

**SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 14th 2021

On Line

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting

South West Cheshire Scout Council

May 14th 2021

- 1 Welcome by the DC
- 2 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of the District Chairman
- 3 Apologies for absence
- 4 Minutes of previous AGM held on 12th June 2020
- 5 Approval of the Annual Report of the District Executive Committee and the Financial Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020
- 6 Approval of District Secretary
- 7 Approval of District Treasurer
- 8 Election of Members of the District Scout Council to the District Executive Committee
- 9 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee
- 10 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council
- 11 The District Commissioner
- 12 The County Commissioner

DISTRICT OFFICERS 2020

<p>Life President Mr P F Taylor</p> <p>President Vacant</p> <p>Vice Presidents Mr R Ellwood, Mr P Kent, Mr R Stafford</p> <p>Office Holders Chairperson Mr R Chaplow Treasurer Mr R Bennett Secretary Mr J Bennett</p> <p>District Executive Committee Ex-officio Chairperson Treasurer Secretary District Commissioner Deputy District Commissioner District Explorer Scout Commissioner District Network Scout Commissioner District Youth Commissioner</p> <p>Elected Members Mr A Whalley (to 2022) Mrs M Norbury (to 2023) Mrs C Wainwright (to 2023) Mr J Barlow (to 2021) Ms P Wood (to 2021) Mr D Brough (to 2023)</p> <p>Nominated Members Mr M Rowe Mrs L Gamble Mrs H Dorney Ms D Blurton</p> <p>Co-opted Member Mr C Shore Camp Site Chair</p> <p>County Scout Council Members Mr R Bracey, Mr J Whittingham</p> <p>District Chaplain Vacant</p> <p>Registered Charity No: 506895 Scout Association Registered No: 10808</p>	<p>District Commissioner Mr I Potts</p> <p>Deputy District Commissioner Mr J Statham</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Commissioner Ms I Shaw</p> <p>District Explorer Scout Administrator Mrs C Wainwright</p> <p>District Young Leader Unit Manager Ms D Blurton</p> <p>District Scout Network Commissioner Mr W Swain</p> <p>District Youth Commissioners Miss H Faulkner</p> <p>Assistant District Commissioners Beaver Scouts Miss S Fearn Beaver Scouts Mr L Potts Cub Scouts Mrs J Carlin Cub Scouts Mr N Tomlinson Scouts Mr T Clark Scouts Mrs L Grasmeder Activities Mr R Galloway General Duties Vacant Development Vacant SAS Manager Mr J Wedgwood</p> <p>Local Training Manager Adult Training Mrs J Taylor,</p> <p>Chair Appointments Sub Committee Mrs J Wilkinson</p> <p>District Scouters Mr A Collett, Mr B Westwood, Mrs J Shore, Mr C Spicer, Mrs A Bourke, Mrs M Norbury, Mr D Selley</p> <p>District Advisers Archery Ms D Blurton Mountaineering Vacant Shooting Mr A Brookes Sailing Mr I Brown Canoeing Mr A Sutton DOE Scheme Mrs R Edwards Swimming Mr R Binner</p>
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South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 12th June 2020 Online Via Microsoft Teams

1.0 Welcome

The District Commissioner, Ian Potts, took the Chair. There were 42 members and 1 guest present.

Ian opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, particularly the County Commissioner Graham Phillips.

Ian announced that his nomination for District Chair was Dane Chaplow. Dane then took the chair for the remainder of the meeting. He began by asking those present to take a moment to reflect on those members and supporters of South West Cheshire Scout Council who had "Gone Home" since the 2019 AGM: Leena Broadhead, Bob Keegan, Brenda Roberts, Geoff Hall and Kay Bennett.

2.0 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Craig Chaplow, Janet and Brian Jones, Ian and Sylvia Sowerby, Pete and Peg Taylor, Steve Bullock, John Whittingham, Helen Dorney and Cheryl Hamlyn

3.0 Minutes of AGM held on 5th April 2019

Proposed, seconded and accepted as a true record.

4.0 Reports

The Annual District Report for 2019 was considered by the meeting. Each contributor was invited to comment. The Report was accepted with special thanks from the Chair to all contributors for their efforts during the past year.

Appointments

The report was accepted, and no questions were raised.

Secretary

Nothing to add to the report, no questions were raised.

Beavers

The report was accepted, no questions were raised. Dane thanked the Beaver team for their report and asked that his thanks be conveyed to all Beaver leaders for their work.

Cub Scouts

Again, no questions were raised by the attendees and Dane asked for thanks to be passed to all Cub Leaders for their work.

Scouts

The report was accepted, no questions were raised. Dane thanked Lise and Rob for their hard work during the year.

