



**South West Notts  
District Scout Council**

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Accounts  
for the Year ended 31 March 2024**



**Registered Charity: 1073964**

**Scout Association Registration No: 14713**

**[www.swnotts-scouts.org.uk](http://www.swnotts-scouts.org.uk)**

## Trustees: SW Notts District Scout Council : 2023 - 2024

### Ex-Officio Trustees

Stanley Heptinstall, MBE – Chair of Trustees  
David Pidgeon – Hon. Treasurer

Ed Hewes - District Lead Volunteer  
(Currently Vacant) – District Youth Lead

### Elected Trustees

Timothy Orton (2nd Attenborough)  
Adam Blakey (2<sup>nd</sup> Beeston)  
Maurice Gosling (resigned March 2024)  
Debbie Storer (Parent of Archers ESU)  
Jane Andrews (Deputy DLV – Programme Lead),

### Nominated Trustees

Chris Phillips (Deputy DLV – Volunteer Development Lead)  
Connor Lynch (Deputy DLV – 14-25 Lead)

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### Vice - Presidents:

Mr Dean Fazey,  
Mrs Freda Foster, Mr Mike Foster,  
Mr Simon Woodroffe

### Bankers:

HSBC Bank plc, The Square, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 2AN  
Lloyds Bank, 12 Lower Parliament Street, NG1 3DA  
National Savings and Investments – NS&I

### Constitution

The Constitution of the District Scout Council is as laid down in the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association. A copy can be found within Chapter 5.5 at [www.scouts.org.uk/por](http://www.scouts.org.uk/por)

### GDPR Policy

The GDPR Policy of the District is available to the public on the District Website via the following link:  
<https://swnotts-scouts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/SWN-GDPR-DOCUMENT.pdf>

#### **GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)**

Every Adult Member of the District is required to undertake online GDPR training. It can be found at:  
[http://members.scouts.org.uk/training\\_module/GDPR\\_elearning/#/](http://members.scouts.org.uk/training_module/GDPR_elearning/#/)

## **Chair of the District's Board of Trustees Report**

It has been my privilege to view scouting in SW Notts from two different angles over the last year. As Chair of the SW Notts Board of Trustees I have been able to observe the contributions made to scouting by the trustees that I work with. And as a grandfather I have been able to follow the experience of five of my own grandchildren within the scouting movement.

First, the grandchildren. Their ages range from 5 to 14 years. They all enjoy scouting very much. They attend their sections regularly and thoroughly enjoy their experiences. The eldest is working hard to complete his Duke of Edinburgh Award and at the same time learning to be a young leader. During the year his two younger brothers attended a special Awards Ceremony where they received a certificate in recognition of their progress. All the boys and their two sisters attend scouts week by week and are fully engaged. I am proud of all of them. And I am very grateful for the quality of the care, attention and encouragement they receive from the leaders and volunteers with whom they interact.

Second, the trustees. In Ed Hewes we have a new lead volunteer whose enthusiasm and commitment to scouting in SW Notts knows no bounds. And in Jane Andrews, Adam Blakey, Connor Lynch, Tim Orton, Chris Philips, David Pidgeon, and Deborah Storer, we have a Board of Trustees who work hard and effectively to ensure the smooth running and enhancement of scouting in the SW Notts area. And all this is above and beyond the positions that each one of them hold at Group level. I am sure that all of us are very grateful to Ed and his team for all that they do. We are also very grateful to those who have left us. And, I want to mention Annette Daykin, Maurice Gosling and Abi Chapman, all of whom have also contributed so much to scouting, through the Executive and in other ways, over many years.

Here are just some of the achievements. We have met regularly every 6-weeks throughout the year, mostly in person in Attenborough Village Hall, but with some attending by zoom. We have a newly designed website to provide regular information on events in SW Notts. We have adopted and encouraged the use of the On-line Scout Manager (OSM) to simplify administration. We receive regular reports on all financial matters from our treasurer and have provided financial support to groups and sections as needed. Sectional reports are now created and circulated widely with feedback received incorporated into future planning. There is a constant focus on training needs and take-up by all volunteers. A new explorer unit has been created and supported. Additional squirrel dreys have been created. A very successful District Awards event was planned and held. Plans for a SW Notts overseas camp are being worked on and are coming together.

