. The district groups are continuing to use the facilities more during the week. Also, the Guides and local Grafton District Scout Groups are increasing their use.

We have hosted several large events for the District, as well as several outer District events. These events continue to improve with activities and good numbers of participants. We continue to push the limits on the facilities. The Campsite continues to get complimentary reviews from all the Users we have using the site.

We also had a successfully JOTA/JOTI weekend event with about 140 young members taking part again. The Annual District Cub Camp with this year theme being Flintstone. We had 210 Cubs and over 50 leaders on site for the weekend activities. The other district camp we hosted was for the District Explorers. The event was Fortress 25, a challenge camp for about 140 Scouts helped and run by over 60 explorers and their leaders. Everyone has a great weekend on both events.
The District Beavers and Cubs have also celebrated the respective birthday parties with successful organised and run One day events.

We have had several other large events on site. Grafton District ran their District Scout Camp using all the activities on site plus utilising the Hanslope Group for water activities on the canal nearby. This was so successfully that they have book in for their District Cub Camp now. Over Easter we also had a re-visit from Marylebone Scout Group (London) with over 100 people participating which is becoming annual event.

I would like to thank The Service Crew for their regular help at weekends as well as occasional weekday assistance, who help maintain the biggest asset the district owns. With this a team of volunteers available every week keeps our Google level of service up at 4.8 over the year. The Crew work hard expanded provisions on site which helps the district to maintain this high level of service. Thankfully, the service crew has steadily grown over the past year, but it still cannot complete all the work needed, so if you have any spare time, you will be welcomed.

We have also had some immense help from the community, with Companies allowing their Employees to help with Community Projects. We have regular group of companies that do a day of work at the site. They help with Weeding, Painting, and planting. Then if the group has members that have any specific skills, we get them to help with some of the technical issue we have at the time. The list of companies we have had this year are Network Rail. Santander, and a team from Hanslope Park also did a few days.

A programme of working has now started to replace the whole wall surrounding the Archery Range. This wall is made from wood and has been up for over 15 years. It is now showing its age and is becoming un-safe. Once this has been completed, we will start working around the site and repairing and replace where necessary on all the other activities on site.

We have continued to keep The Lodge useable for groups over the last year as we try to raise money to replace it. Unfortunately, it is now current temporally closed as we assess and look at the cost of doing some input repairs to make the building safe until we can start the replacement programme.

Due to the Explorer Scouts activities, we have reviewed all the pioneering equipment. To accommodate the two main events Fortress and Skycamp we have now doubled the amount of equipment. There is now enough kit to build what you want. We have also had a lot of Scout groups now exploring more pioneering activities.

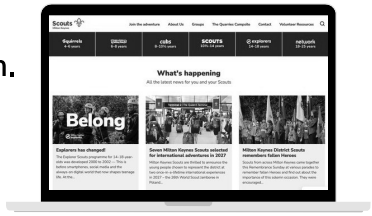
Over the year as we run various events, we have brought a few activities and built some team building activities. These have been enjoyed by participate and been add to the list of activities we can provide user.

After sorting through all the equipment we have acquired from closed groups, we have sorted it into different stores on site. We now have equipment to bolster the site when large events happen. We also have spare equipment for groups to use when needed. The site also has enough spare parts to start repairing equipment across the whole District. It any group breaks or loses a part of equipment they can bring it to the Campsite, and the Crew can attempt to fix it.

Andy Frogbrook
Warden

Media and IT:

Looking back:
This year the IT team have focused on improving service and time to resolution. We have implemented a new support portal at http://mkscouts.bolddesk.com/ or by email to it@mkscouts.org where we can track progress time and ensure that tickets do not get lost.



We have handled 128 tickets in that time of which 90% where resolved within 12 hours. 100% of tickets handled have received positive feedback with comments like 'Very fast service “Thank you :-)" and "Super speedy - loving this"

In addition we have created and piloted a new event booking system called ScoutOS Events (formerly EventOK). Thanks to the Explorer team for being our guinea pigs for Fortress. Since the Fortress pilot we have added OSM integration which we have used for the first time for Beaver Fun Day in September. Thanks to Barbara and Lisa for being our guinea pigs for this new functionality and to GLVs and Beaver Team Leads for working with us on this.

We have also focused on efficiency for GLVs for new email accounts and closure of old dormant accounts. We have automated the account creation upon request from the GLV which means we can create email accounts in seconds. In addition we have created a system which looks at the membership data and proposes account closures for people who have left Scouts. This is still in the pilot phase.