Explorer and Network

Nothing to add to the reports which were accepted.

Milldale

Carl thanked everyone for their input and support, a lot of hard work on the site had been achieved.

Dane also thanked the Milldale team for their efforts and stated that in Milldale the district had a fantastic facility.

Activities

Sailing

The report was accepted Carl commented on the successful taster sessions run during the year.

Canoeing

The report was accepted.

Shooting

Given the huge success of Shooting in the district he recommended the use of the facilities at Milldale to all sections.

The DC commented on the need for additional instructors across the whole field of activities. Any offers of help please direct them to the DC.

Swimming

The report was accepted, Dane thanked Janet and Brian for their continuing work with the swimming section.

Scout Shop

The report was accepted, Dane thanked everyone involved in the shop for the excellent work and reminded everyone that the income from the shop helps to sustain the district financially, without it the District Levy would increase. Please continue to use the shop.

The meeting approved the annual report.

5.0 Financial Report

The annual accounts for 2019 were circulated, these were approved without comment from members

6.0 Election of District Secretary

John Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Secretary.

7.0 Election of District Treasurer

Richard Bennett was nominated and confirmed as District Treasurer.

8.0 Election of Members of the District Scout Council to the District Executive Committee.

Marilyn Norbury, Cathie Wainwright and David Brough were elected to the District Executive.

9.0 Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination of Members of the District Scout Council to serve on the District Executive Committee.

Ian Potts nominated the following:

Beavers: Mark Rowe

Cubs: Helen Dorney

Scouts: Lisa Gamble

Explorers & Young Leaders: Diane Blurton

10.0 Election of two Members of the District Scout Council for nomination to the County Scout Council.

Roger Bracey and John Whittingham were both willing to continue in this role, the meeting agreed to this.

11.0 District Commissioner

11.1 Ian presented the following report:

Reviewing the annual report, it is clear that 2019 was an interesting year for our young people. Our groups continued to provide a varied programme of activity that resulted in almost 250 Chief Scouts Awards being presented. They also worked with their Young Leaders, supported by the District team, resulting in 12 of them achieving their Belt Buckles. None of it would have been possible without the dedication of their leaders, many of whom go above and beyond every week.

I would like to congratulate those Leaders who received an award for their contribution to Scouting in the District last year and to all those young people who achieved their top awards.

My personal highlights from the year were the Beaver Family Sports and Fun Day in September, enjoyed by Beavers and their parents equally, the Cub Craft

Competition where I am always impressed by the imagination and skill of the Cubs who take part, and Monopoly Live where we always get good feedback from the public on the behaviour of the Scouts and Explorers as they walk around town engaged in activities.

During 2019 the Appointments team worked hard to get 36 new adult volunteers through the appointments process, to complete DBS checks for adults in District role and support groups in this process for their Leaders. Our new LTMs have settled into their roles, providing valuable support to adults as they progress in their Scouting lives.

Last year four of our sectional ADCs finished in their roles and one of the District Youth Commissioners stepped down. I would like to thank Mel Dunn, Roger and Gaynor Bracey, Rob Galloway and Caroline Grasmeyer for everything they brought to the District in their roles. Rob has agreed to take on the vacant ADC Activities role and I wish him and the new ADCs for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Steph, Liam, Neil, Jenny and Tim well for the future. I also want to formally welcome John Statham to the team as Deputy District Commissioner.

We were hoping to have a presentation by members of the WSJ contingent but this will now be done when we are able to get together face to face, hopefully later in the year.

I have a request regarding the Scout Shop. It is an important source of funding for the District, and I would ask that all groups wait until the Shop is able to fulfil orders and not order online (although it is likely that orders placed online will not be fulfilled at the moment).

Each year I have been DC I have had priorities for what I wanted to achieve and each year has brought a set of unexpected challenges and opportunities. This year had been no exception, and then the Coronavirus pandemic started and face to face Scouting stopped. Since 17th March our world has been turned on its head and yet Scouting has continued. We have had to adapt quickly and do things in a way we never envisaged. Many of us have been busier than ever with Scouting and have learnt new skills to enable us to continue delivering activities to our young people. I am proud to say that every young person in every section in every group and unit has had the opportunity to be involved in Scouting activities since the lockdown started, whether via on-line meetings or activities sent out in emails. Executive Committee members, at a District and Group level, have assessed their individual and collective positions and made decisions appropriate for them to be able to continue to deliver Scouting once we are able to meet face to face again. Many parents have had challenges managing work, home-schooling and keeping children occupied when they can't see their friends and I have had lots of feedback

on how important Scouting has been both in terms of giving them something to do and giving them a sense of normality which helps with their mental wellbeing.

