

**Suffolk County Scout Council**

Registered Charity No. 305682



# Annual Report

Trustees' Annual Report, Annual Review,  
& Statement of Accounts

**2023 / 2024**

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**#SkillsForLife**



**Scouts**  
Suffolk



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL**

**Hallowtree Activity Centre, Alnesbourne Priory, Nacton, Ipswich, IP10 OJP**

**Thursday 21st September 2023 at 7.45pm**

**PRESENT:**

Peter Jones (County Chair), County Commissioner, County Treasurer, County Secretary and Members of the County Scout Council (as per Constitution).

**Introduction by the Chair**

a. **Welcome:** the meeting opened with Peter Jones, County Chair, welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending especially Katherine West, County Commissioner from Suffolk Girlguiding.

He noted the apologies from the Vice Presidents and wished Gordon Biden who had recently had a fall, a speedy recovery.

The meeting was confirmed as quorate with 27 Council members in attendance and with sixteen guests.

b. **A Thought for the Meeting** was delivered by the Deputy County Commissioner, Keith Barber.

c. **Apologies** for absence (34) had been received from – Lady Clare, Countess of Euston (County President), Alison Barber, Gordon Biden, Sarah Britten, Martin Brooks, Gary Burden, Steve Challis, Celia Comber, Robin Farrar, Leigh Foster-Green, Alfie Foster-Green, Matt Gilbert, Mike Golston, Alan Gosling, Brian Harvey, Debby Hatcher, Paula Hollings, Anne Humphrys, Paul Hunt, John Ineson, David Jameson, Peter Jarvis, Janet Jennings, Lucy King, Graham Mackie, Matt Mills, Selina Noton, James Nunn, Michael Phillips, Alex Price, Brian Roe, Jenny Roe, Henry Slim, Charmain Southgate.

d. **The Minutes of the previous County Annual General Meeting** held on 22nd September 2022 were **APPROVED**.

**Governance**

**a. Suffolk Constitution**

i. Members were asked **to approve** the recommendation of the **Trustee Board for the re-adoption of the Suffolk Scouts' Constitution updated 21-Jun-2023 to v1.0b**.

a. This was **APPROVED by the members**.

ii. **To note the amendments to the Suffolk Constitution in respect of the terms 'Executive Committee' and 'Trustee Board'** with the changes introduced in POR in April 2023, the term 'Executive Committee' is replaced by 'Trustee Board' throughout the document. By inference, an 'Executive Member' becomes a 'Trustee Board Member'.

a. Members **ACKNOWLEDGED** the changes.

**b. Financial Reporting Year dates**

Members were asked to note that the Council's Financial Year begins on 1st April in each year and ends on 31st March the following year.

i. Members **ACKNOWLEDGED** the dates.

**Review of 2022/2023**

a. Receive and consider the **Annual Report & Accounts 2022/23**:

**Howard Blackett, the County Commissioner**, presented the Annual Report and highlighted the following points:

i. *44-page document*

ii. *Many thanks to all those who contributed a section of the report. Particular thanks to Jonny Emin, Treasurer, for the finance report and to Carl Gloess, Administrator, for chasing hard and for ensuring that the report was made ready both electronically and in hard copy for this evening's meeting.*

iii. *Of note in the report:*

a. *The County's finances are healthy (Jonny Emin to elaborate).*

b. *Our young people have been busy at all levels of scouting.*

c. *There has been very encouraging growth in the number of participants, and we are on course to meet our growth target numbers. Growth in squirrel dreys has been conspicuously good. Thanks to all our ACCs in charge of various sections:*

- *A.C.C. (Squirrels) Brian Harvey*
- *A.C.C. (Cub Scouts) Jo Cracknell*
- *A.C.C. (Scouts) Angela Humphrey*

d. *We still have too many young people on waiting lists.*

e. *There is a very thorough County Safety report written by Gary Burden.*

f. *200 young people are participating in the DofE Award and there have been 30 Bronze, 13 Silver and 2 Gold Awards. There is scope for growth in this area. Thanks to Ralph Hansby-Patterson and team.*

g. *In addition to the WSJ we are looking abroad for opportunities and we are planning a trip to Norway (Roverway). Thanks to Heather Bridges ACC (International)*

h. *Training has gone well as ever. Thanks to Jenny Roe*

i. *Plenty of CMAT related activities and water-based activities. Thanks to Andy Black and Leigh Foster-Green*

j. *Plenty of awards in recognition of the contribution made by our adult volunteers across the county.*

- iv. *In summary – the report paints a very encouraging picture. Scouting in Suffolk continues to recover from the ravages of Covid and is thriving.*
- v. *Finally, and not in the report but we will hear more later, I would like to thank and congratulate Steven Young and his team of Heather Bridges, Lucy Seary and Annie Jones for looking after our WSJ contingent. Under very difficult circumstances they led a highly successful trip.*

No questions were asked about the report.

## **b. Receive and consider the Annual Statement of Accounts 2022/23:**

**Jon Emin, County Treasurer**, provided the following commentary regarding the accounts:

*The financial activity at county level in the year to 31st March 2023 was a much busier one than the year before as general scouting and events returned following Covid.*

*As a result, our income increased to £343,000 from £65,000 the year before. This was primarily due to events and activity income which totalled £265,000 of which World Scout Jamboree alone contributed £139,000. Naturally the costs associated with these activities and events also increased substantially.*

*The Net Income shown for the period of £24,000 does not include the cash effect of spending on replacing and renewing fixed assets across the county estate. It also includes an element of timing differences for World Scout Jamboree where further expenditure has yet to be incurred.*

*Excluding activities and events, county income for this financial period was £31,000, based on £6 per young person. We spent almost all of this income with total unrestricted cash outflows for the period of £28,000. The main expenditure items included: -*

- *County administrator and office costs - £8k*
- *Insurances - £5k*
- *Bradfield Loan repayment - £5k*
- *Contributions to activity teams - £3k*

*Turning to the balance sheet, Our net assets have increased to £365,000. Of this sum £154,000 related to fixed assets, the majority of which is the value of Bradfield and its related assets.*

*Cash balances, on the face of it, look extremely healthy however at £365,000 however we must note that, as at the accounts date, £178,000 of this sum was due to be paid to UK HQ for membership fees and a further £52,000 is held in restricted funds.*

*For the year ahead we continue to replace and refresh our county stores, further rebuild our WSJ fund and push on with investigating our plan to provide a new county office now that we have left our old home at 143 Cauldwell Hall Road.*

*Finally, I had the pleasure of working with Steven Young and his team in following the financial activity of the World Scout Jamboree event in South Korea. I would like to record my thanks and admiration for the way Steven and the team worked so hard in the long build up to the event to ensure, financially at least, it ran very smoothly indeed.*

No questions were asked about the report.

## **Make Appointments**

- a. The County Commissioner's nomination for **County Chair, Peter Jones**, was **APPROVED**.
- b. The County Commissioner's **Nominated members** of the County Trustee Board were **APPROVED**  
**Rodney Turner Selina Noton**
- c. Election of the **County Secretary – Carl Gloess - *unanimously elected***.
- d. Election of the **County Treasurer – Jon Emin - *unanimously elected***.
- e. The following people were Elected to sit on the County Trustee Board (3 years left).  
**Colin Winter Keith Barber Dan Jackson Gareth Cox [One elected seat remains vacant]**

*Matt Gilbert* stood down having served for a number of years and was thanked for his contribution to the board.

- f. Jon Emin proposed the appointment of **Ian Brookman as Independent Examiner** – seconded by Rodney Turner which was ***approved unanimously***.
- g. County Representative nominated to serve as a **Member of the Council of the Scout Association** (3 years left) – **Keith Barber**
- h. County Representative nominated to serve as a **18-24 Member of the Council of the Scout Association** – **currently no nomination**.

It was confirmed that both of Suffolk's National Council Representatives are 'invited to attend' County Trustee Board meetings.

The Chair noted that **Co-opted Members** of the County Trustee Board are selected (if required) at its first meeting after the AGM.

