

# Scouts

**FLINTSHIRE SCOUT DISTRICT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2023 - 2024**

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## FLINTSHIRE SCOUT DISTRICT – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Meeting Agenda

**DATE: 21/10/2024**

**TIME: 7pm Gladstone Centre**

No	Item
1	Introduction and welcome
2	Apologies for absence
3	To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 4th June 2023
4	<p><b>Governance topics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules</li> <li>b. Note the District financial year</li> <li>c. Agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board</li> <li>d. Agree the quorum for each of the District Scout Council (including this AGM), meetings of the District Trustee Board, meetings of any sub-committees</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Review of the previous year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The District Lead Volunteer review of Scouting in Flintshire Scout District.</li> <li>b. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board including the annual Statement of the Accounts</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Making appointments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. [If required] To (re-) appoint Group President and/or Vice-Presidents</li> <li>b. To note any other supporters who may be admitted to membership of the District Scout Council, including former Scouts and parents, by the District Lead Volunteer, the District Trustee Board or the District Scout Council.</li> <li>c. To approve the District Lead Volunteer's nomination of the District Chair</li> <li>d. Election of the District Treasurer</li> <li>e. Elections of members to the District Trustee Board</li> <li>f. To approve the District Lead Volunteer's nominations to the District Trustee Board</li> <li>g. To appoint the Independent Examiner</li> </ul>
7	Thank you and awards
8	Close

## FLINTSHIRE SCOUT DISTRICT – AGM 2023 MINUTES

**Sunday 4th June 2023 1:00pm Gladstone Centre**

**Present:** Jan Joynson-Crosby ADC Cubs, Sara-Beth Winter GSL 1st CQ / DCSL, Steve Love DESC, Gordon Richardson Regrowth Commissioner, Aled Williams Network Commissioner, Kalum Jones Network Commissioner, Joe Stoddart Kinnerton GSL, Dave Jones Treffynnon Cyntaf GSL, Jocelyn Jones Treffynnon Cyntaf, Jerry Sommerton Trustee/SAS, Monika Gravili SAS, Bernard Gravill Penyffordd / SAS, Terry Gleave Cross Counties, Lisa Francis Hawarden GSL, Angela Hughes St Matthews Beavers, Kevin Field Area Commissioner, Alan Henshaw 1st CQ, Jan Henshaw 1st CQ, Mike Bowen Gladstone Centre, Sue Lloyd Area Training Manager, Elved Gray Jones Area Appointments, Chair Dan Reynolds, Laura Callaghan, Dan Campbell, Gareth Roberts.

**Apologies:** Arnold Woolley, May Castrey, Mike & Sheila Dawson, Pat Royle, Lena & John Heaps, Lisa Reynolds, Allan Roberts, Andrea Dixon, Tamsin Royle.

No	Item	Actions
1	<b>Welcome</b> - Dan Reynolds Great venue & setting after a fantastic weekend. Thanks for attending today and/or both.	
2	<b>Apologies – see above</b>	
3	<b>Minutes of previous AGM meeting</b>  Page by page for factuality. No matters arising.	Move to approve Elved Gray-Jones  2nd Mike Bowen  Show of hands of support - all approved.
4	<b>Governance topics</b>	
4a	<b>Constitution</b>  Dan R - In line with the recommendation from Scout HQ, I recommend that we adopt the model constitution from Chapter 5 of Policy Organisation & Rules. A copy of this was circulated and scrutinised ahead of AGM by Trustees. Constitution from last year to this year hasn't fundamentally changed but some language has been updated. Alan Henshaw - asks how often this is to be reviewed?  Dan R -will be reviewed and adopted annually at AGM.	Move to accept this into Constitution - Dave Jones  2nd Steve Love  Show of hands of support - all approved.

<p><b>4b</b></p>	<p><b>District Financial Year</b></p> <p>As previous years this will remain unchanged and will run from January to December.</p>	<p>Propose - Dave Jones</p> <p>2nd Steve Love</p> <p>Show of hands of support - all approved.</p>
<p><b>4c</b></p>	<p><b>Agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board</b></p> <p>The District court Council must agree at the AGM the number of people that can be elected to the Trustee Board.</p> <p>The recommendation from the outgoing Trustee Board is that 15 people can be elected. I propose that the District Scout Council approves that recommendation.</p>	<p>Proposal of acceptance - Dave Jones</p> <p>2nd - Elved Gray-Jones</p> <p>Show of hands of support - all approved.</p>
<p><b>4d</b></p>	<p><b>Agree Quorum for each Group Scout Council (including AGM), meetings of the Group Trustee Board, meetings of any sub committees.</b></p> <p>The District Scout Council must agree at its AGM the quorum - the minimum number of District Scout Council members that must be present at a meeting the District Scout Council.</p> <p>The recommendation form the outgoing Trustee Board is that the quorum should be set at 6 persons The District Scout Council is asked to approve this recommendation.</p>	<p>Proposal of acceptance - Dave Jones</p> <p>2nd - Elved Gray-Jones</p> <p>Show of hands of support - all approved.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Review of Year</b></p> <p>Dan R - Chair Report shared on behalf of Arnold who is stepping down in his role of Chair this year. Huge thanks to Arnold for his tie and dedication to the District in his Role as Chair over the years.</p> <p>DC Review - We've come a long way since last year where we were still coming out of restrictions. We have an active youth and adults sections, highest numbers to date and now providing new Squirrel Sections. Seeing what these new Squirrel sections are achieving is really impressive. Big improvements have been made to Gladstone and great plans for the coming year thanks to the dedicated team here. Work parties are held very Wednesday, grass cutting cleaning and general maintenance if you'd like to join in. The year ahead will see Scouts move through Transformation Change - with new streamlined computer systems in place to free up time.</p>	