There will continue to be challenges ahead but we are ready to respond whatever happens. I would like to thank all of our adult volunteers for everything they have done in the District during the last year and for everything they are continuing to do in these unusual times. We have proven over the last few months how well we can all pull together in difficult times and I'm sure this will continue once we get back to some sort of normality. I want to make a particular mention of those Leaders who are Key Workers. The challenges many of them have faced in the last few months have been huge and I want to thank them on behalf of everyone in South West Cheshire Scouts for everything they have done.

Many of you will know that I am not known for my optimism. I have often said that I am a glass completely empty sort of person. You will also know that I like to read the things that Lord Baden Powell has said and I recently came across this one: 'Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.'

Looking back over last year and then at the last few weeks there are lots of things to be optimistic about.

12.0 The County Commissioner

12.1 Graham Phillips gave a slide presentation and discussed a number of topics:

12.2 He started by giving the census figures for the County which included a total membership of 13,517.

12.3 He then referred to compliance where there has been a big push to get leaders to complete their mandatory training. In respect of training he stated that much of this as available online and in fact wood badges could be gained during lockdown

12.4 Graham then went on to talk about Covid-19 and the county response to that. He referred to the financial support that was available from a variety of sources. He detailed the online programmes that were available for groups to use in virtual section meetings and the activities that the County was organising and available online.

12.5 Graham closed by saying thank you for all you are doing and keep going.

Dane closed the meeting at 20.25.

John Bennett

District Secretary, South West Cheshire Scouts. June 2020

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT

The District Executive met on four occasions in 2020/21, three of these meetings were held via Microsoft Teams. In addition the exec met monthly from April onwards on line to discuss all issues relating to Covid – 19.

Submission of the annual census return was completed on time. The submission of the district accounts and annual report to the Charity Commission was also completed on schedule.

A major piece of work was completed to ensure the accuracy of the District Email circulation list. That list is GDPR compliant and updated regularly.

The executive was pleased to note the number of awards presented during 2020 in South West Cheshire including:

Commissioners Commendation

Cathie Wainwright
Bob Humphries
John Bennett
Susan Edwards
Lisa Evans
James Ollier
Andy Whalley
Rosemary Schofield
Abi Woodcock

- 72 Chief Scouts Bronze Awards
- 91 Chief Scouts Silver Awards
- 39 Chief Scouts Gold Awards
- 1 Chief Scouts Platinum Awards
- 16 Young Leader Belt Buckles
- 1 DoE Bronze



It is with great sadness that we record the deaths, since the last AGM, of former stalwarts and supporters of Scouting in South West Cheshire:

Graham Cookson, Leslie Davidson, Kath Titley

	CENSUS RETURN COMPARISON						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Groups	25	24	24	23	23	23	22
Beaver	432	404	416	429	390	385	255
Cub	492	466	480	497	456	427	301
Scout	428	453	400	412	413	422	371
Explorer	123	103	118	104	116	138	120
Network			27	105	102	90	26
Adults	335	414	500	564	612	513	505
Total	1810	1840	1941	2111	2089	1978	1578

*The Explorer figure includes members of the Explorer Young Leader Unit

John Bennett
District Secretary

DISTRICT APPOINTMENT TEAM'S REPORT

The Appointments Committee met on 6 occasions in 2020 – 2 “traditional” face-to-face meetings and 4 virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams.

Virtual meetings do have some advantages! We can, for example, interview students who may be away from home. In addition no-one has to leave the comfort of their home when it's cold, dark and raining! We are likely to continue some virtual meetings in future after face-to-face contact is permitted once again.

A total of 34 Section leaders, Assistant Section Leaders and Sectional Assistants were appointed in 2020. The Committee also approved 7 Changes of Role and 3 Additional Roles.

Our Membership Secretary, Tim Owen, is in the process of handing over the role. His County Training role takes up far too much of his time and leaves little time for anything else. We thank Tim for his sterling work administering the Appointments process and chasing people for references! Cathie Wainwright, the incoming appointments secretary will have a hard act to follow! Tim will remain a member of the Appointments Committee.

My thanks go to all Committee members for their continued support. Not everyone was happy to meet virtually but will “rejoin” the team again when physical meetings are permitted.

We would also welcome younger members to the Committee. We are supposed to be representative of adult Scouting members, but we currently have only 1 Committee member who is under 40! You do not need to have a Wood Badge to be part of the Committee, and it would be nice to increase the “youthful face” of the interviewing panel for prospective new Leaders. Full training will of course be given.