As you can see, my own views on scouting in SW Notts are very positive indeed and I want to finish by offering my own personal thanks to all in scouting for your hard work, commitment and enthusiasm that has meant so much, not only to my own family, but to countless families over the whole of the area of Nottinghamshire that we serve. The future of scouting in SW Notts is in good hands, Thank you all so much.

**Stan Heptinstall**

Chair, Board of Trustees, SW Notts Scouts

June 2024

## **District Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts**

This year saw the change of the district lead volunteer from Mr Simon Clark, initially to Mrs Annette Daykin and then to Mr Edward Hewes. Despite these changes, the accounts for the year show a similar pattern to previous years. The agreed policy was to continue to support groups/units using reserves built up in earlier years when necessary. The result was that the accounts for the 2023/24 year again shows an excess of payments over receipts. The shortfall amounted to £2,270 which was below the anticipated budget shortfall of £9,116. The result is that the closing level of reserves exceeds that required by the reserves policy below.

Total receipts during the year of £15,453.72 is an increase of £3,274 over last year due to higher membership fees received, £1,248, more from the sale of badges, £1,876 and increased fund raising by explorers, £875. These were partly reduced by a fall in grants and donations.

The district element of the 2024 membership charge for youth members was increased slightly from 2023 to allow the new leadership to provide ongoing additional benefits to groups/units. No district organised fund-raising activities were undertaken during the year.

The payments made during the year increased by £2,403 from those incurred in 2023. Support for section activities fell but that for the participants in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme increased. Training costs and support grants fell but the spend on district events, the cost of badges and running costs increased.

The introduction of a top awards evening contributed to the increase cost of district events while the higher running costs reflect the investment in the new website and development of a district OSM to support groups and improve communications.

**David R. Pidgeon,**  
District Treasurer

June 2024

### **Reserves Policy**

The trustees consider that sufficient reserves should be held to meet 6 months anticipated running costs plus 50% of the membership fee paid annually to the Scout Association/county.

## SOUTH WEST NOTTS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st March 2024

	2023/2024			2022/2023
	General	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Membership Fees Received	60,534.00		60,534.00	51,128.00
less paid over to County	53,352.00		53,352.00	45,193.50
Net total	7,182.00	0.00	7,182.00	5,934.50
Grants and Donations	384.00		384.00	1,049.53
Receipts for Programme Activities	232.56		232.56	439.97
District Events			0.00	0.00
Fund Raising	1,963.20		1,963.20	1,086.94
Sale of Badges	5,410.70		5,410.70	3,634.90
Bank Interest	281.26		281.26	0.00
Other Income			0.00	33.80
<b>Total Receipts for the Year</b>	<b>15,453.72</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>15,453.72</b>	<b>12,179.64</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Programme Activities	4,104.58		4,104.58	4,524.19
D of E Award Scheme	2,353.07		2,353.07	
Development			0.00	0.00
Training			0.00	1,175.00
Support for Groups, Units & Individuals	2,183.75		2,183.75	2,796.15
Cost of District Events	123.06	1,200.00	1,323.06	732.83
Cost of Fund Raising			0.00	0.00
Cost of Badges	4,204.33		4,204.33	3,176.68
Cost of Hemlock Campsite	73.02		73.02	335.62
Costs of Running the District	3,481.63		3,481.63	2,580.22
Miscellaneous Payments			0.00	0.00
<b>Total Payments for the Year</b>	<b>16,523.44</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>17,723.44</b>	<b>15,320.69</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>(1,069.72)</b>	<b>(1,200.00)</b>	<b>(2,269.72)</b>	<b>(3,141.05)</b>
<b>Balance at beginning of Year</b>	<b>66,735.28</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>67,935.28</b>	<b>71,076.33</b>
<b>Balance at end of Year</b>	<b>65,665.56</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>65,665.56</b>	<b>67,935.28</b>