5b	<p><b>Annual Statement of Accounts</b></p> <p>Gareth Roberts Page 1 - Independent Examiner reports</p> <p>Page 2 - Income/Expenditure/Deficit Within income - District Levy is up and with membership numbers up on LY we've seen an increase. Contribution of £300 hardship payments have been made</p> <p>Page 3 - Balance sheet Money fallen by £2000 on LY due to loan made to Gladstone.</p> <p>Page 4 - Analysis Explorer Units previously have had own accounts but going forward will be audited under the District Accounts. Gladstone has previously been an area asset but now is a District Asset and accounts will be audited at year end with District. Reports will be published on the website.</p>	<p>Accounts have already been approved by Trustees at a previous meeting.</p> <p>A general show of support from those attending the meeting - All agreed.</p> <p>Many Thanks to Gareth for his hard work and efforts as Treasurer.</p>
6	<p><b>Making Appointments</b></p> <p>Dan R notes to the District Council Members present that this part of the meeting sets the charity up to be well-led during the period until the next AGM.</p> <p>Particularly the District Scout Council appoints a Trustee Board to ensure good governance for the charity of the coming year.</p>	
6a	<p><b>Appoint Group President</b></p> <p>Group President appointments are made by the District Scout Council.</p> <p>May Castrey is proposed as President. Show of hands to re-approve.</p>	<p>All approved</p>
6b		
6c	<p><b>Approve District Commissioner nomination of District Chair</b></p> <p>Currently have no residing Chair - continue in the interim as Dan acting as Chair.</p>	<p>General show of support for nomination - All agreed.</p>
6d	<p><b>To elect District Secretary</b></p> <p>District Secretary is an elected appointment and as required Laura Callaghan has been formally proposed and seconded. Since there were no other nominations by the closing date a show of hands is required to approve Laura's election to continue as District Secretary.</p>	<p>Propose Sue Lloyd</p> <p>2nd Elved Gray-Jones</p> <p>All approve</p>

6e	<p><b>To elect District Treasurer</b></p> <p>The District Treasurer is an elected appointment and as required Gareth Roberts has been formally proposed and seconded. Since there was no other nomination by the closing date a show of hands is required to approve Gareth's election.</p>	All approved
6f	<p>To elect person to the District Trustee Board</p> <p>The following have been formally proposed and second in writing by the due date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allan Roberts</li> <li>• Elved Gary-Jones</li> <li>• Alan Henshaw</li> <li>• Jerry Sommerton</li> <li>• Mike Bowen</li> <li>• Lena Heaps</li> <li>• Sue Lloyd</li> <li>• James Reynolds</li> <li>• Steve Love</li> <li>• Daniel Reynolds</li> </ul> <p>Terry Gleave wishes to be elected on to the District Trustee Board - show of hands to accept - all agreed.</p> <p>Thanks to the Trustees for their work during the year and in particular those members who are standing down –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arnold, Lisa, Greg and Josh.</li> </ul>	A show of hands requested to support their re-election.
6g	<p><b>District Commissioner nominations to the Trustee Board</b></p>	No nominations.
6h	<p><b>Appoint Independent Examiner</b></p> <p>Gareth Roberts in his role of Treasurer proposes Caroline Blake FCCA McIntocks (NW) Ltd Chartered Accountants, 2 Hilards Court, Chester Business Park. McIntocks has been proposed and seconded and is qualified for the role.</p>	Approved by a show of hands to approve McIntocks nomination.
7	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p>Thank you for coming. Scouting has such a diverse group of people and skills and this weekend is testament to this.</p> <p>Kevin Area Commissioner - another fantastic year in Scouting - so many awards given out and wood beads achieved - presented Terry Gleave with his wood beads - congratulations.</p>	Meeting closed - Keep Scouting



## FLINTSHIRE SCOUT DISTRICT CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2023-2024

As the new Chair for Flintshire District Scouts, I would like to begin my report with thanks to all the Board members for the welcome and support they have given me. I would also like to extend my thanks to the retiring Chair, Arnold Woolley, for his service and hard work during his term of office, big shoes to fill indeed.

Whilst Covid-19 has been less of an issue this year, there has been an element of change in the Scouting movement with the introduction of Transformation. I am assured that the new system is much easier to use and far more intuitive, and I thank the Transformation team for all their effort and commitment to implementing this change smoothly.

I feel that the Trustee structure is working well, with clear governance guidelines for us to follow and action plans with which to monitor progress. It has been incredibly useful to me to have a comprehensive overview of the issues to be discussed and addressed at each meeting.

My thanks also go to Gareth Roberts, our District Treasurer, who has had the unenviable task of checking the accounts from all the units this year, working through a myriad of different formats, in order for us to achieve financial compliance. I hope the task becomes more streamlined for him going forward, as standard templates are developed.

District Commissioner Dan Campbell and Laura Callaghan have stepped back from their roles this year and Sue Lloyd has advised she will also be stepping back as Trustee when our numbers are reduced to 12. I wish them all the best and thank them their service, the hours they have spent and the contributions they each have made to Flintshire District Scouts.

Our numbers continue to grow, rising to 867 this year – a testament to the positive experiences and activities our units continue to offer our children and young people. I'm very proud to have joined you as Chair and thank everybody involved, in all the units, for volunteering and making Scouting available to so many. Diolch o galon

**Mared Eastwood**  
**District Chair**



## FLINTSHIRE SCOUT DISTRICT

### DISTRICT LEAD VOLUNTEERS REPORT 2022-2023

As I reflect on my fifth year as Deputy District Commissioner (and interim District Commissioner / Lead Volunteer) I am reminded of the powerful ethos that binds us. That of the promise we make when we join this incredible community that is Scouting. We pledge to **“do our best”** and **“help other people.”** These simple words carry profound meaning, shaping our actions, our bonds, and our shared purpose.

Last year we saw a renewed interest nationally in Scouting and increasing membership numbers in Flintshire. All thanks to the efforts of our amazing volunteers and leaders who provide opportunities for young people to meet and enjoy safe, high-quality programmes and activities. Well done!

My DDC role changes with Transformation to ‘Lead Volunteer’, but it doesn’t change my focus to support our existing groups in finding stability and help them to bring more adults into Scouting. This will assist more young people in the safe adventure of Scouting. Scouting in Flintshire is already recognised as being good at delivering fun and safe activities to young people. This is especially important in light of the Ben Leonard coroner’s Inquest and a good reminder we must renew our efforts. We have worked hard to ensure full compliance with the mandatory adult training, which reflects that everyone puts safety at the heart of our approach. We must now turn our attention to ensuring our premises are safe, and our teams are comfortable with what is being asked of them. This will be a key focus in 2024/25.