Jen Wilkinson
Appointments sub-committee chair

Tim Owen
Appointments Secretary (retiring)

BEAVER SCOUT SECTION REPORT

This has been a very different year to what we both had expected, but we would like to begin by thanking everyone who has supported Beavers throughout such a difficult period. We appreciate that the coronavirus has made scouting difficult and appreciate everybody who have worked hard to give the Beavers a fun and varied programme virtually.

Our celebration awards ceremony of the Chief Scouts Bronze Awards winners in 2019 was held at South Cheshire College South and West. This year we trialled a new format where we reviewed all the badges the Beavers had achieved to lead up to their Bronze award. This new format was well received and we hope to do similar in future ceremonies. In 2020, 72 Beaver Scouts across South West Cheshire were awarded their Chief Scouts Bronze award.

This year's Beaver Challenge was at the 17th SWC scout hut. We had 7 teams of Beavers from across the district attend, taking part in 'Skills of Life' challenges. These included naming fruit/vegetables, identifying dangers around the home and stuffing sleeping bags against the clock. The winning team of Beavers were from the 17th SWC. Well done!

Unfortunately, our Beaver Family Camp was cancelled this year due to the coronavirus. Instead, we managed to offer a 'virtual camp' activity which provided Beaver's the opportunity to partake in lots of fun and interesting activities at home. This was well received by those who took part and we cannot wait to be able to offer a face-to-face Family Camp again in the future.

Without the support of our Leaders, Young Leaders and parents, Beaver Scouts could not happen in South West Cheshire. Once again, we would like to thank you for helping the Beavers grow into influential young people. We hope that all Beavers will continue to have the opportunities to take part in exciting adventures and opportunities for the years to come and we look forward to being able to offer District events once more.

Thanks

Stephanie Fearn

Liam Potts

ADC Beavers

CUB SCOUT SECTION REPORT

2020 was not the year any of us were expecting and certainly an unusual year to take over from Gaynor and Roger, who did a fantastic job providing fun district events and supporting the Cub Leader community.

On behalf of the Cubs and leaders we would like to take this opportunity say a massive BRAVO for all their work and achievements while being ADC's.

In the 1st year of taking over as ADC's we have held all our Leader meetings over Zoom. It has been great to catch up and share ideas and support each other as well as hear about all the great things Cub Leaders have achieved with their Cub packs, during what was a very challenging year for Scouting. We look forward to meeting up with Cubs Leaders face to face, as soon as the rules allow. However, in the meantime, we want to remind Leaders that we are only a call or email away if you need us.

Silver Awards

In February, Chief Scout's Silver Award Certificates were presented by Pam Owen (Assistant County Commissioner Cubs) to 91 Cubs (46 of whom attended the evening) at Cheshire College (South and West) in Crewe.

Sixteen packs were represented: 1st 3rd 7th 14th 17th 18th 22nd 23rd 26th 30th 35th(R) 35th(S) 38th 39th 40th 41st

Again, the number of Silver Awards increased over the previous year. We would like to say well done to all the Cubs and their Leaders for all the hard work that has gone into achieving this, the highest award for Cubs, a fantastic achievement by all.

We would also like to thank Steph and Liam ADC Beavers for organising this event as we were only appointed a few days before.

Craft Competition

The District annual Craft Competition was held on Saturday 29th February we had 13 team enter from the 26th, 7th, 17th, 1st, 22nd, 3rd, 35th (R&S), 15th, 23rd, 38th, The event was a great success, and all the Cubs were a credit to their leaders. As always, the decision was not an easy one, but the winners were the 22nd (Audlem), sadly there was not a county competition for them to attend but they were a well-deserved winning team.

Scouting at home

Many packs have not stopped at all over the year and have had great times continuing scouting with great activities. Cubs have earned many badges during 2020 and this is a credit to the Cubs Leaders and parents.

Camping at home

It has been lovely to hear all the stories of Cub packs camping at home and carrying on regardless with their Cubs activities, we know many Cubs have had amazing times and the bonus for the leaders has been no wet tents or sleepless nights!

Thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank-you to all leaders, young leaders and helpers for all the time and effort that went in to 2020. We know how much work normally goes into planning events and pack nights and 2020 was a challenging year which made things extra difficult - so thanks again for sticking with it!

Looking for to 2021

We know many leaders and Cubs are so looking forward to getting back out about and meeting up with friends. We are looking forward to meeting you all and supporting you with Cub Scouts. As soon as we get the green light, rest assured we will be putting on some district events. If you have any ideas for different events, please let us know.

Hope to see you soon.