# SOUTH WEST NOTTS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Monetary Assets</b>		
District Current Account Statement	25,465.06	26,552.55
National Savings Account	36,634.51	36,353.25
Explorer Bank Account	468.08	3,025.88
Explorer Stripe Account	1,159.41	
Explorer Cash-in-Hand	18.00	18.00
Network Bank Account	0.00	0.00
Network Cash-in-Hand	101.92	101.92
Badge Secretary Bank Account	1,760.96	1,759.39
Badge Secretary Cash-in-Hand	57.62	124.29
	65,665.56	67,935.28
<b>Other Monetary Assets</b>		
Debtors		
Group's Fees for Squirrels Fun Day	301.00	
Payments in advance		
Deposit for Wheelgate Park (Squirrels)	100.00	
Electricity	83.32	250.00
	484.32	250.00
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors		
Bank Charges	(10.60)	
Membership Fees received in advance	(7,182.00)	(5,934.50)
	(7,192.60)	(5,934.50)
<b>Net Monetary Assets</b>	58,957.28	62,250.78
<b>Non-Monetary Assets</b>		
Scout Equipment etc. @ value insured	13,732.00	14,000.00
Stock of Badges @ purchase value	2,946.10	3,474.10

These financial statements which comprise the Accounts of South West Notts District Scout Council were approved by the Trustees on 10th June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:-

Signature .....		Signature .....
Name     Prof. Stanley Heptinstall		Name     David Pidgeon
Position   Chair of Trustees		Position   District Treasurer

## SOUTH WEST NOTTS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the Year ended 31st March 2024

#### ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Closing Balance
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
St George's Activity Day	1,200.00		1,200.00		0.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.00
General Funds	66,735.28	15,453.72	16,523.44		65,665.56
<b>Total</b>	67,935.28	15,453.72	17,723.44	0.00	65,665.56

**Independent examiners report to the Trustees of the  
South West Notts District Scout Council  
Charity number 1073964**

We report on the accounts of the District for the year ended 31 March 2024 as follows:

**Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiners**

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("The Act"). The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act,
- To follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(b) of the Act), and
- To state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiners' report**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records maintained by the District and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent Examiners' statement**

In connection with our examination, no material matters have come to our attention which give us cause to believe that in, any material respect:

The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act:

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

*Graham Jones*

Graham Jones & Co  
Accountants  
15 Portland Court  
Sherwood  
Nottingham  
NG5 6EX

6 June 2024



## **District Lead Volunteer's Report**

This past year has been one of significant change but also growth. We started the year with Annette Daykin as our Lead Volunteer but, as her personal circumstances changed, I stepped up to cover and, from January, adopted the role formally. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Annette for the time she gave in leading SW Notts and for the support she continues to offer now in her County/District Training Advisor capacity. We're grateful to still have her support and experience to draw on.

As we built the new District Leadership Team, we made the move over to the new 'post-transformation' way of working – a team-based approach to volunteering, with updated role titles. The degree to which this is becoming embedded has been somewhat impacted by the last-minute change in HQ timescales due to complications with the new digital membership system due to be launched. I am pleased to hear that we may be able to begin the move over to the new system in September, but only time will tell! I'd like to thank everyone for being flexible with the changes made to date and understanding some of the current difficulties around dual role titles. Change is difficult and will undoubtedly take us time.

In December 2023, we relaunched the District Top Awards Day, celebrating the achievements of our members across the County. There were more than 155 eligible young people to collect their awards ranging from the Chief Scout Acorn Award (Squirrels) to Duke of Edinburgh Silver Awards (Explorers). It was fantastic to celebrate the efforts of our young people, and to get groups together to reflect on their successes. We intend to repeat the event again this year and hope for even more young people and volunteers to be invited along to receive their awards. My thanks go to Experian for allowing us to use their headquarters to host the event.

