



Preparing young people with skills for life

Annual Report & Accounts 2019 - 2020

Romford



ROMFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 2nd September 2020

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

1. Apologies & Welcome by the District Chairman
2. Approval of the minutes of the last AGM – Tuesday 3rd September 2019
3. District Treasurer's Report

District Chairman vacates the chair and the District President continues

4. The Meeting to endorse the District Commissioner's Appointment of District Chairman
5. Election of Officers

The District Executive proposes Miss Penny Williams as District Secretary
The District Executive proposes Colin Shepherd as District Treasurer.

The District Chairman proposes that the following be co-opted as members of the Executive:

The District Shop Manager
The Secretary of the appointment Advisory Committee
The Warden Crow Camp
The Warden District HQ
Network Representative

The District Commissioner nominates the District Scout Network Commissioner (currently Vacant) and the District Explorer Scout Commissioner as members of the Executive.

Up to three Lay Members to be elected as members of the Executive:
The following are prepared to stand: Andrew Green & Liz Godden

To endorse the GSL of 3rd Collier Row as District Representative on the County Scout Council.

To Elect an Auditor – It is proposed that Mr E Rodgers continue as the Auditor.

The District Secretary proposes that the following be re-elected Vice-Presidents:
Mr Peter Chapman, Mrs Beryl Hart, Mr Tony Jones, Mrs Margaret Polden,
Mrs Joan Walker, Mr Andrew Rosindell M.P., Mr Ted Webster, Mrs Audrey Young,
Mrs Hazel Geach MBE & Mrs Sue Harris.

6. The District Chairman
7. The District Commissioners

ROMFORD DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Romford District Scout Association AGM Held at Worthington Hall on Tuesday 3rd September 2019



Present

The District Secretary holds a full list of all those in attendance.

Opening and welcome

The District Chairman welcomed all Leaders and colleagues from the District, County and Hornchurch to the AGM. He especially welcomed the County Commissioner, Lee Clarke to the meeting. The proceedings began with a prayer read by Maria Green.

Apologies for absence were received from Joan Walker, Hazel Geach & Margaret Polden - Vice Presidents, Ted Rose, 3rd Havering Marcia Cockram 4th Collier Row, Mark Hutton 3rd Gidea Park, Gary Fenton 1st Romford, Cheryl Burden 8th Squirrels Heath, Aaron Whates 1st Harold Hill, Mick Doolan 4th Collier Row, Dave Huldbrook 8th Squirrels Heath.

Minutes of the 2019 AGM had been circulated before this year's meeting and were agreed as a true and accurate record by those present. Proposed by Tony Peters and seconded by Andrew Green.

District Secretary's Report

The District Secretary had nothing to add to her written report.

District Treasurer's Report

The District financial report is published in the AGM pack and the report gives a detailed breakdown of the Districts current financial standing. The Treasurer thanked Andrew Green for his help in preparing this report. The Treasurer answered several questions from the floor.

The Treasurer's Report was proposed by Geoff Hutton, seconded by Barbara Hall and accepted.

Election of Officers

The members present endorsed the District Commissioners appointment of Keith Pethers as the District Chairman. This was duly noted by the meeting.

The District Executive proposed Penny Williams as District Secretary.

The District Executive proposed Colin Shepherd as District Treasurer.

Accepted. The Chairman thanked both for taking on these challenging roles.

The District Commissioner proposed the following as co-opted members of the District Executive: Shop and Badge Manager, Secretary of the Appointments Advisory Committee, Warden of Crow Camp, Acting Warden DHQ, Network Leader Representative. Accepted.

The District Commissioner nominated the Deputy District Commissioner, District Scout Network Commissioner, District Explorer Scout Commissioner and the Unit manager of the Scout Active Support as members of the Executive. Accepted.

Andrew Green and Liz Godden were nominated as Lay Members of the District Executive. Agreed. One additional Lay Member will be appointed during the year.

The meeting endorsed the GSL of 3rd Havering as District Representative on the County Scout Council.

The meeting elected Edward Rodgers as the District Auditor. Agreed.

The District Secretary proposed that the following be re-elected as Vice Presidents: Mr. Peter Chapman, Mrs. Beryl Hart, Mr. Tony Jones, Mr. Stan Lucas, Mrs. Margaret Polden, Mrs. Joan Walker, Mr. Andrew Rosindell M.P., Mr. Ted Webster, Mrs. Audrey Young, Mrs. Hazel Geach M.B. E., and Mrs. Sue Harris. Agreed.

The District Chairman

There are two main issues on which the District has been focusing, namely the changes and redevelopment of Crow Camp and the District HQ. These will continue to be worked on throughout the next year along with a list of things to be done across the District. The Chairman commented on the recent excellent Jamboree, which was a terrific success. The Chairman will be working closely with the District Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner throughout the year.