Jenny Carlin
Neil Tomlinson
ADC Cubs

SCOUT SECTION REPORT

2020 started like any other year with many Troops enjoying their annual Winter Camps and regular Troop nights....., then March hit and all activities and face-2-face meetings ceased.

Many Scout Groups took to Zoom and continued Scouting in a virtual World which presented its own challenges for Leaders in terms of organising programmes and logistics.

The District Scout section set up a Facebook page to communicate with all Scout Troops within the District and to share ideas for virtual activities. Leaders were also encouraged to share ideas at the online ADC's meetings.

Not all Scout Troops have been continuing the Scouting journey through this pandemic but the ones that have, have been holding virtual camps in several different forms.

Some Troops tried to keep a level of normality and celebrated St George's Day, Remembrance Day and UK Parliament Week all in a virtual world.

A few Troops went back to face 2 face in the Summer and met outside in small numbers in accordance with Covid-19 regulations for the short period of time between lockdowns.

It's been an exceptionally hard year to keep Scouts involved & interested as more of our activities have physical and practical elements when compared to the other Sections.

In summing up, the year has been as much of a challenge to the Scouts to continue badgework etc as it has been to the Leaders & helpers who have strived to continue to provide a balanced programme that delivers skills for life – virtually!!

We'd like to say a MASSIVE THANKS to the Scout Leaders across the District for all their considerable time and effort during a very Challenging year.

Lise Grasmeder
Tim Clark
ADC Scouts

EXPLORER REPORT

Considering what an awful year it has been the numbers of Explorer members has remained surprisingly good with only a loss of 15 (17%) Explorers across the units, with Shipton increasing their numbers by 5 (20%).

Mallory and Fiennes have been holding joint zoom meetings and intend to join forces temporarily when we resume face to face as both are now struggling with lack of leaders.

Shipton have been running regular zoom meetings and have also completed some face to face outdoor meetings during the last lockdown easing.

Drake too have been holding regular zoom meetings and are hoping to start face to face outdoors as soon as the current lockdown eases.

Wilson have had little communication with their Explorers since the first lockdown in March 2020. They continue to struggle with Explorer numbers but we are hoping that once the COVID restrictions ease and we are back to amber the number of Explorers will start to increase.

The Pandemic had left us with a few less leaders but we have had two new leaders start and we are looking at recruiting more.

We have been developing literature to be sent out to 17½ year olds and over Explorers/Young Leaders as a recruitment drive into adult roles. The first of which were sent in February to 14 Explorers/Young Leaders with another 14 to be contacted in the coming months.

We have been working tirelessly attempting to centralise the Explorer Units bank accounts. It has proven to be an arduous task with little or no co-operation from the

banks, however we now see a light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully in the coming months the District will have one account for all Units. The balance for all units is looking healthy, with provision for next year's membership well in hand. We still have a lot of work to do, and our next task is to tackle the Gift Aid.

For the first time in many years the District Explorer Accounts have been audited and sent to the District Treasurer. We have had several issues with non-payment of subs, but that now appears to be under control. The only outstanding issue now being that several Explorers are still paying the old amount of subs, despite numerous reminders that subs are £26.00 per term and not £22.50.

Ingrid Shaw
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Cathie Wainwright
District Explorer Scout Administrator

YOUNG LEADER EXPLORER SCOUTS

It has been a very productive year for the Young Leaders in South West Cheshire. Young Leaders are a great asset to any group. They are very supportive in running the weekly programme and can take a lot of pressure of the leaders.

What a year we have had. When we started the year we already had awarded 2 Young leader Belt Buckles and then Covid 19 came into the world. Well I thought that would be it for your Young Leader Belt Buckles being awarded this year. But I couldn't have been so wrong. We have awarded 16 Young Leader Belt Buckles to our Young Leaders this year in South West Cheshire. To gain this award they have had to complete all module courses 6 evenings in total attend a first aid course no less than level 5, complete 4 missions from organizing games to having an input into the colony/pack/section programme and then implementing that programme.

Diane Blurton
Young Leader Explorer Scout Leader

SCOUT NETWORK REPORT

Unfortunately due to the pandemic there haven't been any Network events in the past year with Network Gathering being cancelled as the first lockdown was announced, just 3 weeks before the event was due to take place. I have made the decision to step down from the DSNC role to focus on Explorers & Gang Show and hopefully someone with a fresh look at Network will be able to restart SWC's Express Network after the pandemic.

Will Swain

District Scout Network Commissioner

DISTRICT YOUTH FORUM

The start of the pandemic in March 2020 curtailed our plans for the District Youth Forum and other priorities meant we were unable to run any virtual events with the Forum members.