Moreover, membership in the District is at its highest point within the last decade with 1,073 active young people at the January 2024 census; that's a 11% increase on 2023 figures. With groups maintaining healthy numbers across sections and the increase in new Squirrel dreys, team SW Notts continues to expand. I am pleased to see thriving Squirrel Dreys in 1<sup>st</sup> Toton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Toton, 1<sup>st</sup> C&A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Attenborough, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chilwell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Chilwell and 6<sup>th</sup> Beeston. I am grateful to everyone who has had an impact on opening these new sections, as it has involved much research, trial and error and trying new ways of working. It has been lovely to see how different groups approach the running of their Early Years (age 4-6) sections, with a much greater emphasis on play and team building within the programme. Towards the end of the year, we also saw the opening of Archers Explorer Scout Unit (ages 14+) which is another great example of how our 14-25 offer is developing at the top end. Again, thank you to the volunteers responsible for working on this development project.

Lastly, the progress with leader training continues to be strong, with an increasing number of wood badges being sent for processing each month. By having strong volunteer engagement with the training scheme, this puts SW Notts in a good position to be able to continue delivering excellent Scouting to our communities. I encourage any volunteer who is unsure about their learning and development journey to reach out to one of our District Training Advisors (there's one in every group) to have a conversation about how we can work to get the recognition of the Wood Badge for your role.

Thank you for all the time and commitment you offer to Scouting locally – it is a privilege to work alongside such a positive and driven team of volunteers. Here's to another exciting year ahead!

**Ed Hewes**

District Lead Volunteer

## **District Appointments Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

Our District Appointments Advisory Committee last year comprised of:

Helen Johnson (Chair), Carol Eley (Secretary), David Henson, Colyn Kemp, Simon Clark, Steve Riordan, Roger Ward.

We have interviewed on average 5 new leaders per month and have gained increases in all sections. In total we have approved 119 roles of which 59 were occasional helpers.

We are still holding our meetings online, until such time as the new system kicks in – probably in September. I am aware that the District Lead volunteers have been asked to work with Group Lead Volunteers to ensure that there are appropriate nominated members included within their new organisational structures. This is so that those members of their Group who wish to be involved in the “welcoming process” for new leaders receive appropriate learning for their new roles.

It is particularly encouraging that so many adults have joined us since March to help with the Squirrel Sections. However, I must stress that all new appointments need references, and these must be submitted within the specified time.

**Carol Eley**

Appointments Secretary

## **Nights Away Experiences Report**

In 2023 there were 1,893 nights away done by the groups in the District, every group recorded at least one section doing a camp, although not every section did. Six beaver colonies had at least one night away, 10 packs, 8 troops and most of the explorer units either those attached to groups or as a district event i.e. DofE.

Places for camps varied from sleepovers in their own hut to local sites such as Drum Hill, and Trent Lock to a little further afield such as Robin Hood centre, Sherbrooke, Johns Lee Wood, Walesby, Willesley, Hollygate, Fox Coverts, Gradbach, Spitewinter, Oaks, Holme Pierrepont, Beaudesert, West Midlands and Glenbrook; and those that went to Snowdonia, Glencoe, Essex and Cornwall. Also not missing out trips to The Deep in Hull and the National Space Centre.

I would like to thank all those running the camps for sending in their NAN forms, mainly in a timely manner (7 days prior) so that details can be checked, etc. beforehand and including the risk assessments, which some are of a very high standard.

### **Chris Phillips**

Deputy DLV – Support Team Lead

## **Mandatory Learning Compliance Report**

This has been a focus of late after the tragic event that came to the forefront recently; and regular reports are received as to the status of leaders whose safety and safeguarding has expired or coming to expiration within weeks. At the start of these reports the number of adults on it was 30, the latest had 7, demonstrating that, as a district, we are ensuring that our leaders and trustee board members are up to date with this mandatory training and now we have a first aider trainer, this will be another area where we can keep our leaders compliant.