## **Close of Meeting by the Chair of the Trustee Board.**

**The County Commissioner, Howard Blackett** was invited to address the meeting and gave the following commentary.

I would like to raise a few points from my own specific report and add a few comments to the ones I made earlier when presenting the report.

i. Appointments

I am delighted to say that the following DC appointments have been made:

- DC Waveney Steve Denton
- DC Lowestoft Jo Harley
- DC Orwell Max Raffé
- DC Deben Alex Price

One other appointments of note:

- Transformation Lead Colin Winter

ii. Appointments required:

- County Youth Commissioner – we have a good candidate for this post
- There are gaps in adult volunteers at every level highlighted in my report (NB 20 of 89 groups are operating without a GSL)
- County SLT and DCs are working hard at filling roles.

iii. County Senior Leadership Team (SLT) -

- This now includes DCs which has greatly improved communications between the County and the Districts.
- I am in the process of reviewing various county roles and this is also being done at district level to help the deployment of adult volunteers into the right places.

iv. Transformation agenda

- This is being led by Colin Winter

iv. Programme

- Led by Andrew Shoesmith DCC (Programme) with ACCs who met recently for the first time.
- Integration of the DofE scheme is important.

iv. Strategic plans—Still working on them. Briefing in presentation – reflecting the national plans.

v. Girlguiding Suffolk

- Very warm welcome to Katherine West.
- I visited the guides' annual camp held at the Suffolk Showground.
- I am committed to developing a strong relationship with Girlguiding Suffolk.

iv. Thanks go to

- Our 2,000 adult volunteers
- County SLT
- Carl Gloess, County Administrator
- County Trustees led by Peter Jones, County Chairman
- Keith Barber DCC

The Chair thanked the members for attending and noted the close of business.

**The meeting closed at 8.14 pm**

**Awards:** The County Commissioner presented the following award (with citation)

**Good Service Awards**

***Silver Wolf***

Keith Gleen

**Suffolk DoE Gold Neckerchief** (a new County award for Gold DoE Award achievers)

Molly Peacock

**Wood Badge**

Heather Bridges (WSJ Deputy Leader)

**Presentations** then followed from some of the **Suffolk Saxons Unit** who attended the **25<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree in South Korea** in July/August 2023.



**SUFFOLK COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL**  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT, ANNUAL REVIEW**  
**and STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24**

PRESIDENT	Clare Countess of Euston, HM Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk
VICE PRESIDENTS	John P Ineson (dec. Mar-24) Gordon K Biden
TRUSTEES	
Ex-officio Trustees	Peter Jones, County Chair Howard Blackett, County Commissioner <i>Vacancy</i> , County Youth Commissioner Jon Emin, County Treasurer Carl Gloess, County Secretary
Elected Trustees	Colin Winter Keith Barber <i>Vacancy</i> —Dan Jackson (resigned Jun-24) Gareth Cox <i>Vacancy</i>
Nominated Trustees	Rodney Turner Selina Noton
Co-opted Trustees	Peter Jarvis
Bankers	Barclays Bank
Independent Examiner	I.C. Brookman F.C.A. Pakenham Accounting & Consultancy Chartered Accountants Bury St Edmunds, IP31 2LS
Charity Registration No	305682
Contact Address	Suffolk County Scout Office Hallowtree Scout Activity Centre, Alnesbourne Priory, Nacton, Ipswich IP10 0JP Tel: 01473 711678 Email: county.admin@suffolkscouts.org.uk

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **GOVERNING DOCUMENTS**

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.

### **CONSTITUTION**

The County is a trust established under its rules, which are common to all Scouts. The County Scout Council has adopted its own constitution as from 26th September 2020 based on the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association. It is available to download on the [County Website](#) in the latest version.

### **TRUSTEE SELECTION**

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

The County Trustee Board, the members of which are “the Charity Trustees” of the Scout County, an educational charity. As charity trustees, they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping of proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The County Trustee Board exists to support the Districts and Groups within the Scout County.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The County Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the County is exposed. These have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are damage to:

- ◆ reputation
- ◆ buildings
- ◆ property
- ◆ equipment

The County has sufficient Personal, Buildings and Contents Insurance in place to mitigate against loss.

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objectives of the County Scout Council are to support Districts and Leaders within the Scout County.

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of balanced training based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

The County Trustee Board appoints uniformed and lay members including Assistant County Commissioners and Advisers in support of Scouting within the County of Suffolk.

The Council is indebted to the Development Grants Board of the Scout Association and individuals for their continued financial support.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

An increasingly varied programme of Scouting activities has been implemented at Group, District and County levels.

The Annual Review 2023– 2024 on pages 10 to 28 forms part of this report.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The County's current reserves policy is now £50k plus 1 year's general fund of County expenditure and is set at £90,223. It is anticipated this figure will rise next year as general fund expenditure is planned to increase.

## **MATERIAL ASSETS**

Capital assets are as detailed in the Accounts. Material assets include:

### **Bradfield Park Camp Site**

The County has joint ownership of the Camp Site with Bury St. Edmunds and Sudbury Districts in accordance with the Bradfield Park constitution.

### **Hardwick Park Camp Site**

Although the legal ownership is with Bury St. Edmunds District, in the event of any future sale, the proceeds are to be divided equally between the County Scout Council and Bury St. Edmunds District.

### **Other Assets**

Training and camping equipment is stored at Hallowtree Activity Centre and Bradfield Park.

## **STAFF**

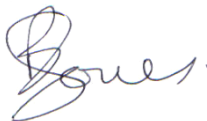
The County has a part-time Administrator. All other Commissioners, Leaders, Helpers, and Administrators are unpaid volunteers.

## **BENEFIT STATEMENT MADE BY THE TRUSTEES**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.



Peter Jones, County Chair



Jon Emin, County Treasurer

05 September 2024

## ANNUAL REVIEW 2023-2024

### **Youth Programme (Squirrels, Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts & Scouts)**

#### County Squirrels

Since the last year's AGM Squirrel dreys have been steadily expanding and at the time of writing we are up to 12 dreys across Suffolk, and lots of top awards have been achieved and presented.

In June we all gathered at the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary, Stonham Barns, this was the first time all Suffolk's Squirrels gathered for fun and friends. We met all the owls and birds of prey and the newly moved meerkats in the sunshine. We were lucky to see the birds of prey fly due to the lifting of the bird flu ban.

I personally enjoyed reading Meerkat Mail to the dreys in the sandpit. The day was made more special as I received my 25-year service award and my ACC Wood Badge. It was also a great opportunity to enrol the leaders of the Felix Drey, our then newest drey.

All Squirrels participated in the county competition to design a postcard which was then sent off to residents at the St Elizabeth Hospice, to show compassion. This was in conjunction with 'Making Steps in The Community' and they all received a badge. Following our postcards, Emily Gravett sent us a personal message.

All Squirrels have been extremely active within their communities, showing respect at their remembrance parades and pride at their St George's Day Parade.

Looking ahead, I hope the dreys continue to grow across the county, and looking ahead to a big celebration in 2026 to celebrate the 5 year birthday.

**Brian Harvey**  
**ACC Squirrels**

#### County Cubs

During the Summer Term of 2023 I was busy as part of the UK Contingent Management and Support Team for the 25th World Scout Jamboree. This was a valuable time of learning for me – giving a deeper insight on preparations for a large-scale event and how important it is to be ready for 'when things don't go as planned!' Being part of the UK CST helped me with preparations for our County Cub Camp.

At the end of the Summer, individual meetings were held with the ADCs, mostly on Teams, to catch up and find out how each individual district was getting on. Each district has been providing a varied programme of events for the cubs, bringing packs together, giving time for the young people and adults to share in fun and support each other.

The end of 2023 and beginning of 2024 were a busy time planning and preparing for Suffolk County Cub Camp, 'Camp Ohana'. Back in summer 2022, after I visited Essex Mega Camp, the dream of a Suffolk County Camp began. A camp on this scale was first discussed at the ADC Cub meeting in January 2023 and the planning started. In October a few leaders met at Hallowtree Scout Activity Centre and the camp really began to take shape. Early in January 2024, the Core Team held their first meeting. A few days later there was a meeting for the ADC Cubs, more details for the camp were shared and there was opportunity to contribute

to the camp programme. This camp would be possible because of many people working together.