Our District Youth Commissioner, Harriet Faulkner, has reached the end of her term and we will now start the process of recruiting her replacement. Harriet will be stepping down when we have recruited a new DYC and I would like to thank Harriet for her work in establishing the role of DYC in the District and wish her well in her next Scouting role.

Ian Potts

District Commissioner

ACTIVITIES REPORT

2020 started off with a certain amount of nervousness – though this was primarily directed at the plans for a completely re-vamped Cheshire Hike (which were filtering out rather late and with many questions un-answered). Nevertheless, January and February saw plenty of Scouts out and about with maps and rucksacks, eager to be the first to take part in the new-look event.

A few of the braver ones even managed to get several Nights Away camping.

And then it all stopped! Hopes of running Swympic and a District Hike remained, but gradually dwindled as the days grew longer and eventually, we had to admit defeat.

Congratulations to the Groups and leaders who managed to keep their Young People active via a mixture of rapidly learnt Zoom skills and encouragement to complete nights camping in their gardens, meals cooked on open fires, hikes with their families and other Scouting skills, whilst still keeping to the 'rules'.

The rather daunting Covid Risk Assessment process unfortunately put off many from attempting to re-start face-to-face meetings – but those who achieved it were rewarded by the return of enthusiastic youngsters who were so keen to get outside and enjoy traditional activities.

I had intended to trial a number of activities with small numbers from my own Troop before rolling them out to the rest of SW Cheshire – during August we attempted Wild Swimming, cycling, hiking and kayaking and all did prove possible with adequate social distancing. Unfortunately, the additional Risk Assessment ‘hoops’ that needed to be jumped through to get the go-ahead for District run activities took longer than anticipated and by the time they were fully approved it was too late in the year for water-based events and the 2nd lockdown put paid to the rest.

In 2021, whilst lockdown restrictions remain in place, we hope to run some Activity Badge training sessions via Zoom, whilst encouraging Scouts to complete the practical outdoor parts with their families. Risk Assessments for more traditional Scout activities are in place and we are in a good position to resume events just as soon as the rules allow.

Apart from Covid, the biggest restriction is likely to be the availability of helpers and instructors – if you know of anyone who might be interested in helping occasionally, please put them in touch. Watching our young people gain skills and confidence in the outdoors is truly one of the most rewarding aspects of Scouting.

Rob Galloway
ADC (Activities)

MILLDALE CAMPSITE REPORT

The Covid-19 lockdown was put in place before the camping season got underway, as a consequence the site was not used for any Scouting activities in 2020.

In our report for last year we reported that there were a number of outstanding fees owed by certain groups. These have now all been cleared.

Although the site has been closed for 2020 the camp site service team has continued to maintain the site, naturally observing all Covid-19 rules and social distancing. As a consequence the site is ready to reopen once restrictions are eased.

A number of major projects have been completed including:

- Drainage improvements on the main camping field, and the shooting and archery ranges.
- Additional storage facilities have been built at the rear of the Tyler Barn.
- A number of bridges across Checkley Brook have been replaced.
- The refurbishment of the climbing tower has been completed.
- A path from the barn to the toilet block has been created.
- Work continues to develop plans and raise funds for an accommodation block adjacent to the Tyler Barn.
- A full CCTV system has been installed to monitor the site and pictures from the site can be viewed remotely.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has helped on site during the last, difficult, year and add that additional help will always be welcomed by the service team, especially on Sundays.

Carl Shore
Milldale Campsite Chairman.

SAILING

The Sailing team had planned taster days over two weekends in 2020 but sadly lockdown put paid to those hopes.

As soon as restrictions ease and we are allowed back on the water we hope to run at least three taster sessions in 2021. Details will be circulated as soon as circumstances permit. They will be held at Winsford Flash Sailing Club.

The Sailing Team

SWIMMING

The District Swimming Club resumed its weekly meetings on Thursday evenings, at Crewe Lifestyle Centre, from the beginning of January 2020.

The number of Cubs and Scouts attending the Club was lower than in previous years, with a number of occasions when the takings of the Club did not cover the cost of hiring the pool.

We had cancelled the Cub and Scout Galas in 2019 due to too few Groups signing up. However, on 16th March 2020 we held a joint Cub and Scout Gala, which proved a great success, even though there were a number of last minute withdrawals due to the changing national circumstances.

The Swimming Club was suspended immediately after the Gala as the Country went into lockdown. Discussions are still to be held to decide when the Swimming Club will resume.

Bob Binner
District Swimming Advisor

CANOEING and KAYAKING.

All Canoeing and Kayaking events were cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions in force throughout 2020.