Our position as an early adopter of the new Transformation of Scouting has put us in a strong position for the changes it brings. Our Trustee Boards are in place and our volunteer welcome meetings have begun. I would like to recognise and thank those volunteers from Flintshire working on the Transformation team benefiting the Clwyd Area. The future is positive with our District all working together to deliver the best Scouting across Flintshire. We are ambitious, but we know we have lots left to accomplish. This will require us to move fast when we can and to have patience when we cannot. But with support from everyone across Flintshire, we will succeed and deliver skills for life to a generation that need it more than ever!

Our District Commissioner Dan Campbell stepped down earlier this year and we thank him for his five years of service to Scouting as DC. He leaves with our best wishes and thanks. This will always feel like a disruption when someone key to our Scouting journey decides to step away but I see it as an opportunity for new people to pick up the baton and carry on the race. The district needs new energy and new ideas and this is a healthy and natural part of our growth. And as a result, I am delighted we welcome Lisa Francis

who picks up the baton as District Lead Volunteer and wish her every success in the coming 5 years. I look forward to supporting her.

**I will finish with a reflection on why I do all this. Why do I Scout? It is simple really.**

**Our promise.** Scouting isn't just about sunny days and campfire songs. It's about weathering storms together. When life throws curveballs, we lean on one another. Our promise becomes a lifeline—a reminder that we are never alone. Whether it's celebrating achievements or supporting each other through tough times, we do it as a family.

**Our growth.** As a volunteer, I witness the magical—the growth of our young Scouts. It's a privilege to be part of their journey—to see them conquer fears, learn new skills, and discover their potential. And here's the secret: Their growth inspires me just as much. Scouting isn't a one-way street; it enriches us all.

**Our teamwork.** I'll admit it—I don't have all the answers. But that's where our incredible volunteer team comes in. Each member brings unique strengths, and together, we create something extraordinary. We fill in each other's gaps, lift one another up, and celebrate victories as a collective. It's in this collaboration that I find my own growth—a better version of myself.

As we look ahead, I'm filled with renewed ambition. Scouting isn't static; it's a dynamic adventure. We'll explore uncharted territories, learn from setbacks, and celebrate triumphs. Our Scouting family—each Scout, leader, and parent—will forge ahead, seeking new paths, and leaving a positive mark on the world.

**So, here's to another year of campfires, knots, laughter, and memories. Let's embrace the Scouting spirit, hand in hand, and create a legacy that echoes through generations.**

Yours in Scouting,  
Diolch yn fawr.

**Dan Reynolds**  
**District Lead Volunteer**



## FLINTSHIRE SCOUT DISTRICT

### INCOMING DISTRICT LEAD VOLUNTEER REPORT 2023-2024

As the new District Lead Volunteer, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dan Campbell for his dedicated service as District Commissioner over the past five years. His commitment to scouting has been truly inspiring. Across the district we wish him all best and sincere thanks as he steps down and continues in his other scouting roles.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude to Dan Reynolds for his invaluable support during my first six weeks and his continued dedication as Deputy District Commissioner, and interim District Lead Volunteer. He has been a steadfast source of support and guidance, sharing his extensive knowledge and experience. His insights have been instrumental in helping me transition smoothly into this new role. Dan's passion for scouting and his commitment to our community set a remarkable example, and his contributions have greatly enhanced our district's success.

I am excited to support you all through the Transformation as we Go Live. During my term, I aim to continue supporting our current groups and fostering growth within the district. My primary focus will be on increasing awareness and support for our volunteers and young people in areas such as Mental Health, Additional Needs, and Equality and Diversity.

This includes providing training and resources to help our volunteers better understand and address these important issues. Our efforts already create an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and supported, regardless of their background or abilities. By prioritizing these areas, we hope to build an even stronger, more resilient community that can thrive together.

Scouting is built on values of integrity, respect, care, belief, and cooperation. These values guide us in developing young people and preparing them for a positive future. They teach us to be responsible citizens and empathetic leaders, committed to making the world a better place.

Looking forward to working together and achieving great things!

Warm regards and thank you to everyone that makes Flintshire Scouting great!

**Lisa Francis**  
**District Lead Volunteer**



## FLINTSHIRE SCOUT DISTRICT

### DISTRICT SQUIRRELS SECTION REPORT 2023-2024

Flintshire Squirrels have continued to grow in numbers over the past year, and we now have 5 dreys, with an additional two due to start soon. We have been very busy taking part in a number of district events such as the Remembrance Day parade, St. George's Day Promise renewal ceremony and the JOTT along Rhyl promenade. Some of us were lucky enough to join in with the Beaver Damboree and gain a nights away badge, and most recently we held our very own District Squirrel Olympics - a day filled with fun and exciting activities!

Connahs Quay was our newest drey to open at the end of August this year - they have 14 Squirrels, soon to be 16 and 6 new leaders. They have recently invested their Squirrels and are enthusiastically working towards a range of badges; having taken part in a range of experiences such as cooking and treasure hunts. Bistre currently has 8 Squirrels and 3 leaders, with plans to expand after half term. They celebrated their 1-year birthday in June this year and in May, they took their adventures to the water and had a sailing experience on Llyn Brenig. Saltney Ferry has 17 Squirrels and 4 leaders, they celebrated their one-year birthday in May this year and have awarded 16 Chief Scout acorn awards! They have achieved many nights away badges, having been on 2 camps at Gladstone, 1 at a forest camp and 3 sleepovers at their hut! Penyffordd Squirrels has 16 Squirrels and 5 leaders - they have awarded 13 acorn awards and celebrated their first birthday in January this year. They have been very involved with their local community - collecting for the food bank, clearing the community garden and helping to decorate the Penyffordd village tree. Mynydd Isa has 18 Squirrels and 11 leaders. They took part in the You Shape Award pilot scheme earlier on this year - being one of the first dreys in the country to achieve this. They had their first sleepover at the hut and also worked towards their community impact badge.