Cub Scouting in the county is always busy, it's good to see Facebook posts of regular cub activities and the district events. Thank you to all the adult volunteers who make it possible for our young people to gain #Skills for Life

**Jo Cracknell**  
**ACC Cub Scouts**

## **County Scouts**

Here are some highlights from around the county that have been collated for this section.

### ***Stowmarket District.***

The Scouts have had a busy 12 months in the Stowmarket District. Last October we had 13 teams take part in our Annual Lightweight Hike competition where the teams have to get themselves and all of their kit from the start in Otley to the campsite in Debenham. Once there they set up camp, cooked their dinner and completed a few map reading challenges. Sunday morning we were all up breakfasted and packed up ready for a circular day 2 route. Massive Congratulations to the team from 1st Mendlesham who took the crown.

February is time for our next annual event, Frostbite Camp. This year the Scouts built and slept in their own shelters, butchered a deer to make some "Bambi Burgers" and took part in a "Frostbite Feast" challenge where they needed to channel their inner Gordon Ramsey and cook up some culinary delights Backwoods Style. 1<sup>st</sup> Eye came up trumps here with a roast dinner cooked in a Dutch Oven.

We have a busy programme planned for 24/25 with the aim of making the events bigger and better than ever before.

**From Simon Oakley ADC**

### ***Bury St Edmunds District***

B.S.E. Summer Camp in August was at Belchamps, on their Activity Week, 7<sup>th</sup> till 12<sup>th</sup>, attended by Scouts and Explores and a good time was had by one and all. The Scouts took part in abseiling, arial runway, low ropes, crafts, archery and lots of other activities, enough to keep everyone extremely busy from dawn to dusk.



In the evening, there were discos or film nights to keep everyone entertained, which everyone seemed to enjoy.

Whilst all this was going on the Water Activities Team and CMAT had been training Scouts in kayaks, hillwalking and climbing, and over the year had reached a good standard, ready to take part in various adventures.

In October we held a beginner's camp at Bradfield. This was to enable those Scouts who were new to Scout camping to gain experience without the hustle and bustle of some of the

bigger camps. Again this was well attended with about 25 Scouts, who seemed to have a great time.

The District Dodge Ball Challenge was held in November at Bury Leisure Centre and saw teams from across the district compete. Admittedly, some were more talented than others, but an afternoon of skill and sportsmanship ensued, and good fun was had by all.

As the year ends and everyone's thoughts turned to Christmas the Scouts had their annual 10 pin bowling competition, which is always very well attended and great fun.

Our first event of 2024 in February was the Scouts and Explorer Quiz. Our very own Ex-DC Paul Hunt supplied the questions, whilst Thurston chippy produced a chip supper to round-off the evening. Teams arrived from all over the district. We heard some strange answers to some of the questions and some even stranger team names, but everyone had a great time.

In February we had a winter camp again at Bradfield and a hardy bunch braved the cold to do some backwoods cooking, using ground ovens and other bushcraft means to cook an excellent range of food.

In March, we had a Patrol camping competition, not one of our best attended events, but I expect this to change over the years as Troops gain experience.

Several of these regular events now enjoy attendance approaching 100 Scouts and are growing year by year, which can be taken not only as a sign of the strength of Scouting in our District, but also as a testimony to the work and dedication of the leaders. It should be noted that this interesting and enjoyable programme would not be possible without the help of Scout leaders throughout the district, each of whom takes responsibility for organising certain events and puts a great deal of time and effort into both their own projects and into bringing their Scouts to the other events.

***From Steve Williams DDC***

### **Orwell District**

It has been a fun packed year for the Scout section. We have been able to run a mostly full schedule of events for the past 12 months. Adult recruitment is still needed for the Scout section, with parent rotas and help from leaders from other sections, the Troops are just surviving. Scout numbers are steady with scope to increase across the section.

October 2023: District night hike, this was our first event without an ADC Scouts, and it was a big one. Bruce Rawlings 31<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> was asked if they would like to finish what they started last year and stepped up to plan and organise, during the event I "fell" into the control tent and ended up staying all night to help run and oversee the event while Bruce took a very well earned rest running a checkpoint during the night, with his effort along with many adult leaders (some from other sections and districts) this year we were able to run a full program, with the 13<sup>th</sup> Ipswich team A winning overall.

Joti/Jota, this ran the day of night hike and although those who attended very much enjoyed themselves and completed several parts of badgework unfortunately it wasn't the success I

know it really can be, we are already in discussions on how to push this event along and my thanks to Jason Flynn for putting in so much effort the last few years to get this event running.

Fireworks, The Orwell District firework night was a well-attended event by Scout Groups from around the district it was nice to see so many people enjoying the evening.



I must underline the fact that all the Scout district events are run by everyone, we are a team, I may have been the one to step into Craig's shoes but without Craig, Dell, Adele & Bruce, along with all the other Scout Leaders from all the troops & support, hard work & enthusiasm from their leadership teams, our events would not be able to happen. The Explorer section has very kindly helped the Scout section with some of our larger scale events, for this, I thank them also.

Looking forward to another 12 months with a fantastic district of Scout Leaders!

***From Jay Leach ADC Scouts***

### ***Lowestoft District***

Lowestoft Scout Troops have had a busy time enjoying archery and rifle shooting competitions, quiz, ten pin bowling competition, cross country competition, cooking competition, go kart competition and a District Scout camp and activities day where each troop ran a base - axe throwing, rifle shooting, backwoods cooking, waterslide, kayaking and boarding. The 14th Lowestoft Troop also planted over 600 saplings in a new nature reserve for their conservation badge.

***From Richard Brabben ADC***

***Angela Humphrey  
ACC Scouts***

### **Network**

New appointment awaited for an A.C.C Network

### **Scout Active Support**

New appointment awaited for SAS Manager.

### **International**

Well what a year it's been for International Scouting with the 25<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree being held in Korea. It turned out to be a very different Jamboree than anyone expected, due to organisation issues, heat and finally a typhoon. After just 2 days on site the UK Contingent left the main camp site for safety reasons and headed back to Seoul. The Korean people were amazingly kind and generous looking after all the overseas visitors, laying on activities and apologizing all the time. There were many acts of random kindness with offers of food, drink

and seats on the underground. We had a closing ceremony in a football stadium followed by a K-Pop concert. Although it was a very different experience the resilience of the Young people attending made it a trip to remember.

Next Year we have a Patrol going to Roverway in Norway and also a Wolsey District trip to Kandersteg.

**Heather Bridges**  
**ACC (International)**

### **Communications and IT**

The County continues to utilise the Microsoft Office 365 platform, which has around 500 users from Adult members. The team have decommissioned the legacy user system, so all logins now utilise M365 accounts, including legacy tools such as the County Directory. The team has also supported in the development and update of other group websites, including a revamped Bradfield Park website.

For the next 12 months, the team will integrate the system with the new HQ membership platform to ensure we can continue to auto provision/decommission accounts as members join and leave the organisation.

**Rob Gloess**  
**County IT Manager**

### **Growth & Inclusion**

**- Development—the best census results in the Eastern Region.**

This year’s Census figures showed that Suffolk had the highest overall growth of the 6 counties in the Eastern Region.

As a result the County is well on the way to meeting two key targets

1. Back to 2020 figures
2. Growth for the 2026 Strategic target

<b>East of England %age growth</b>	<b>YP</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Overall</b>
<b>Beds</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Cambs</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Essex</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Herts</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Norfolk</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>5%</b>

Key Targets	Census 2020	Census 2023	% progress towards return to 2020	Target by Census 2026	% progress towards 2026 Target
Total number of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers (Young People 6 and under 18)	5,747	5,361	93.30%	6,035	88.80%
Total number of Squirrels	0	93		785	11.80%
Total number of Explorer Scout Young Leaders	234	243	103.80%	246	98.80%

Total number of Leaders, Assistant Leaders and Section Assistants	1,067	1,116	104.60%	1,221	91.40%
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Total number of Adult Volunteers	2,498	2,066			
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In more detail the 2024 Census shows that Squirrels have nearly doubled, Beavers have grown by 6%, Cubs by 8%, Scouts by a whopping 14% and Explorers by 10%. The only section to show a “loss” is Scout Network, partly due to the way the Census records all 18–25-year-olds (including Leaders) and where the method has changed year on year.