It is hoped that taster sessions will begin again in 2021 and will be available to be booked by Cub, Scout & Explorer groups, on their normal meeting nights. If you are interested in booking a session, please contact Tony Sutton. A priority waiting list is maintained for any group unable to secure one of this year's sessions.

In addition to group taster sessions, individual skills/badge courses are being planned to run during 2021. If you are a Scout or Explorer Scout and interested in attending a skills course yourself, please contact Robert Galloway in the first instance.

As an adult leader if you are interested in becoming more involved with Canoeing and Kayaking and would like to potentially help with coaching, please contact Rob Galloway.

Tony Sutton
District Canoeing Advisor

SHOOTING

The district shooting activity team had planned a varied programme in 2020 with over 50 sessions booked for the first 6 months of the year offering shooting activities for cubs, scouts, and explorers at Milldale and further afield as well as leader training.

Some sessions were held in January, February, and the start of March both at Milldale and further afield training at Mersey Weaver and Holmes Chapel.

Then Covid -19 closed scouting as well as most of the country. When the situation eased in late summer, we started to look at the possibility of running sessions but found to comply with all the different rules in place would make this exceedingly difficult, but then 2nd and 3rd lockdowns were introduced.

Some new equipment was purchased at the start of the year, and the infrastructure is still in place for when the new normal allows the activity to take place in a safe and enjoyable manner.

We foresee difficulties in the future with fewer young people wishing to carry on or take up the activity after such a long break and also the difficulty that will be presented by leaders and helpers moving to different activities away from scouts and shooting.

Andrew Brookes
District Shooting Advisor

SCOUT & GUIDE SHOP REPORT

The Scout and Guide Shop was unable to open for long periods during 2020 due to the pandemic and therefore our income was significantly reduced. Turnover in 2020 was down by over two thirds and as a result the shop returned a loss on the year.

On the positive side the shop was able to take orders for badges via email which ensured that some sales did continue and that groups were able to purchase badges earned by their young people. This would not have been possible without the efforts of Andrew Whalley and Rosemary Schofield who put the orders together and attended the shop for orders to be collected.

The pandemic has focused our thoughts on how the shop will run in the future and if you would like to join the small but dedicated team of Scouting and Guiding volunteers who continue to ensure that the shop is successful, I know you would be welcomed.

Ian Potts
District Commissioner

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REPORT

My report last year ended with a quote from our Founder, Lord Baden Powell: 'Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.'

Our experiences during 2020 may have made looking on the bright side a difficult thing to do for many people. However, despite the challenges Scouting faced in 2020 there have been plenty of examples of our Leaders and Young People making 'the best of it'.

We have risen to the challenge of running meetings on-line, learned that Zooming isn't just a description of a group of Beavers running around a field and found out that Teams are not just what we split groups of Scouts into to play a wide game. I have been impressed by the range of activities that groups across the District have been able to run on-line, the imagination that has gone into devising new ways to achieve badges and the number of different ways that have been found to continue to deliver Scouting when we have not been able to meet face to face. From 'Bob's Badges' and OSM's Badges Online to virtual camps and Zoom meetings Leaders have covered the A to Z of how to deliver Scouting in 2020.

As a District our priorities had to change in mid-March and we had to find ways to respond to the challenges of running Scouting virtually, the issue of buildings being locked up and empty for long periods and the financial impacts posed by reduced income. With monthly District Executive Committee, GSL and ADC meetings we rose to these challenges, sharing ideas and best practice and taking advantage of support from outside Scouting where it was available. Planned activities and events were postponed and then cancelled, including the Gang Show and Eurojam, and eventually thoughts turned to how to return to face to face Scouting safely. Just as we were starting to get back to face to face Scouting, with the appropriate adjustments and Risk Assessments in place, we were then hit with a further Covid lockdown and had to return to virtual Scouting.

Unfortunately, one of the consequences of the changes to the delivery of Scouting has been a reduction in the number of members, especially young people, many of whom have found that spending time on Zoom school lessons followed by a Zoom Scout meeting has not been enjoyable. However, one thing I am confident of is that if we can rise to the challenges 2020 presented us, we can bounce back in 2021 and beyond.

The number of people across the District who deserve thanks for their efforts over the last 12 months are too numerous to mention here but I would particularly like to thank our District Secretary, John Bennett, for his hard work and support.

Our founder once said 'A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room'. Having personally run just one face to face meeting between March and December last year this could be re-phrased as 'An hours face to face Scout meeting is worth six months of Zoom meetings'.