We plan to organise more district events together over the coming year and overall, Flintshire Squirrels are going from strength to strength - proving once again that our youngest members of Scouting are very much capable of gaining #Skillsforlife!

**Charlotte Venables**

**Assistant District Commissioner Squirrels**



FLINTSHIRE SCOUT DISTRICT

## DISTRICT BEAVER SECTION REPORT 2023-2024

Numbers are up again with nearly all Colonies employing a waiting list ensuring that more children join the Scouting family as soon as they're able to do so. In addition, several groups have welcomed new adults into roles as both Team Leaders and team members.

As a District Team we have been encouraging more Leaders to get involved in activities as per the new setup and have welcomed several new faces to planning meetings.

Since the last AGM we took three coaches of Beavers and Squirrels to Gelli Gyffwrdd (Greenwood Forest Park) near Llanberis where we ran around learning about the environment, watching a magic show and going on rides, all contributing towards Challenge badges. Beavers took part in Jambowlree as a District team in October earning a new blanket badge and certificate.

June brought about the biennial Damboree which, again, was a complete success. Ninety-seven Beavers and Squirrels took part in a weekend of Superhero themed activities which also encompassed the Damboree criteria as well as new Scouting skills. Our thanks go to the plethora of Explorer Scouts who gave up their weekend to help.

We have our Halloween Campfire coming up this week here at Gladstone where we are looking forward to welcoming the Beavers to another District event.

As usual, we have a few events in the pipeline for next year starting to materialise and we look forward to sharing them with you at next years AGM.

Diolch

**Rhian Roberts**

**Assistant District Commissioner Beavers**



## FLINTSHIRE SCOUT DISTRICT

### DISTRICT CUBS SECTION REPORT 2023-2024

The second half of last year was a bit different as I prepared to hand over the role of ADC to Sara-Beth who took over on the 24th Nov '23 with the last event of the calendar year being her first event as ADC.

My first event for the District Cub sections was a first for me. Four Cub groups consisting of sixty Cubs attending a 'Movie Night'. The Cubs dressed up in their Christmas jumpers or onesies and brought pillows, sleeping bags and blankets and enjoyed a slumber party whilst watching the movie 'A Boy Called Christmas'. The feedback from the Cubs was that they would like to do this again in the future and when asked in the Feb '24 district meeting those leaders that attended gave good feedback as well. The annual District Cub Quiz on the 18th April was also a hit, with Leaders and YLs taking part and with some friendly rivalry going on! 1st prize went to Cubs from Flint, with 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Mynydd Isa, and 3rd to Kinnerton.

When I took over I really wanted to get to know all of our Leaders and to be a support for those that wanted it. I will continue to visit groups and meet the teams, especially to those that don't often get to district events. I have made my first three visits and had the pleasure of going to Buckley St Matthews for their Valentine's Nights back in Feb. I also visited Saltney Ferry for their athletics night, and Treffynon Cyntaf for a First Aid session. It was lovely to have been welcomed so warmly and to meet leaders I didn't know and or that are new.

Starting of this new reporting year was a fun day for the Cubs at the end of September. Where we had a day packed with bases followed by some hotdogs and a campfire. I can't thank all the District Leaders enough when we get the support that we do! It can't be done on your own; but as a Scouting family. We have a 'Halloween' Campfire at the end of October and Movie night in November. And 2025 we hope to run a swimming event and the quiz. These activities can only happen with the help of our awesome leaders and volunteers in Flintshire Cubs team.

Diolch yn fawr.

**Janet Joynson-Crosby & Sara-Beth Winter**  
**Assistant District Commissioner Cubs**

# SCOUTS

FLINTSHIRE SCOUT DISTRICT

## DISTRICT SCOUT SECTION REPORT 2023-2024

This year has seen all troops running exceptional programs with activities ranging from water sports, target sports, climbing, walking, biking and many more and covering all the aspects of the 10-14 yrs. Badge work program.

As ADC I have been supporting the groups helping where requested and helping young leadership teams develop their skills and program in the coming months we will be meeting to discuss the upcoming year's activities following this year's successful district hike we hope to expand our district activities ideas include quizzes first aid competition survival skills camp which the groups will bring in expertise in their own areas and allow groups to fill gaps they may feel they have.

Thank you,

**Michael Bailey**

**Assistant District Commissioner Scouts**

# EXPLORERS

FLINTSHIRE SCOUT DISTRICT

## DISTRICT EXPLORER SECTION REPORT 2023-2024

It is brilliant to be able to report that yet again, 2023 saw another year of growth for Flintshire Explorers – with more young people of Explorer age taking part than at any time since the section was launched 20 years ago.

We have remained consistent at seven Explorer units, and one Young Leader unit, all of which have continued to go from strength to strength offering a varied programme to their members which complements the wider district offering we have in terms of programme activity. We continued to meet monthly as a whole district, with each unit taking its turn to host an evening of challenging activity in our year-long challenge shield competition. As leaders, it has been brilliant to see just how successful these monthly meetings have been at fostering cross-unit friendships between the young people – its brilliant to see just how well they all integrate with each other now, compared to a couple of years ago when many explorers would barely look at someone from another unit, never mind betray their own unit and defect to another team in the competition just to be with their mates!

It has been another busy year for core programme too. From Chief Scout platinum & diamond awards, DofE expeditions, weekend camps & summer camps (including an international trip to Croatia). The district units have offered so many experiences in the last 12 months and this is all down to the hard work and dedication of the 30ish brilliant volunteers we have in the Explorer team. Last year I shared that we had begun a refreshed approach to our Young Leader programme under the leadership of Marie & Kavan. The scheme has proved so successful we have expanded; now offering our programme out to the rest of the area. We have had many young people get involved in the camps & workshops that have been provided, all aimed at improving their leadership skills and confidence. I would like to extend an extra special thanks to Marie & Kavan for their dedication to the Young leader scheme. I know how challenging providing a programme here can be – but it is critical that we offer it, as these young leaders will become the adult leaders of tomorrow.