Totals	2024		2023	2022	2020
Young People	Total	Diff (%age change)	Total	Total	Total
Squirrel Scouts	179	86 (92%)	93	0	
Beaver Scouts	1423	82 (6%)	1341	1340	1558
Cub Scouts	1949	144 (8%)	1805	1715	1919
Scouts	1914	236 (14%)	1678	1592	1687
Explorer Scouts	592	55 (10%)	537	518	583
Scout Network	6	-44 (-88%)	50	60	239
TOTAL YP	6063	559 (10%)	5504	5225	5986
<i>Compared to 2020</i>		<i>77 (1.29%)</i>			

<b>Totals</b>	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Adults</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Diff (%age change)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Adult Leaders</b>	<b>1208</b>	<b>92 (8%)</b>	<b>1116</b>	<b>1105</b>	<b>1067</b>
<b>Young Leaders</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>29 (12%)</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>234</b>
<b>Total Leaders</b>	<b>1480</b>	<b>121 (9%)</b>	<b>1359</b>	<b>1318</b>	<b>1301</b>
<b>Adults*</b>	<b>2070</b>	<b>54 (3%)</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2089</b>	<b>2259</b>
<b>Compared to 2020</b>		<b>-189 (-8.4%)</b>			

\* Includes County level (38 in 2024)

The overall number of adults also grew compared to 2023, although we are a little down on 2020, but the number of Leaders has increased every year since 2020.

This gives us overall figures

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Diff (%age change)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8133</b>	<b>613 (8%)</b>	<b>7520</b>	<b>7314</b>	<b>8245</b>
<b>Compared to 2020</b>		<b>-112 (-1.4%)</b>			

Unfortunately, as in previous years, our Waiting Lists grew and we now have over 1000 young people in Suffolk waiting for a place

<b>Waiting Lists Summary</b>			
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Squirrel Scouts</b>	<b>336 (6%)</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Beaver Scouts</b>	<b>372 (-5%)</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>336</b>
<b>Cub Scouts</b>	<b>194 (2%)</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Scouts</b>	<b>149 (57%)</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>1051</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>545</b>

However, the Squirrels figure is a little misleading as there are many Groups who are yet to have a Drey and their waiting list is, in reality, a pre-Beaver age list.

Overall we now have 13 Dreys up from 9 last year, 89 Colonies, 98 Packs, 92 Troops and 39 Units. If your section could take on two additional young people, we could halve the waiting list.

The Census figures also reveal that we have fewer Managers and Supporters and of the 87 Groups, there were only 66 GSLS, 71 Chairs, 79 Treasurers. Further, out of 336 Sections there are 30 Sections (with 264 YP) that have no Leader, up 25% on last year and 83 Sections (with

1518 YP) have only 1 Leader, up 51% on last Year.

**Whilst the forthcoming transformation to a team based approach later this year, may help, our priority should be to recruit more adult team members.**

If you need some help on recruiting a good place to start is <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/growing-scouts/recruitment-toolkit/>. Or contact me at [keith.gleen@suffolkscouts.org.uk](mailto:keith.gleen@suffolkscouts.org.uk)

**Keith Gleen**

**DCC (Growth & Inclusion)**

## **County Safety**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This report is prepared by the County Safety Advisor on behalf of the County Commissioner. It covers the period from 31 August 2023 to 01 September 2024.

1.2 Statistical information uses data supplied by The Scout Association's Information Centre. Where analysis references membership, the numbers used are of the census carried out in the January of that period.

A.1.3 On 23 March 2020 the UK experienced its first COVID 19 lockdown. Restrictions on social activity remained in place until the government published its latest guidance 'Living With COVID' on 24 February 2022. This resulted in a reduction in activity, and therefore a reduction of incidents in the period. Consequentially, statistic reporting will be impacted until at least 2027 (5 years).

### **2. General Activity**

2.1 In the period the following activities to support safety have been carried out.

- **HQ RAAC Reporting** - Coordination of reports from Suffolk Scouts to headquarters relating to reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete. This activity resulted in further activity to develop specific guidance to those groups affected.
- **HQ Safety Investigations** – Gathering supporting information, interviews, reporting the findings of 4 No investigations into serious or very serious safety incidents.
- **HQ Continual Improvements** – Support HQ in developing or revising its guidance for premises or activities and participation in research to support new IT systems.
- **County Safety Risk Assessments** – Assess and or contribute to various assessments of risks on behalf of the county commissioner, this included working with the CC to develop responses to requests from headquarters in relation to safety in suffolk scouts and working with event organisers to ensure the successful planning and carrying out of international, national and county led activities.
- **District Safety Support** – On request support continues to be provided to districts and groups when requested. Typically this supports the permissioning of large scale activities such as district camps / events or adventurous activities involving non-members including the public such as the Long Melford Church Abseil. Specific technical support provided to groups includes premises audits, asbestos management plans, legionella risk assessments and ongoing safety training.

2.2 Other activities to support Suffolk scouts include; attending sections to support

volunteers where the numbers of or experience of volunteers are below the threshold necessary to deliver scouting safely.

- Assisting with the delivery of sessions within section weekly meetings, supporting activities during residential experiences including tomahawk throwing, climbing and abseiling.
- Arranging attendance at the closing parade of the Suffolk Show.
- Liaising with the Reserve Forces and Cadet Association.

### **3. Summary**

3.1 There were **no fatalities or critical incidents** where a person stayed in hospital for 3 or more days or multiple casualties from the same incident with major injuries that required a stay in hospital of at least one night.

3.2 There has been **no major incidents or major injuries** in the period.

3.3 There were at least 10 reportable incidents where a person required medical intervention but not covered as a major or critical incident.

3.4 Observation that volunteers are reporting incidents to HQ which do not meet the threshold for reporting. This creates work for HQ staff and distracts them from necessary tasks.

### **4. Detailed Analysis**

Despite three requests headquarters has not provided any statistics or further details of safety incidents or occurrences.

### **5. Priority Areas for Safety**

5.1 In response to the 'Prevention for Future Death Reports' issued by coroners in the period, headquarters has set out a plan to transform safety management in scouting. The changes proposed remain under development by HQ, with no clear timeline of readiness. These will give volunteers improved tools to manages safety records and decisions, communicate internally and externally and give improved transparency.

5.2 As a direct result of meetings with Scouts HQ the priorities for Suffolk Scouts in the next 12 months are;

- a. Ensuring that Districts, Groups and Campsites are aware of and using the safety tools and guidance documentation and that lead volunteers responsible for ensuring measures are in place are doing so and have an auditable record of checks. Specifically for premises and programme activities.
- b. Ensuring that all volunteers have a firm understanding of their responsibilities in regards to the safety policy proportionate to their role and responsibilities. Where requested by line management providing support sessions on best practices for preparing written risk assessments and practical approaches for undertaking and recording dynamic risk assessments during activities.
- c. Understanding and supporting changes required by headquarters relating to safety, this may include working with independent auditors, specifically in relation to premises and permitted activities including nights away.

**Gary Burden**

**County Safety Advisor**

## Duke of Edinburgh Scheme & Top Awards

The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme is there to enable young persons to develop those 'Skills for Life' that Scouting also works towards. In order to facilitate more organisations to help provide the award scheme,



Bronze can now start in the school year that the young person turns 14, which means that as well as Explorers, Scouts can also help start the young people with the award, which in turn we hope will encourage them to stay on at your local Explorer unit. We know many do it (usually Bronze) through schools, .but with the cost of energy, schools are talking about what they may need to cut. Also, they often can't provide for a whole school year, which leads to many not getting the opportunity. DofE is available for all young people.