### **Chris Phillips**

Deputy DLV – Volunteer Development Lead

## **Programme Team Report**

This report highlights the activities and events organized for the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts over the past year. It also outlines future plans and acknowledges the hard work of our District Section Leads.

### Squirrels:

The Squirrels have had an eventful year with two significant activities:

- **Skills Day at Hollygate Campsite:** This event provided an excellent opportunity for the Squirrels to learn and practice new skills in an outdoor setting. The event was highly successful and enjoyed by all participants.
- **Fun Day at Wheelgate Park:** This fun-filled day allowed the Squirrels to engage in various activities and enjoy the attractions at Wheelgate Park. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

### Beavers:

The Beavers also had a memorable year with the following event:

- **Science Night at the University:** This educational event was a great success, thanks to the efforts of Dean Farrelly and the university staff. The Beavers had the chance to explore scientific concepts in a fun and interactive environment.

Plans are underway for more events in the upcoming year, including a sleepover at Conkers and a day out at Manor Farm Park.

### Cubs:

While the Cubs have not participated in any district-level events this year, there are exciting plans for the future:

- **Sleepover at Wollaton Park:** This event is expected to provide the Cubs with a fun and engaging experience in a historic park setting, famous for being Batman's House.

### Scouts:

For the Scouts, several activities have been suggested, but no concrete plans have been finalised yet. The Scout Team are looking forward to organising a Patrol Leader Camp and potentially a visit to Alton Towers in the near future.

### Acknowledgements:

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our District Section Leads – Rachel Lawson, Lucie Hammett, Issie McElhone and Kim Chaniotis - for their hard work and dedication. Their efforts have been instrumental in getting us off to such a fantastic start this year. We look forward to more exciting events and activities in the future.

This report reflects the commitment and enthusiasm of everyone involved in making our programme successful. We anticipate another year filled with skills for life, fun, and adventure for all our members.

**Jane Andrews**

Deputy DLV – Programme Lead

## 14-25 Programme Report: A Year of Growth and Achievement

I'm delighted to report on a successful year for our 14-25 Programme. Our Explorer Scouts continue to be a vibrant and active part of the District, demonstrating a real enthusiasm for learning, challenge, and personal development.

### Strong Unit Activity:

- All our Explorer Units are thriving! Unit evenings are packed with a diverse range of engaging activities, catering to a variety of interests. This allows young people to explore new skills, from map reading and campfire cooking to engineering and creative projects.

### Beyond Unit Evenings:

The Explorers' thirst for adventure extends beyond their regular meetings. We've seen a fantastic uptake in our wider programme offerings:

- **Cross-District Events:** Participation in events like NESST allows our Explorers to connect and share experiences with Scouts from other Districts, fostering friendships and teamwork.
- **Young Leader and DofE Provision:** We're proud to see Explorers taking initiative through the Young Leader programme, developing leadership skills that benefit both themselves and the younger sections. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) scheme has also seen tremendous growth, with a record-breaking 64 participants engaged in various award levels.

This year holds a special place in our District's history. We witnessed our first ever Gold DofE team successfully complete their challenging expedition in the stunning Scottish Highlands of Glencoe. This is a testament to the dedication and perseverance of the participants and their mentors and sets a fantastic example for future cohorts.

### Looking Ahead:

We're excited to welcome Archers ESU, our newest Explorer Unit, to the District. Their arrival further strengthens our 14-25 Programme and provides even more opportunities for young people to get involved.

In conclusion, this past year has been exceptional for our 14-25 Programme. We've seen growth in participation, a thriving programme of activities, and a DofE Gold Award achievement – a true milestone. We look forward to building upon these successes and creating even more enriching experiences for our young Explorers in the year to come.

**Connor Lynch**

Deputy DLV – 14-25 Team Lead