The District Commissioner

The District Commissioner welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting, especially the County Commissioner, colleagues from Hornchurch District inc. Debbie Carter the outgoing D.C.

It has been a busy year and the AGM pack details all of the events the D.C. has overseen and attended. As ever there have been challenges and highlights throughout the year.

One of the biggest challenges was the tragic death of Jodie Chesney, a former Cub at 1st Harold Hill. A fund-raising appeal has been set up in her name along with a First Aid training programme in the local community initiated by Barking and Dagenham District – where she was an Explorer Scout.

To improve the quality of Scouting, a programme needs to be developed which will provide 'Skills for Life' for 2020. A plan needs to be devised to take people out of their comfort zone and deliver the best provision.

The D.C. and Deputy DC, Tony Peters have met with all the District GSLs to focus on the importance of the higher level awards (DofE, Chief Scout Award). HQ wants 55% of Scouts to attain these top Awards and at the moment Romford District is not at this level.

The District Commissioner made the following awards.

- Chief Scout Award of Merit to Bob Sails. Bob has served in the District for 30 years as Cub Leader and Scouter in Charge at 10th Romford.
- Leader Wood Badge to Leanna Rees
- Chief Scout Length of service Awards to Tony Peters -10 Year Service Award, Maria Green - 15 Year Service Award & David Partridge - 30 Year Service Award

The County Commissioner, Lee Clarke, spoke on attending his first AGM in Romford District. The County is continuing to support the District who in turn support the Groups. He thanked the Leaders for their commitment to Scouting. Over the last year, the County has focused on compliance with financial and safeguarding issues. Mandatory training is in place to help with this challenging issue. Over the Autumn, the County will be holding a conference to canvas Leaders for ideas on creating a range of fun activities for the young members.

As always, recruitment of Leaders is a priority for the County and the District. A small group is working on improving communications with the County and help is available to deliver Scouting across the North East London Area.

Andy Mann's 5-year tenure as D.C. is at an end and this is his last AGM. The Commissioner thanked Andy for the excellent job he has done. Romford is one of the best Districts for its programme and its compliance. The consultation process to find the next District DC will begin in the Autumn and the job will be advertised in the New Year. The County Commissioner asked everyone to become involved in the process. Deputy DC – Steve Wiltshire invited the County Commissioner to present the DC – Andy Mann with his 30-year service to Scouting award.

The Explorer Scouts and Leaders who attended the recent World Scout Jamboree in North America shared their experiences on the once-in-a-lifetime experience, attending the Jamboree in the USA & Canada. They explained the fund-raising process and the exciting activities they enjoyed while they were away before sharing a photo-show of the event. Plans are now under-way for the 2023 Jamboree in South Korea.

The DC thanked the Explorers for sharing their experiences and hoped that their presentation would encourage people to take part in the next Jamboree. The D.C. thanked his family for their on-going support, the ADC Team, the Executive and all the Leaders and the 300 plus supporters across the District. He thanked Barbara Hall for organising the buffet, and the Explorers from Unit X for setting up the Hall with Barbara's help.

The D.C. thanked everyone for attending the AGM and hoped that they would all enjoy the opportunity to socialise and enjoy the buffet.

Treasurers Report for the year ending 31st March 2020

At our financial year end of 31st March 2020, the District remained in a strong financial position. As reported last year a high proportion of our reserves and investments have been ring fenced to redevelop facilities at Crow Camp and rebuild our aging District Headquarters.

Work had started at Crow Camp when Covid19 caused the shutdown of Scouting in March 2020. Some of the preliminary work was being carried out by the Leaders and members of the Explorer unit based at Crow Camp and this had to stop. All face to face Scouting was stopped and we do not know how this will affect District and Group finances going forward. We have therefore made a provision in the accounts for the potential adverse financial affects caused by Covid19. We have two main areas of concern. Firstly, the planned Explorer summer camp to Croatia in August 2020 (now moved to 2021). If this has to be cancelled, due to Scouting stopping the trip, we might not be covered by the insurance.

Secondly how will the shutdown affect Group finances and their ability to pay the annual membership fee. We now know the Scout Association are suffering financially and there will be a significant increase in the fee. Although we have made a provision, all Groups should ensure that they have claimed Gift Aid on membership fees and donations for as many years as possible.

A more detailed breakdown of the income and expenditure appears later in this pack.

Colin Shepherd - District Treasurer

Annual Reports of the District Scout Council 2019 - 2020

The District Commissioner

At the time of you reading this report, it would have been six years since I took on the role of District Commissioner for Romford. As I update this report before publication, we had just entered a ban on Face to Face Scouting and almost 5 months later we are only back into Amber and allowing small gatherings of outside only meetings, what a way to end my time as DC!