**So, if you are a Scout leader, and want to get involved in helping to provide DofE for your Scouts, then please contact us - [dofe@suffolkscouts.org.uk](mailto:dofe@suffolkscouts.org.uk)**

During the period from April -> October we ran expeditions for Bronze and Silver awards.

Starting in April with a training weekend for participants, where they got to meet other Explorers from across the county, and form the groups that they would do their expeditions with.

Explorer Units	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Total
Bury St Edmunds - Explorers (Discovery)	1			1
Bury St Edmunds - Explorers (Endeavour)	3			3
Lowestoft - Explorers	7	6		13
Stowmarket - Explorers (Cougars)	4			4
Stowmarket - Explorers (Oculus / Eye)	3			3
Stowmarket - Explorers (Wolves)	2			2
Sudbury - Explorers (Bures Dragons)	2	1		3
Sudbury - Explorers (Quay)	3	1	1	5
Sudbury - Explorers (Stour Valley)	3			3
Wolsey - Explorers (Cattawade)			1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>38</b>

We had 2 Gold 8 Silver and 28 Bronze participants

In early October, we held a practice weekend, where some other teams also joined us, and 1 Bronze group did their qualifying. This was in North Essex, and was a good success.

This year, all camped, but we did take advantage of the continued Covid rules to allow the Silver participants to be closer to home (for some) than normal. In all cases, none of the Silver participants had done their Bronze expedition in Thetford.

Whilst not all the numbers of completed awards (see table for units/ numbers) for Bronze, Silver and Gold have been fed back to us, we had 2 Explorers fully complete their Gold Award Last year Molly Peacock and William Kenning. Both have gone through the complete program from Bronze to Gold, and we wish them our heartiest congratulations.



Special mention is made for Harry Adams, Jack Adams, Toby Bignell, Mollie Bolger and Lindsay Smith who have followed alongside from the Gold DofE and

obtained the Kings Scout Award. The Gold DofE and Kings Scout Award go very closely together so it's worth looking into it when you have completed the Silver level and are ready to go for Gold!

***Ralph Hansby-Patterson***  
***D of E Coordinator***

## **Training**

We have continued to run training courses during the year mostly one day and online, these were planned later than we had hoped as the new training did not come in during February 2024 as expected but HQ are trying to make sure it is correct before it is released so we don't have to have a lot of further changes.

We have had a large number of people completing the 'Getting Started' modules and also a good number of Wood badges in all Districts.

Mandatory Training was where a lot of work was put in to get towards 100% compliance and I would like to thank all the LTM's DC's GSL's and TA's who have been involved with this activity for all their hard work, also thanks to Carl Gloess for his monthly updates of what is required.

First aid courses have been run throughout the year mostly on a district basis as this seems to work best for 'face-to-face' and saves a lot of travelling for both participants and trainers. We have also run several online module 10a but sometimes people are slow to book 10b which doesn't need a course just a meeting with a scout 1st aid trainer to demonstrate CPR and takes about 15 mins; if you haven't done this can you please get in touch with your LTM or myself.

There are some changes to '1st response' particularly around 1st aid at work that have just come in but they are backdated 2 years. If this applies to you don't be surprised if you are contacted by one of the training team or HQ or if you know you used 1st aid at work for this can you contact myself.

Finally I would like to thank all the training team for their often forgotten hard work.

***Jenny Roe***

***County Training Manager***

## **County Trustee Board**

The Trustee Board met regularly during the past year usually via a Teams link. Unlike in previous years when face to face meetings were not possible, they were usually online for convenience and avoided much travel, pollution and cost to our finances.

A feature of this year's work has been the production, initiated by Rodney Turner, of policy documents in relation to Governance. Some guidance has been issued regarding County Events Grants but we have the main document to produce. The Trustee Board not only needs to be compliant with POR (which itself has changed during the year) but also with the Suffolk County Constitution.

I will be stepping down as your Chair at the forthcoming 2024 AGM. It has been a privilege to serve and very enjoyable. I wish my successor a similar experience.

**Peter Jones**

**County Chair**

## **THE ACTIVITY TEAMS**

### **County Mountain Activities Team (CMAT)**

The team have been highly active this year and increasing our scope and activities to give young people a range of activities .

The team has actively run a series of events for young People and leaders from across the county and team members .

#### **Activities for young People and Volunteers**

We have run weekend events at Gradbach in Staffordshire in autumn 2023 climbing on the Roaches, Whitely Woods near Sheffield as replacement venue for Glenbrook which has been closed by Girl Guiding UK .The activities offered were climbing and walking involving some night navigation. plus a highly successful leaders and explorers' weekend at Waddecar Scout Centre (February 2024) located in the Forest of Bowland , a new and exciting venture for the team. In summer 2024 we undertook a summer expedition to North Wales utilising the Felin Bach centre owned by Carnarvon guides this involved 70 young people and volunteers . The week offered whitewater rafting , Coasteering and the worlds fastest zip wire all via external providers. The team utilising its permitted leaders provided walking camping paddle boarding and canoeing activities.

#### **Training**

The team have actively been helping volunteers gain and renew permits running.

- Two-day wilderness and Wild country first aid open all those involved in adventurous activities not just CMAT. We had 20 participants' from across the county
- Hill walking Assessment weekend in some particularly interesting conditions in March in North Wales
- Stand up paddle boarding course to gain permits to support our summer camp at lackford lakes

**NB all of these have been at least part funded by team volunteers and for our trips leaders pay exactly what the young people do**

Important reviews and reflections

#### **Safety**

The team have been keen to review and scrutinise our behaviours and processes in light of the coroners report for the great ORME section 28 prevention of future deaths report .

#### **Funding**

We acknowledge support from County on training support and equipment and especially support from the county Treasurer with challenges with Barclays bank .

We have a full programme for 24 /25 season and team members continue to support other scout events such as the Long Melford Church Abseil fund raiser .

Advanced warning - next wild county and wilderness first aid course is 30<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December at Bramford Scout HQ 2024.

***Andy Black***

***CMAT Co-ordinator***

### **Water Activities Team**

Leigh Foster-Green resigned as ACC Water Activities, so this year's Water Activities was a bit rudderless as a replacement has not been appointed. I have stepped in for a short period to coordinate where I can.

We should give a big thank you to Leigh for his work as ACC Water Activities and I know he will continue offering his expertise where he can. Leigh continues to lead the activities at Lackford Lake which is an important resource.

The two annual events which we do jointly with the Guides, The Wet Weekend and the Meare Day both took place under the Guidance of Jo Saagi. They were both successful although numbers were down. There were some administration issues that we are doing our best to resolve.

SWACOB continues under the guidance of Lawrence Chapman and offers facilities for water activities in the north of the county. Offshore sailing is still happening in two excellent sailing craft operating out of Ipswich. Suffolk is very much involved with this Essex based resource. Water Activities continues with enthusiasm in Suffolk, but it has to be said that it exists in isolated groups of excellence. Thank you to all those Leaders that put the time in to make sure this fantastic activity for young people is still happening in a safe and controlled manner.

***David Clements.***

***Interim Water Activities Adviser.***

## **BRADFIELD PARK SCOUT CAMPSITE**

It has been a very busy year for the campsite with many groups making repeat bookings for the following year.

Earlier in the year, much to our disappointment Mitch Laws stood down as Bookings Secretary and **as yet no one has volunteered to take on the role**, which is really needed to take some of the pressure off a small group of campsite volunteers. The committee are still looking for campsite wardens, mainly to work when campers are on site. These volunteer roles come with free camping for you and, providing all adults have a DBS, your family.

We are keen to recruit a young person on to the committee so if you know of a young person who would like to represent the district please do get in touch.

We are also in need of instructors for the climbing wall, rifles and archery. The committee have agreed that each volunteer instructor should receive £20 each towards expenses.

Please help if you can.

So, what's been happening on the campsite, successful and happy campers throughout the

summer months.

In September the committee held a Review and open evening for Bury and Sudbury districts, although successful September was probably not the best time of the year as the evenings draw in quite rapidly.