Looking ahead to 2024, it is going to be very much more of the same. We will continue with our district monthly meetings, the district DofE expedition provision and great programmes at unit level. We have some exciting summer camps lined up including Gladstone unit who are off to Kandersteg and a planned district camp to Red Rose, and the highlight of our district calendar... Gladstonbury 2024 will return, bigger and better than ever.

All the above would not be possible without the incredible District Explorer Leadership Team, who show up week in week out to deliver such memorable experiences and engaging programmes.

On behalf of myself and the 120+ Explorers we do this for, I would like to extend a huge thank you and well done for all of your efforts... they are appreciated by all.

**Steve Love**  
**District Explorer Scout Commissioner**



## FLINTSHIRE SCOUT DISTRICT

### SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT AGM REPORT 2023-2024

For several years the Scout Active Support section has allowed people to remain in Scouting, and give their time on a flexible basis, without the full-time commitment of being a Leader.

More recently we have expanded, forming Support groups to run / oversee the many District Managed, Scouting activities. These are made up of Leaders who are happy to achieve the Scouting & National Qualifications needed to run out-door activities, --- alongside running their Sections.

Normally members help out at most of the District events each year. On the second Saturday in May we join Scouts from all over the World for the Jamboree on the Trail hike, this has become our principal annual event with hundreds of Scouts and Supporters walking. After 26 years the Canadian organisation has changed, also altering the name to Trail Jam. But due to the excessive cost of the new badges, we had our own made and retained the JOTT name.

This year we walked along the Coastal Path from the Nova Centre in Prestatyn to the Eisteddfod Stepping Stones and back. We were blessed with excellent weather, and over 300 walked the route. My thanks go to Sue and Lena for all the time and effort put into organising this excellent Scouting family event.

The Scout Active Support Section is about to be closed and we all will become District Support Volunteers under the various activity headings. It will be interesting to see what provision the new 'volunteer' system makes for Leaders who have stepped away from time-consuming posts, who don't want to leave Scouting altogether, but want to still stay involved in a small way.

**Jerry Sommerton**  
**Scout Active Support Manager**



FLINTSHIRE SCOUT DISTRICT

## APPOINTMENT SECRETARY & LOCAL TRAINING MANAGER REPORT 2023-2024

### **Appointment Secretary Report:**

Another busy year similar to last year! This is the last full year using the 'Appointments Advisory Committee' for new leaders 'Appointments Interviews' via WhatsApp video chat. As always, my thanks go out to the Committee's continued support throughout the year. Again, lots of new leaders including new squirrel leaders and even more new Squirrel Dreys planned to open in the coming year. We're also looking forward to seeing what 2024 brings when we go through the new Transformation and the changes from 'Appointment Interviews' to 'Welcome Conversations'.

### **Local Training Manager Report:**

As a District we aim to be and pretty much continue to succeed on being 100% compliant with our Mandatory On Going Learning, Safety & Safeguarding. TSA sends out reminders as well as reminders from me, so hopefully there's no escaping! Regular First Aid at Work courses continues in the District thanks to Dave Jones. Also 16 hours outdoor first aid courses for those scout and explorer leaders who do more adventurous activities. Scouts Cymru also continue with the blended learning for First Aid followed up by the Practical part locally delivered by Kavan Jones.

I can honestly say as a District we're very much looking forward to what Transformation brings in 2024 and for me looking forward to the new Learning, out with the old and in with the new!

Yours in Scouting

**Sue Lloyd**  
**Area Training Manager**



## THE GLADSTONE CENTRE WARDEN REPORT 2023-2024

In the past 12 months, the Gladstone Centre has been getting plenty of use from both Scouting and Private Groups. Although the main use is still Scouting such as Leader Training, First Aid Courses, Target Sports, Group use and Duke of Edinburgh Award nights, there are other organisations that are using the centre during off peak times. These include Guiding UK, Adult Learning, Alternative Education, local Round Table and even a band! This year also saw Gladstone used for our District St Georges day celebration and that was good to see everyone coming together.

Members of the Centre Committee and Wednesday work crew, have been constantly engaged in keeping the buildings and outdoor areas in decent shape by cleaning, decorating, mending and the like, to ensure all users are kept safe and everything is clean and tidy for them.

The Gladstone Centre Committee also would like to thank the efforts of volunteers and our dedicated Service Crew who come from all sections within Scouting, and who have spent time doing numerous tasks in and around the Gladstone Centre. Since last Summer we have had several Explorer Scouts helping on a regular basis and some have now achieved their 'Activity Centre Service Activity Badge', as well as producing some great ideas for activities for the younger sections in Scouting. We are looking at implementing these ideas over the next 12 months as finances allow, so well-done to them!

In the last 12 months we have seen an upward trend in Utility and Insurance costs, but by fixing in many of these, we are now able to plan for the future with some certainty and hope to keep the user fees at a similar level next year, whilst still investing in improvements in and around the Centre.

2024 saw a large financial investment to tackle the legal requirements centred around gas safety, electrical inspections, emergency lighting, fire alarms and extinguishers to name a few.

The project to fit energy efficient l.e.d. lighting in both the Main Centre and Bunkhouse has been completed. Hand dryers are now fitted in the toilets of the Main Centre, and we hope to include them in the budget later this year for the Bunkhouse. The Bunkhouse has also seen some changes, with newer bunkbeds being installed and all the rooms and corridors receiving new decoration throughout, plus additional checks on the installed fire extinguishers and alarm/smoke detection system are now in place by an approved contractor.

In April 2024 the Welsh Government brought in Commercial Re-cycling, resulting in additional costs and expense. The Wardens have provided new themed waste bins to allow the Centre users to split any waste into several distinct categories to help with this task.

As the weather took a turn for the worst at the back end of 2023, it was necessary to stop vehicles driving on the field, which is a major asset to the Gladstone Centre and Hawarden Group. The amount of rainfall had left it looking like a water park on a couple of occasions, but the drainage has been working and it steadily dried out ready for the camping season. The tractor mower that keeps the field looking good also received a serious overhaul during the winter months with over £2k being spent to ensure it lasts for a few more years.