Ian Potts
District Commissioner

South West Cheshire District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01/01/2020	To	31/12/2020
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Receipts and payments

	2020 £	2019 £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscriptions	£62,924	£60,456
Less: Membership subscriptions paid on (National / County / Area / District)	£50,875	£48,813
Net membership subscriptions retained	£12,049	£11,644
Network	£0	£0
Scout Shop	£7,500	£7,500
Sub total		
Activities		
Beavers	£13	£2,429
Cubs	-	£98
Scouts	-	£2,939
Explorers	-	£4,537
Leaders	-	£610
Swimming Club	£1,336	£1,805
District events, activities, training and camps	£340	£0
Sub total		
Fundraising (gross)		
World Scouting Jamboree	£1,748	£14,814
Eurojam	£11,354	£6,760
Other fundraising activities	£1,890	£250
Sub total		
Other receipts		
Business grants	£11,334	-
Emptying Mallory bank account	£4,166	-
3 rd SWC share or District store insurance	£195	-
Fiennes ESU reimbursing District for rent payment	£600	£0
Maintenance	£29	£382
Gang Show	-	£1,000
Loan repaid by Mallory ESU	-	£1,145
Loan repaid by 3 rd SWC	-	£3,000
Unidentified deposits	-	£3,517
Sub total		
Investment income		
Bank interest	£372	£353
Sub total		
Total Gross Income		
Asset and investment sales, etc.	£0	£0
Total receipts		

South West Cheshire District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01/01/2020	To	31/12/2020
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Receipts and payments

	2020 £	2019 £
Payments		
Activities		
Beavers	£39	£2,878
Cubs	£57	£160
Scouts	£943	£1,409
Explorers	-	£4,217
Young leaders	£0	£0
Leaders	-	£919
District youth forum	-	£410
District events, activities, training and camps	£380	£452
Swimming Club	£1,890	£2,730
Sub total		
District running costs		
Water and Sewerage	£136	£209
Electricity and Gas	£577	£1,741
Insurance	£9,357	£7,505
Repairs and Renewals	£387	£3,345
AGM and trustee expenses	£269	£846
Legal Expenses	-	£423
CVS Licence	£45	£45
MPLC (film licence)	£668	£648
Radio Licence	-	£75
Lottery licence	£20	£20
MiFi	£136	£138
Websites	£451	-
First Aid	£300	-
District shop purchases	-	£412
Sub total		
Exceptional expenses		
Loan to Fiennes ESU	-	£300
Paying Fiennes ESU's rent	£600	-
Reimbursing Mallory ESU bank account proceeds	£4,166	-
Gang Show	£2,350	£1,000
Shop stock	-	£474
Payments on behalf of District shop	£2,577	-
PPE	£362	£0
Sub total		
Fundraising expenses		
Distributed proceeds of fundraising	£96	£0
Eurojam	£12,777	£3,697
World Scouting Jamboree instalments	£3,000	£18,628
Donations	£800	£850
Sub total		
Total Gross Expenditure		
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	£0	£0
Total payments		
Net of receipts/(payments)		
Cash funds last year end	£87,701	£78,449
2 LT700002 (1st January 2017) Cash funds this year end		

Activity Accounts

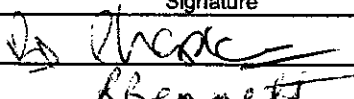
Section	Receipts	Payments	Opening balance	Closing balance
Milldale	£16,709	£23,087	£44,736	£38,358
Explorers	£12,479	£5,449	£5,441	£12,471
Canoe and Kayak	£1	£2,058	£2,799	£742
Sailing	£0	£0	£4,556	£4,556
Shooting	£9,023	£11,773	£5,684	£2,935
Scout Shop	£13,042	£17,157	£20,832	£16,717
Gang Show	£5,643	£4,673	£3,363	£4,332

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31/12/2020	31/12/2019
	£	£
Cash funds		
RBS current account	£51,208	£41,039
NS&I Investment account	£46,832	£46,460
The Scout Association Charity Deposit Account	£201	£201
Total cash funds		
Non monetary assets for charity's own use (Insured values)		
Land and buildings	£350,517	£286,533
Motor vehicles	£25,950	£25,950
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	£75,219	£65,680
Marine	£56,716	£56,716
Sub total		
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid	-	£1,384
Sub total		

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 1st March 2021 (the date of the Executive Committee meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature


Richard Bennett

Print Name

RICHARD DANIEL CHALOW, Chair
RICHARD BENNETT Treasurer



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name SOUTH WEST CHESHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

On accounts for the year ended

31st DECEMBER 2020 Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages

1 to 3 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD/MM/YYYY.

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 of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: D Taylor

Date: 25 OCTOBER 2021

Name: DAVID TAYLOR

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

ICAEW

(if any):

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Address:

64 LEWIN STREET
MIDDLEWICH
CHESHIRE CW10 9AS

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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