We now have the Community Volunteer Service working with Phil Holland every Thursday, they have been a tremendous help. The top carpark has been cleared to make a much larger space and Phil and the team are working to create many more spaces by Lunney Lodge.

There has been much work done to bring our website up to date and we are grateful to Rob Gloess for all his help and advice.

We were so pleased to welcome Jocelyn Holland onto the committee to look after our Facebook page. It has been a slow process however we are getting there!

This is just a very brief overview of the past year and the work being done. The crew under the management of Phil Holland work exceptionally hard to keep the campsite in tip top order.

It is a great privilege to be part of the committee.

***Jenny Mullan***

***Bradfield Park Chair***

## **COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

I am delighted to report that, once again, Scouting in Suffolk has continued to thrive; the number of adult volunteers and young people involved has grown and, on a routine basis, Scouting has been as active as ever.

The highlight of the year was *Camp Ohana*, our County Cub Camp which ran from 3 – 6 May 2024. 41 Packs (442 cubs), 24 Young Leaders and 193 adult volunteers, all under the watchful eye of a large Service Team of over 80 adult volunteers, enjoyed a few marvellous days of activities and camping. Jo Cracknell (ACC Cubs) and her team deserve our congratulations and thanks for arranging such a hugely successful event.

Earlier this year we very sadly lost Graham Parker, Acting DC Wolsey. Graham's contribution to Scouting at all levels within the County, but particularly within the District of Wolsey, was monumental – his 50 years plus in Scouting was truly a lifetime of service. I am pleased to mention that just before he died, on my behalf Max Raffe (DC Orwell) presented Graham with his Silver Wolf. Graham's funeral was held, in the presence of a very large congregation many of whom are involved in one way or the other in Scouting, on 11 June at the Seven Hills Crematorium.

Our County Chair, Peter Jones, will be stepping down from the role at the 2024 County AGM. Peter has served as County Chair since May 2011 – i.e. for the past 13 years. On behalf of all involved in Suffolk Scouting I would like to acknowledge and thank Peter for all that he has done and I wish him well for the future.

## ***Leadership/management of Suffolk Scouting***

- **County Trustees**

The County Trustees have continued to meet under the Chairmanship of Peter Jones regularly on the first Thursday of the month.

- **Senior Leadership Team (SLT)**

Suffolk Scouting continues to be led on a routine basis by the County SLT, which now includes all 8 DCs. The SLT meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Most recently, the SLT has agreed that the pattern of both County and District events over the years ahead will be as follows:

- County Moot (Scouts/Explorers/Guides) 2026/2030/2034
- County Cubs/Beavers 2024/2028/2032
- District events 2025/2027/2029/2031

- **County Team**

There is also a County Team (CC, Deputy CCs, ACCs, DCs, DDCs, other County appointees e.g., Training Manager). The County Team has not met during the reporting period.

## ***Personnel***

- **Overview**

I would like to acknowledge and thank the adult volunteers (c2,000) who contribute on a routine basis in one way or another to Scouting here in Suffolk. Young people are at the heart of what we do, and attention is rightly focused on them, but the most important people in Scouting are the adult volunteers – without them nothing would be possible, and I salute all those involved.

The shortage of adult volunteers – we have gaps in key roles (uniform and non-uniform) at every level across the county – continues to be a significant problem but progress has been made in all Districts, particularly in Waveney and Sudbury where the problem was acute. In this context I am very pleased to report that we have had a full team of District Commissioners in place for much of the year (with a few short-term gaps). Our DCs are arguably the most important adult volunteers across the County, and I applaud and thank them for their energy and commitment.

- **County Appointees**

The following important appointments have been made at County Level during the course of the reporting period.

- **District Commissioners:**

- Acting DC Bury St Edmund's      Tony Millburn      w.e.f. 9 Feb 2024
- DC Wolsey      Mark Pearson      w.e.f. 18 May 2024

The following key appointments remain outstanding:

- Deputy County Commissioner (Programme)
- County Youth Commissioner

## ***Programme***

- **Overview**

On a routine basis the Scouting programme is operating well at all levels across the county, but it is clearly the case that Scout Groups which are well-led and well-supported by adult volunteers undertake the task more successfully than those which are less fortunate.

My observation is that the scouts' programme has many strengths; it is well articulated on the scouts' website; and it is well understood at the sharp end, but I would like to see the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, which is closely aligned to the scouts' programme, integrated better into Scouting activities.

- **Key Events**

Camp Ohama (mentioned above) was the key event of the year. Unfortunately, the Wet Weekend, scheduled for the w/e of 6/7/8 July was cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

Our CMAT team has run a full programme of events throughout the year

## ***Other matters***

- **Strategic Plans**

During the course of the past year both the County Strategic Plan and our 8 District strategic plans have been updated with the assistance of the Growth and Development Team from HQ. These plans are deliberately brief (2 sides of A4), presented in a similar format and reflect the direction of travel determined at national level. The County Strategic Plan can be found online at <https://www.suffolkscouts.org.uk/about/strategic-plan>.

- **Transformation**

The national transformation strategy has gained considerable momentum over the period of this reporting year. We have been fortunate in having Colin Winter as our Transformation Lead. Colin has kept abreast of events and has kept both the County and our 8 Districts well-informed of developments. The transformation strategy has inevitably led to considerable frustration/irritation (not least with the changes in roles/role titles) but our intention has been to support the strategy as best we can and to acknowledge that in due course, Scouting will be better placed to face the expectations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century than was previously the case. It is encouraging to note that the various District AGMs which have taken place to date

have been run following the updated governance procedures and that Executive Committees at all levels have been replaced by Boards of Trustees. All Groups, Districts and Counties must now positively adopt a constitution; models are contained in POR

- **Training**

Our County Training Team, led by Jenny Roe, has continued to offer excellent training for adult volunteers across the county (See her report in this booklet).

HQ has delivered a very simple message concerning volunteer training (not least in the aftermath of the Great Orme disaster) – those who fall behind (with first aid, safeguarding and safety training) should be suspended from Scouting until they have done the required training. We have supported this very prudent initiative as rigorously as possible.

- **Girlguiding Suffolk**

I have met with Katherine West, County Commissioner Girlguiding Suffolk, on several occasions. We are currently in close liaison with Girlguiding Suffolk on plans for our combined event which we have in mind to take place in summer 2026.

### ***Concluding remarks***

The good news is that Suffolk Scouting continues to thrive; the less good news is that the challenges we faced this time a year ago are still there – we need more adult volunteers at all levels; HQ's transformation agenda remains ongoing/unfinished.

Finally, I would like to thank and acknowledge Peter Jones and the County Trustee Board, the County SLT, the County Team, the County Appointments Advisory Committee (CAAC) and our DCs for their support and encouragement during my first full year as County Commissioner. I trust none of them will mind me making special mention of our excellent County Administrator, Carl Gloess, the linchpin of Suffolk Scouting, and Keith Barber, my Deputy CC, who has routinely offered me very sensible guidance, for his time, patience and understanding.