Around the site, we have extended the car park area, built a new activity as part of the course improvement project, installed paving in the Range Area, installed a new orienteering course with markers, cleared areas for future activity bases such as Tomahawk throwing and slippery slide, brought lighting and power into the 'Escape Room' shelter and installed ducting for a new fibre internet connection to the Centre which should happen later this year.

More projects that have been completed include new fencing and seating area in front of the centre, new emergency exit doors for the main hall and toilet areas. A new outdoor electrical cabinet with outdoor sockets has been installed adjacent to the carpark, plus festoon lighting down to the campfire area from front of the Main Centre building.

Future projects will include an overhaul for the Aerial Runway platform and stay, a new Outdoor Cooking Learning Area, re-cycling bin storage areas and additional animal proof outdoor recycling bins for camper use. New build fixed altar fires in the woods and the renovation of our Laser Tag Command Centre housed in the old Toilet Block in the woods is also planned. Additional water taps will be installed next to the car park and down by the woodpile area. The current Abseiling Tower is condemned and out of action, but we are making some progress on a plan that will at the right time see it re-built.

Would you like to come and help shape Gladstone Centre? Our growing band of volunteers would like some help to do this, and Explorer Scouts will also be welcome during School holidays to attend on our regular Wednesday Workdays to achieve their 'Activity Centre Service Badge', so why not contact the Wardens via email to find out more.

To see what's going on visit the website for all the information, which includes booking information. [www.thegladstonecentre.org.uk](http://www.thegladstonecentre.org.uk)

Run by Flintshire Scouts for Flintshire Scouts!

**Mike and Phil,**

**Volunteer Wardens**

[warden@thegladstonecentre.org.uk](mailto:warden@thegladstonecentre.org.uk)

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

## FLINTSHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

**Year Ended 31 December 2023**

	Note	£
<b>Receipts</b>		
District Levy		5,202.00
Subscriptions		6,943.82
District activities		4,339.00
Explorer activities		9,617.30
Duke of Edinburgh's awards		1,288.58
Winter Ball		2,516.28
Gladstone Centre - activities & camping		21,122.90
Badges		3,537.70
Merchandise		804.00
Fundraising		3,167.38
Donations		155.00
Grants		530.00
Miscellaneous income		231.05
Compensation		35.00
Interest		249.54
Total receipts		59,739.55
 <b>Payments</b>		
District activities		4,075.73
Explorer activities		16,178.95
Duke of Edinburgh's awards		1,988.97
Winter Ball		4,494.78
Gladstonbury		510.62
Badges		4,175.90
Merchandise		976.61
Youth Online Manager		1,080.00
Training		1,506.00
Contributions		2,100.00
District expenses	1	611.77
Explorer expenses	2	2,639.90
Gladstone Centre costs	3	20,979.70
Total payments		61,318.93
Net receipts / (payments)		(1,579.38)
Cash funds last year end		36,379.40
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34,800.02</b>



## FLINTSHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Year Ended 31 December 2023

	£
<b>1. District expenses</b>	
Insurance	242.29
Postage & stationery	24.63
Travel & subsistence	58.05
Website	28.78
Awards	58.00
Donations	184.32
Bank charges	15.70
	<hr/> 611.77 <hr/>
<b>2. Explorer expenses</b>	
Hire of premises	2,313.00
Heat & light	46.73
Donations	31.35
Miscellaneous	176.22
Bank charges	72.60
	<hr/> 2,639.90 <hr/>
<b>3. Gladstone Centre costs</b>	
Maintenance	7,842.20
Small tools & equipment	1,252.69
Equipment repairs and fuel	664.46
Water	537.42
Heat & light	3,481.33
Insurance	1,595.26
Telephone	563.20
Computer consumables & software	267.16
Cleaning & waste disposal	2,606.14
Repairs	114.00
Travel & subsistence	1,874.09
Website	49.42
Miscellaneous	62.52
Bank charges	69.81
	<hr/> 20,979.70 <hr/>

**FLINTSHIRE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**

**NOTES TO RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

**Year Ended 31 December 2023**

**4. Cash Funds**

	At 1 January 2024 £	Net payments £	At 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted fund	27,283.59	(1,579.38)	25,704.21
Emergency fund	4,500.00		4,500.00
Grant application support fund	1,000.00		1,000.00
Scout representing District fund	3,116.25		3,116.25
Canoe fund	479.56		479.56
	<u>36,379.40</u>	<u>(1,579.38)</u>	<u>34,800.02</u>



# Scouts

## The Constitution of Flintshire Scout District

### 1) Purpose

This constitution describes the role, membership and operation of the Scout Council, and the Trustee Board. The purpose of the Scout District within the structure of the Scouts is to provide leadership, advice and support for Scout Groups in an area of Flintshire.

In the interest of openness, especially for new members of the Scout Council, the Scout Council should re-adopt their constitution at each Annual General Meeting.

### 2) The Scout Council - membership

The Scout Council is the body which has charity governance responsibility for Scouting in the Group, District or County. The Trustee Board is accountable to the Scout Council. Membership of the Scout Council does not provide membership of the Scouts.

There are four categories of membership of each Scout Council:

- a. Ex officio
- b. Nominated
- c. Co-opted (only for the County Scout Council)
- d. Right of attendance

A Secretary must ensure that nominated and co-opted Scout Council Members are recorded in the minutes of the Scout Council meeting which is normally the Annual General Meeting. Nominated and co-opted Scout Council members must not be recorded on The Scout Association's membership system.

Ex officio Scout Council members must not be recorded as Scout Council Members on The Scout Association's membership system.

### 3) District Scout Council Membership

The ex officio members of the District Scout Council are:

- a. all adult members of the Scout District - see District roles in the Chapter 16 Roles Table
- b. all adults with the following appointments in the Scout Groups in the District
  - o Group Scout Leader
  - o Deputy Group Scout Leader
  - o Group Trustee Board Chair

- Group Trustee Board Secretary
- Group Trustee Board Treasurer
- Section Leader
- Assistant Section Leader
- Group Active Support Manager
- c. all Explorers (including Young Leaders)
- d. members of the District Scout Network
- e. parents and carers of Explorers
- f. a representative of the District Troop Leadership Forum, selected from amongst the membership of the Forum
- g. the County Commissioner
- h. the County Trustee Board Chair

The nominated members of the District Scout Council are other supporters of the Group appointed by the District Scout Council on the recommendation of the District Commissioner and the District Trustee Board. The number of nominated members must not exceed the actual number of elected members.