Looking forward:

After a review and inline with the protocols coming from Microsoft, our focus as the district will need to be on Security so we will be rolling out new security measures in line with Microsoft recommendations. Don't worry, we will take this slowly and we are planning a group 'roadshow' to help people implement this reliably.

In addition we see a number of people not using their MK Scouts email accounts and still relying on personal accounts to do Scouting 'business'. We are looking to put additional support in place to help people transition from personal accounts to their Scout accounts. Whilst this may seem additional workload, it is essential for us to be able to manage and secure data related to young people and volunteers as we have data protection obligations as the district.

Lastly, we have been supporting Lewis Pobjoy who has done a fantastic job of creating a new waiting list system to enable members of the public to better find groups that have space within the district. We are hoping to roll this out in the coming months to help increase membership across Milton Keynes and reduce the waiting list times for young people wherever possible. Kudos to Lewis for his amazing work on this!

Awards & Recognition:



Bar To Silver Acorn:
Adrian French – Langland
Ashley Pankhurst – District Trustee Board (Treasurer)



Silver Acorn:
Bernard Hancox District Trustee Board (Chair)



Bar To Award Of Merit:
Beverley Delaney - District Trustee/1st Wolverton
Debbie Pritchard - 1st Stony Stratford



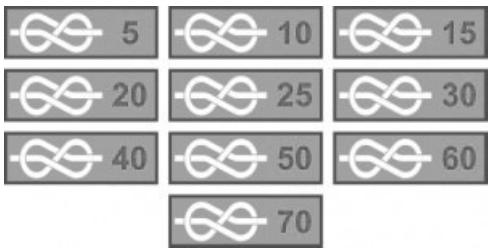
Award Of Merit:
Paul Monro – The Quarries (District Sub Team Member)
Dave Pollington – High Ash
Andrew Roberts – Oxley Park
Jenny Ryder-O'Regan – Programme Team Lead/26th Milton Keynes



Chief Scout Commendation(Good Service)
James Dickens – Hanslope and Castlethorpe Sea Scouts
Christine Frogbrook – Programme Team Member (Archery)
Alexander Garner – District Support Team/The Quarries
Michael Gibson – 14 – 24 Team Lead
Tracy Griffin – District Explorer Scout Team
Emma Hare – Two Mile Ash & Great Holm
Claire Harris – Programme Team / Bletchley
Paul Harris – The Quarries
Heidi Jasper – Events Team
Carl Hayes – 1st Crownhill
Samantha Mansfield – 1st Olney
Corin Mark – District Explorer Scout Team
Simon Oliver – Programme Team Member (Climbing)
James Richmond – Volunteer Development Team



Stuart Ridout – Support Team (Media & Communications)
Rozi Rowcroft-James – Loughton
Angela Roberts – Events Team
Daniel Shipley – District Support Team
Lyn Spaughton – 1st Wolverton
Lesley Thelwell – Broughton
Rebecca Waller – Broughton
Philip Yates – 1st Walton



Long Service Awards:

Adrian French – 50 years – Langland
Ian House – 50 years – Great Linford
Mike Judd – 40 years – Two Mile Ash and Great Holm
Wayne Constable – 30 years – 1st Bletchley
Chris Margetson – 30 years – 5th Newport Pagnell
Geoff Rayment – 30 years – 3rd Newport Pagnell
Stephen Rowe – 30 years – 1st Bletchley
Carl Hayes – 25 years – Crownhill
Mitch Wheeler – 25 years – Two Mile Ash and Great Holm
Beverley Delaney – 20 years - Chair – 1st Wolverton
Karen Hackett – 20 years - Furzton
Lesley French – 20 years – Langland
Paul Gerring – 15 years - Loughton



Young Leader Belt:
Izzy Bavington
Megan Clarkson
Parker Jacques
Lucas Judd
Adam Lowther
Victoria Walker



Chief Scouts Platinum Award:
Gabriel Rowcroft-James
Victoria Walker

A huge congratulations and heartfelt thank you to all of our award recipients this year. Your dedication, commitment and years of service to Scouting are truly inspiring.
These awards are a wonderful recognition of the time, energy and passion you give to supporting our young people and making Milton Keynes Scouts a Place to Belong. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you, and thank you for everything you continue to do.

Congratulations, and thank you for your outstanding contribution to Scouting!



Scouts

Milton Keynes