***Howard Blackett***  
***County Commissioner***

## Good Service Awards for Reporting Year Apr-23 to Mar-24

### Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service



Award	Recipient	District	Award Date
Chief Scouts Commendation for Good Service	Paul Crawford	Sudbury	04/2023
	Yvonne Pearce	Sudbury	04/2023
	Robert Flack	Bury St Edmunds	10/2023
	Paul Samuel	Bury St Edmunds	10/2023
	David Nessling	Deben	10/2023
	Tony Steel	Sudbury	10/2023
	John Hughes	Deben	10/2023
	Barrie Hayter	Deben	10/2023
	Henry Slim	Deben	10/2023
	Jacqueline Tricker	Deben	10/2023
	David Brown	Deben	10/2023
	Clare Barstow	Deben	10/2023
	Clare Catton	Deben	10/2023
	Kevin Drane	Bury St Edmunds	10/2023

### Award for Merit



Award for Merit	Joanne Waring	Sudbury	04/2023
	Jon-Paul Broughton	Sudbury	07/2023
	Mark Gardiner	Sudbury	07/2023
	Peter Runnacles	Deben	10/2023
	Jackie Ball	Waveney Valley	10/2023
	Brian Phillips (dec.)	Sudbury	10/2023
	Beverley Sutton	Wolsey	10/2023
	Steven Messer	Deben	10/2023
	Keith Sparrow	Wolsey	10/2023
	Roger Sykes	Deben	10/2023
	Adam Thorpe	Deben	10/2023
	Roland Dakin	Wolsey	10/2023
	Joan Gibson	Deben	10/2023
	Paul Hickman	Wolsey	10/2023
	Angus Wheeler-Rowe	Deben	10/2023

### Silver Acorn



Silver Acorn	David Ward	Wolsey	01/2024
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***Our warmest congratulations to all the Good Service Award recipients on their awards and our thanks for their services to Scouting.***

## MEMBERSHIP CENSUS REPORT SUMMARY - JANUARY 2024

	Male	Female	Self Identify	Prefer not to say	Total	<b>2023</b>
<b>YOUTH MEMBERSHIP</b>						
Squirrel Scouts	114	65	-	-	<b>179</b>	93
Beaver Scouts	1,118	304	-	1	<b>1,423</b>	1,341
Cub Scouts	1,468	476	1	4	<b>1,949</b>	1,805
Scouts	1,363	546	3	2	<b>1,914</b>	1,678
Explorer Scouts (including Young Leaders)	398	190	3	1	<b>592</b>	537
Network members	4	2	-	-	<b>6</b>	50
<b>TOTAL YOUTH MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>1,583</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6,063</b>	5,504
<b>PROGRAMME DELIVERY ROLES</b>						
Section Leaders	144	177	-	-	<b>321</b>	315
Assistant Section Leaders	226	202	-	-	<b>428</b>	452
Section Assistants	239	218	2	-	<b>459</b>	349
<b>TOTAL ADULT PROGRAMME DELIVERY ROLES</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,208</b>	1,116
Young Leaders+	163	107	2	-	272	243
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME DELIVERY ROLES</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,480</b>	1,359
<b>LINE MANAGER ROLES (GSL, DC, CC)</b>						
Group Scout Leaders	45	21	-	-	<b>66</b>	62
District Commissioners (inc ES/SN)	6	5	-	-	<b>11</b>	13
County Commissioners	1	-	-	-	<b>1</b>	1
<b>TOTAL LINE MANAGER ROLES</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>78</b>	76
<b>GOVERNANCE ROLES (Chair/Secretary/Treasurer/Executive Members)</b>						
TOTAL GROUP GOVERNANCE ROLES	185	230	-	-	<b>415</b>	417
TOTAL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE ROLES	20	5	-	-	<b>25</b>	24
TOTAL COUNTY GOVERNANCE ROLES	3	1	-	-	<b>4</b>	4
<b>TOTAL GOVERNANCE ROLES</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>444</b>	445
<b>SUPPORT ROLES (Deputies, Assistants, Administrators, Instructors, Other Suppt roles)</b>						
TOTAL GROUP SUPPORT ROLES	<b>82</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>127</b>	130
TOTAL DISTRICT SUPPORT ROLES	<b>49</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>71</b>	91
TOTAL COUNTY SUPPORT ROLES	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38</b>	39
Active Support	<b>74</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>104</b>	119
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT ROLES</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>340</b>	379
<b>TOTALS</b>						
<b>TOTAL YOUTH MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>1,583</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6,063</b>	5,504
<b>TOTAL ADULT MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,070</b>	2,016
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>5,562</b>	<b>2,554</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8,133</b>	7,520

# SUFFOLK COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL - STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>2024 Total</u>	<u>2023 Total</u>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>					
Donations and similar income					27,000
<b>Income from Charitable Activities:</b>					
Membership Subscriptions	2	43,632	-	43,632	31,031
Income from Activities	3	65,470		65,470	283,179
Grants	3	-	1,000	1,000	1,500
Bank Interest		2,890	-	2,890	981
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>111,992</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>112,992</b>	<b>343,691</b>
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>					
Scouting Activities	4	122,097	26,132	148,229	319,793
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b>112,097</b>	<b>26,132</b>	<b>148,229</b>	<b>319,793</b>
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Net Income before Transfers</b>		<b>(10,105)</b>	<b>(25,132)</b>	<b>(35,237)</b>	23,898
Transfers		(4,120)	4,120	-	-
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Net Income and net movement in funds for the year</b>		<b>(14,225)</b>	<b>(21,012)</b>	<b>(35,237)</b>	23,898
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b> 8 & 9					
Total Funds brought forward		311,513	54,288	365,801	341,903
		-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>		<b>£297,288</b>	<b>£33,276</b>	<b>£330,564</b>	<b>£365,801</b>
		=====	=====	=====	=====

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

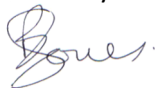
The notes on pages 31 to 38 form part of these accounts

# SUFFOLK COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL - BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 March 2024

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b><u>Fixed Assets</u></b>			
Tangible Assets	6	132,501	153,755
		-----	-----
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>			
Debtors		1,110	-
Prepayments		1,869	3,726
Bank and Deposit Balances		418,993	364,878
		-----	-----
		421,972	368,604
<b><u>Current liabilities</u></b>			
Creditors falling due within 1 year	7	223,909	151,558
		-----	-----
<b><u>Net current assets</u></b>		198,063	217,046
		-----	-----
<b><u>Total assets less current liabilities</u></b>		330,564	370,801
<b>Creditors: falling due in more than 1 year</b>	11	-	5,000
		-----	-----
<b><u>Net assets</u></b>		<b>£330,564</b>	<b>£365,801</b>
		=====	=====
<b><u>The funds of the charity:</u></b>			
Restricted funds	8	33,276	54,288
<b><u>Unrestricted funds</u></b>			
Designated	9	78,303	97,229
General	9	218,985	214,284
		-----	-----
		<b>£330,564</b>	<b>£365,801</b>
		=====	=====

Approved by the trustees on 05 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Peter Jones, County Chair



Jon Emin, County Treasurer

The notes on pages 31 to 38 form part of these accounts

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

For the year ended 31 March 2024

### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### *Basis of preparation*

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes 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 Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Ireland FRS 102 issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s).

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.

The trustees have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis based on the budgets and forecasts for 2023/24

#### *Funds structure*

- Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose.
- Restricted income funds are funds which the donor has specified are to be used solely for particular areas of work or specific projects being undertaken by the County Scout Council.

#### *Incoming Recognition*

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is more likely than not the charity will receive the income; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Membership subscriptions which gives a member the right to services are recognised as the income is earned from the provision of services and disclosed as income from charitable activities.

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

### *Expenditure recognition*

Liabilities are recognised as 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.

Support costs have been allocated between governance and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Other support costs include central function and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it is incurred.

### *Fixed Assets*

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost. Depreciation is charged from the year of acquisition on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset as follows:

Freehold property additions (excluding land)	10 years
Other fixed assets	5 years

### *Debtors*

Debtors are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

### *Creditors*

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP FEES**

	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
Total Membership Fees Collected	239,976	211,765
National Membership Fees	(193,617)	(178,192)
District Refunds	(2,727)	(2,542)
	-----	-----
	<b>£43,632</b>	<b>£31,031</b>
	=====	=====

### 3. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Income from activities</u>				
Activities	£14,960	-	£14,660	£125,675
World Jamboree	£14,207	-	£14,207	£139,053
Bradfield Campsite	£36,603	-	£36,603	£18,451
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£65,470	-	£65,470	£283,179
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Other Grants</u>				
Events				£1,500
World Jamboree	-	£1,000	£1,000	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	-	£1,000	£1,000	£1,500
	-----	-----	-----	-----

### 4. DIRECT CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Activities	£26,489	£716	£27,205	£131,280
World Jamboree	£34,133		£34,133	£129,671
Training	£1,245	-	£1,245	£1,512
East of England Region	-	£654	£654	£66
Campsites - Bradfield	£42,501	-	£42,501	£15,612
- Bradfield Depreciation	-	£24,762	£24,762	£22,591
Support costs - County Team	£12,749		£12,749	£14,854
Governance costs	£4,980	-	£4,980	£4,207
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£122,097	£26,132	£148,229	£319,793
	=====	=====	=====	=====

The County Team includes the cost of one part-time employee £6,690 (2023 - £5,512, one part-time employee).