A nominated member of the District Scout Council must be appointed for a fixed period not exceeding three years. Subsequent reappointments are permitted.

Membership of the Scout Council ends upon:

- a. the resignation of the Scout Council member
- b. the member no longer qualifying as a member of the Scout Council
- c. dissolution of the Scout Council
- d. the termination of membership by UK Headquarters following a recommendation by the relevant Trustee Board.

#### **4) Scout Council - Annual General Meeting**

Each Scout Council must hold an Annual General Meeting within six months of the end of the charity's financial year.

The Annual General Meeting must:

- a. Undertake governance oversight
  - adopt (or re-adopt) the constitution of the charity [Group, District or County as appropriate]. See rule 5.3.
  - note the dates of charity's financial year
  - agree the number of members that may be elected to the Trustee Board
  - agree the quorum for each of:
    - meetings of the Scout Council
    - meetings of the Trustee Board
    - meetings of any sub-Committee

b. Review the previous year

- receive and consider the Trustees' Annual Report and the annual statement of accounts prepared by the Trustee Board.

The accounts must have completed their examination by an appropriate auditor, independent examiner, or scrutineer (see POR 5.5.3).

The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts presented to the Scout Council must include the formal report prepared by the auditor, independent examiner, or scrutineer.

c. Make appointments

- approve the Group Scout Leader's, District Commissioner's or County Commissioner's nomination of the Chair of the Trustee Board
- approve the Group Scout Leader's, District Commissioner's or County Commissioner's nomination of members of the Trustee Board
- elect a Secretary to the Trustee Board.
- elect a Treasurer to the Trustee Board
- elect Trustees to the Trustee Board
- approve the appointment (or re-appointment) of any Presidents or Vice Presidents
- appoint (or re-appoint) an auditor, independent examiner or scrutineer as required

**The Annual General Meeting of a District Scout Council must:**

- 1) nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council.

**Following each Annual General Meeting, the Secretary must ensure that:**

- 1) all nominated or elected Trustees are recorded on the membership system, as required by Rule 16.1.3
- 2) the Trustee Annual Report and Accounts are filed as described in Rule 5.5

It is good practice for the Trustee Board to verify the draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting at their first meeting following the Annual General Meeting, even though the minutes cannot be formally approved until the charity's next Annual General Meeting.

Governance roles must be distinct to help manage conflict of interest. This means that the roles of Chair and Treasurer must not be combined in any way.

**5) Trustee Board - purpose**

The Trustee Board is a team of volunteers who work together, as charity Trustees, to make sure the Scouts is run safely and legally. At the heart of their role is a focus on strategy, performance and assurance. Effective Trustee support helps other volunteers run the Scout programme that gives young people skills for life.

Members of the Trustee Board must act collectively as charity trustees of their charity, and in the best interests of the charity's members. The Trustee Board must act in the charity's best interests, acting with reasonable care and skill and take steps to be confident that:

- a. The charity is:
  - well managed
  - carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
  - complying with the charity's governing document and the law
  - managing the charity's resources responsibly
- b. the charity is operating compliant with POR, including effective management of the Key Policies listed in chapter 2 - The Equal Opportunities Policy, Privacy and Data Protection Policy, Religious Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Safety Policy, Vetting Policy, Youth Member Anti-bullying Policy.
- c. young people are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels
- d. there are sufficient resources (funds, people, property and equipment) available to meet the planned work of the Group, District or County (as appropriate) including delivery of the high quality programme and resource requirements of the training programme (Rule 4.2.2)
- e. the Scouts has a positive image in the local community

**The Trustee Board members must themselves collectively:**

- a) develop and maintain a risk register, including putting in place appropriate mitigations
- b) ensure that the charity's finances are properly managed, including development and maintenance of appropriate budgets to support the work of the charity
- c) maintain and manage:
  - a reserves policy for the charity (including a plan for use of reserves outside the 'minimum')
  - an investment policy for the charity
  - a public benefit statement for the charity

d) ensure that people, property and equipment are appropriately insured, and that any property and equipment owned or used by the charity is properly protected and maintained

e) promote and support the development of Scouting in the local area.

f) ensure the appointment and management and operation of any sub-committees, including appointing a Chair to lead the sub-committee

g) ensure that effective administration is in place to support the work of the Trustee Board

h) appoint any Administrators, Advisers and co-opted members of the Trustee Board

i) ensure transparency of operation, including:

- prepare and approve the Annual Accounts and arrange their examination by an auditor, independent examiner or scrutineer as appropriate and as appointed by the Scout Council at their Annual General Meeting
- prepare and approve the Trustees' Annual Report (which must include the Annual Accounts)
- present the approved Trustees' Annual Report and Annual Accounts to the Scout Council at the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- following the AGM, ensure that a copy of the Trustee Annual Report and Accounts is sent to the District or County Trustee Board administration and, if a registered charity, is filed with the appropriate charity regulator (if the regulator's rules require it).

j) take responsibility for adherence to Data Protection Legislation recognising that, dependent on circumstances, it will at different times act as a Data Controller and as a Data Processor

k) individually and collectively maintain confidentiality regarding appropriate Trustee Board business

l) where staff are employed:

- act as a responsible employer in accordance with Scouting's values and relevant legislation
- ensure that effective line management is in place for each employed staff member and that these are clearly established and communicated
- ensure that appropriate specific personnel insurance is in place

A District Trustee Board must also:

a) provide any necessary support to the District Commissioner, when required, to assist the opening, change, merging or closing of Groups, Explorer Units, Scout Networks and Scout Active Support Units in the District

**A Trustee Board may create sub-committees to manage the work it deems necessary ensuring that:**

- a) the purpose of each sub-committee is clear and has been agreed by the Trustee Board
- b) each sub-committee of the Trustee Board consists of members approved by the Trustee Board
- c) the Chair of the Trustee Board is an ex officio member of each sub-committee
- d) the relevant Group Scout Leader, District Commissioner or County Commissioner is an ex officio member of each sub-committee

Members of sub-committees are not Trustees unless they are members of the Trustee Board.

**In support of effective governance:**

- a) the County Chair and Treasurer should create a support network amongst the District Chairs and Treasurers of the County.
- b) the District Chair and Treasurer should create a support network amongst the Group Chairs and Treasurers of the District.

## **6) Trustee Board - membership**

Subject to the conflict of interest rules (see Chapter 16 and the definition of 'conflict of interest in the Definitions chapter), a Trustee may be a member of more than one Trustee Board.

Ex officio, nominated, elected and co-opted members of the Trustee Board are charity Trustees of the Group, District or County as appropriate.

People invited to attend, or with right of attendance, may be present at the meeting but are not charity Trustees and have no voting rights.

Certain people are disqualified from being charity trustees by virtue of the Charities Acts. (See rule 16.1.1.5).

Some Groups, Districts and Counties may also need to register as a charity. (See Rule 13.1.2). *SV*

All Trustees must complete training as specified in Rule 16.2.1 and the Roles Table.

At County and District, all Trustee Boards and any sub-committees should, wherever possible, have as full voting members at least two people aged between their 18th and 25th birthdays.

### **The District Trustee Board**

a) The ex officio members of a District Trustee Board are: SV

- The District Chair
- The District Commissioner
- The District Youth Commissioner
- The District Secretary (if appointed as a Trustee)
- The District Treasurer
- The District Explorer Scout Commissioner
- The District Scout Network Commissioner

Where there are joint role holders (eg for District Youth Commissioner), only one of the joint role holders should be an ex officio member of the District Trustee Board. This must be decided jointly by the role holders in consultation with the District Commissioner and the District Chair.

b) The elected members of a District Trustee Board are persons elected at the District Annual General Meeting. The actual number of persons elected must be the subject of a resolution by the District Scout Council at their AGM. There must be a maximum of six elected members.SV.

c) The nominated members of a District Trustee Board are persons nominated by the District Commissioner, in consultation with the District Chair. The nominations must be approved at the District Annual General Meeting. The number of nominated members must not exceed the actual number of elected members.

d) The co-opted members of a District Trustee Board are persons co-opted annually by the District Trustee Board. The number of co-opted members must not exceed the actual number of elected members.

e) The County Commissioner and the County Chair have the right of attendance at meetings of each of the District Trustee Boards in the County.

If a Trustee Board Chair, Secretary (if appointed as a Trustee) or Treasurer resigns, then rule 16.6.3 must be followed.

### **7) Trustee Board - Conduct of meetings**

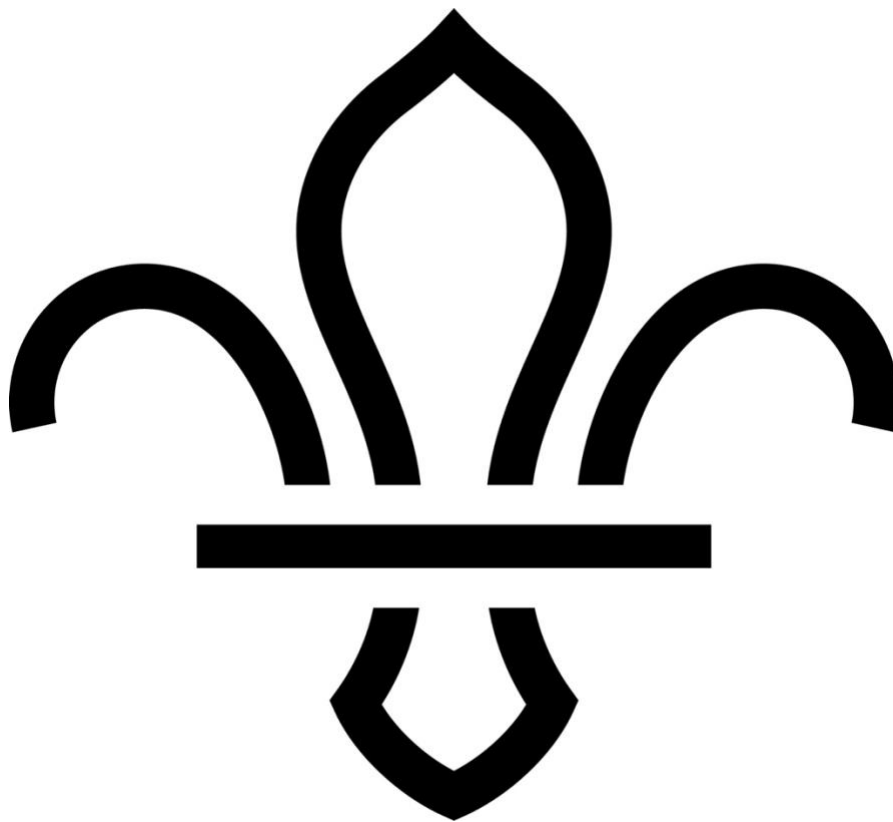
Only members of a Trustee Board as defined in 5.4.5 POR may vote in meetings of the Trustee Board.

At its Annual General Meeting, the Scout Council must make a resolution defining a quorum for meetings of the Scout Council and the Trustee Board and its sub-Committees.

Decisions are made by a majority of votes cast by those present at the meeting. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast on either side the Chair does not have a casting vote and the matter is taken not to have been carried.

In order to discharge their responsibilities, the Trustee Board may meet by telephone and/or video conference as well as face to face when agreed by the appropriate Chair. This includes 'hybrid' meetings, where some members join by telephone or video.

Electronic voting (such as email) is allowed for decision making of the Trustee Board when deemed appropriate by the Chair (for example, where a pressing matter arises between meetings). In such instances at least 75% of its members must approve the decision, and the outcome of the voting must be reported and recorded in the minutes at the next Trustee Board meeting.



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