The cost of the County Team and governance includes £913 (2023 - £1,925) and restricted activities £716 (2023- £3,197) in respect of depreciation of equipment.

#### 4. DIRECT CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

The breakdown of support costs and how these were allocated between governance and other support costs is shown in the table below.

##### Current Year

Cost type	Total allocated	Governance costs	Other support costs	Basis of apportionment
	£	£	£	
Staff costs	6,960	1,740	5,220	Staff time
Office rental and administration	8,160	2,040	6,120	Staff time
County team expenses	496	-	496	County team time
Depreciation	913	-	913	Actual
Independent examiners	1,200	1,200	-	Actual
	-----	-----	-----	
	£17,729	£4,980	£12,749	
	=====	=====	=====	

##### Previous Year

Cost type	Total allocated	Governance costs	Other support costs	Basis of apportionment
	£	£	£	
Staff costs	5,512	1,378	4,134	Staff time
Office rental and administration	6,517	1,629	4,888	Staff time
County team expenses	3,907	-	3,907	County team time
Depreciation	1,925	-	1,925	County team time
Independent examiners	1,200	1,200	-	Actual
	-----	-----	-----	
	£19,061	£4,207	£14,854	
	=====	=====	=====	

#### 5. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION & RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The trustees all give freely of their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind except Carl Gloess who received salary as County Administrator of £6,960 (2023 - £5,512).

No trustee during the year had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Council this year or the previous year except as disclosed above.

£379 (2023- £489) was reimbursed to 3 trustees (2023 - 1) of the County Scout Council during the year.

## **6. FIXED ASSETS**

	<u>Freehold Property</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Cost</u>			
As at 1 April	439,815	123,606	563,421
Additions	5,137	-	5,137
	-----	-----	-----
As at 31 March	444,952	123,606	568,558
	-----	-----	-----
<u>Depreciation</u>			
As at 1 April	295,777	113,889	409,666
Depreciation	23,642	2,749	26,391
	-----	-----	-----
As at 31 March	319,419	116,638	436,057
	-----	-----	-----
<u>Net Book Value</u>			
As at 31 March 2024	£125,533	£6,968	£132,501
	=====	=====	=====
As at 31 March 2023	£144,038	£9,717	£153,755
	=====	=====	=====

The Bradfield Campsite is a joint project by the County Scout Council with Bury St Edmunds and Sudbury Scout Districts, who would share equally in any surplus realised on a disposal of the site after payments made by the County Scout Council are deducted and paid.

The County Scout Council have invested directly and through loan repayments £128,507 in the Bradfield campsite to date.

The Hardwick Park Campsite, Bury St Edmunds is a joint project with Bury St Edmunds Scout District and any surplus realised on a disposal of the site are shared equally.

## **7. CREDITORS**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Sundry Creditors	-	982
Income in Advance	216,224	143,176
Loan	5,000	5,000
Accrued Expenses	2,685	2,400
	-----	-----
	£223,909	£151,558
	=====	=====

## **8. RESTRICTED FUNDS**

### Current year

	<u>Balance</u> <u>1 April</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>31 March</u> <u>2024</u>
Bradfield Campsite	35,935	-	(24,762)	5,000	16,173
Water activities	5,929	-	(716)	-	5,213
Africa	3,261	-	-	-	3,261
World Jamboree	-	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
East of England Region Fund	9,163	-	(654)	120	8,629
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£54,288	£1,000	£(26,132)	£4,120	£33,276
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

### Previous year

	<u>Balance</u> <u>1 April</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>31 March</u> <u>2023</u>
Bradfield Campsite	27,526	26,000	(22,591)	5,000	35,935
Water activities	9,126	-	(3,197)	-	5,929
Africa	3,261	-	-	-	3,261
Events	3,000	1,500	(4,500)	-	-
East of England Region Fund	9,229	-	(66)	-	9,163
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£52,142	£27,500	£(30,354)	£5,000	£54,288
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The Bradfield Campsite Fund represents the proceeds of appeals to purchase and develop the campsite and the fund balance is represented by part of the net book value of the campsite.

The East of England Region Fund represents funds received and expended in connection with the Scout Association's regional activities and is represented by bank balances.

The Water Activities fund is restricted grants for these activities and is represented by the net book value of water activity equipment.

The Events funds represents grants restricted to Suffolk Punch and are represented by bank balances

The Africa fund is represented by bank balances and is for the development and activities relating to the Mafeking Scouts

## 9. GENERAL AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

### Current Year

	<u>Balance</u> <u>1 April</u> <u>2023</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>31 March</u> <u>2024</u>
General	214,284	97,785	(87,964)	(5,120)	218,985
Bradfield Campsite	57,507	-	-	-	57,507
Assistance with Campsites	3,650	-	-	-	3,650
World Jamboree	19,703	14,207	(34,133)	1000	777
Hardship Fund	7,000	-	-	-	7,000
Explorer Belt Expedition	1,746	-	-	-	1,746
Richard Freeman Bequest	1,096	-	-	-	1,096
Water Activities	6,527	-	-	-	6,527
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£311,513	£111,992	£(122,097)	£(4,120)	£297,288
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

### Previous year

	<u>Balance</u> <u>1 April</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>31 March</u> <u>2023</u>
General	201,914	177,138	(159,768)	(5,000)	214,284
Bradfield Campsite	57,507	-	-	-	57,507
Assistance with Campsites	3,650	-	-	-	3,650
World Jamboree	3,321	139,053	(129,671)	7,000	19,703
Hardship Fund	14,000	-	-	(7,000)	7,000
Explorer Belt Expedition	1,746	-	-	-	1,746
Richard Freeman Bequest	1,096	-	-	-	1,096
Water Activities	6,527	-	-	-	6,527
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£289,761	£316,191	£(289,439)	£(5,000)	£311,513
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

## **9. GENERAL AND DESIGNATED FUNDS (continued)**

The Water Activities Fund has been designated for the development of water activities in the county.

The Explorer Belt Expeditions Fund represents the funds held in respect of these expeditions.

The Assistance with Campsites Fund is to help with the development of group and district campsites.

The World Jamboree Fund represents a designated fund which represents the transactions related to the county contingent to the World Jamboree.

The Hardship Fund has been established to help scout groups experiencing financial hardship.

The Assistance with Campsites, Jamboree, World Scout Jamboree Funding, Explorer Belt, Richard Freeman Bequest (designated to support water activities) and the Water Activities Funds are all represented by bank balances.

The Bradfield Campsite designated fund represents the council's original contribution towards the purchase and construction of the site and is represented by a share in the assets of the site. The balance of the net book value of the site is part of the general fund.

## **10. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY FUNDS**

	<b><u>Restricted Funds</u></b>	<b><u>Designated Funds</u></b>	<b><u>Unrestricted Funds</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Fixed Assets	35,935	57,507	39,059	132,501
Debtors and Prepayments	-	-	2,979	2,979
Bank and Deposit balances	2,341	20,796	395,806	418,993
Creditors due in less than one year	(5,000)		(218,909)	(223,909)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	£33,276	£78,303	£223,762	£330,564
	-----	-----	-----	-----

## **11. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

At the year end, the County Scout Council had authorised expenditure of £Nil (2023- £NIL).

## **12. CREDITORS FALLING DUE IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR**

The loan is due to The Scout Association and was to assist with the development of the Bradfield Campsite. The loan is repayable over 10 years from 1 December 2015 and the loan bears interest at 2% over base.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS TO THE  
TRUSTEES OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL (Charity No. 305682)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity (“the Trust”) for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 30 to 39.

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”).

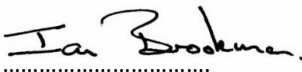
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity’s accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

The charity’s gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) 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.



.....

I C BROOKMAN, FCA, DChA  
Pakenham Accounting & Consultancy  
Chartered Accountants  
BURY ST EDMUNDS

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