So as you have gathered, this is my last AGM report as the DC, a role I first took on in September 2014 and some six years later I have handed over the role to not one, but two District Commissioners !



I will leave you to make of that what you wish, whilst I might joke that no one person could take over from me, that is very much far from the truth. In fact, the DC role in a District the size of ours is just huge. It is not a normal volunteer role; it is counter mount to a full-time job.

And a job it should never be. None of us entered Scouting to take on a role that if you do properly, will consume every spare moment of your time, morning, noon and night but that is what it had become for me. My main task now is to support both Anne and Sam as they find their own way and make some changes and indeed get into their own stride. I will be there to remind them of the pitfalls that I found as they chart their own way forward.

Whilst some people feel having a joint DC is not great, with proper communications and a structure there is no reason why it should not

work. As I said above, the role for one person is just huge, Yes I may have had a Deputy in Steve Wiltshire for the whole time and then later added to with Tony Peters, but you would not believe what we had to deal with at times.

Don't get me wrong it has on balance been a great 6 years. However, as I said when my role came to an end, it is the best and worse role in Scouting I have ever done in over 30 years of being a leader !

From the age of about 15, I knew I wanted to take on this role and some 28 years later in August 2014, I started what was to be a rollercoaster of a ride. I have lost friends and gained friends and had to deal with a few things (and people) that were not pleasant.

I have met and worked with some amazing and fantastic people in that time, presented hundreds of awards (Queen Scouts, Chief Scouts, DofE, Jack Petchey, Silver Acorns & Commendations & even a 70 year service award) attended almost 100 Group, District or County AGM's and delivered a Chief Scout in his helicopter to an amazing day of adventure, as well as attending Palaces and meeting Royalty. I have also sadly attended a number of funerals of long-standing Romford leaders who gave many years of Scouting service. Most notably was former District Commissioner, David Hart and more recently Betty Guthrie and David Partridge, over 160 years' service between them.





My family have been incredibly loyal and supportive as well as my friend and Deputy Steve Wiltshire. Steve has been with me from the beginning and for that I am ever grateful. During the last 6 years, without them I could not have achieved what I have done, as well as my ADC and District team, your work and support has been amazing. I have been lucky to have the team that I did around me.

As a perfectionist I feel I have not been able to achieve all I wanted to do for Romford and I can only leave it to others to judge my achievements. I know there is still more to do, to make a real difference in Romford and I know my replacements will have me watching their backs as they try to make a difference themselves.

Last year I wrote about how our youth numbers had gone down, but I was pleased that at this years Census the District had seen an increase of 3.5% taking us to 1035 young people in our care. A long way from the 800 we had when I first took over the District. We still have some Groups struggling with numbers this year and more work needs to happen around finding the right level of support and finding new leaders. I fear the effects of Covid will now impact on this far greater next year.

The Explorer Scout section increased slightly on the year before, which is very encouraging. But far more needs to be done in supporting this section. It is vital that all of our Groups work with the District and the DESC to promote Explorer Scouting to our 14 to 18 year olds. It is strange that over the last few years, a few Groups have not been able to produce anyone of age 14 !!

Where are these young people going ? We are doing a disservice to them and Scouting by not encouraging them to be part of an amazing section. I say that now, as after 10 years of being the DESC and DC I have now taken on the role of an Explorer Scout leader at Unit A.

Compliance has become even bigger since last year and you would have seen communications direct from HQ and now the new DC's. I have been warning against this for a number of years and it is vital that all mandatory training is completed as well as a wood badge in good time, it does not take more than 3 years to complete. I appreciate more than anyone that we are all volunteers and give up many hours a week. However, Scouting may be a Volunteer organisation, what is not voluntary is Safeguarding ourselves, other leaders and our youth members by adults not completing their mandatory training in an acceptable timeframe.

As ever I have tried to attend every District event over the last 12 months and as many Group AGM's or camps / events as I can also fit into the ever-expanding diary. One of the positives of being a DC is I get to see what goes on in some of our 16 Scouts Groups and 6 Explorer units, a total of 58 sections across the District, there will be a few less miles on my car this year.

Despite some of the issues I highlighted at the beginning of this report I am still amazed by some of our leaders in what they do week in, week out with our young people. The examples are too numerous to list but I am always looking for the next leader that is doing the "over and above" their role and going the extra mile to deliver "Quality Scouting" in Romford.





Not just adults, but older Scouts and Explorer Scouts through our Jack Petchey award scheme, this is our opportunity to highlight and reward outstanding young people and leaders.

I was pleased to be able to award some of our adults with recognition of either a Chief Scouts Commendation or an award for Merit a few months ago. We should have presented these on St Georges Day, but alas that was not meant to be. I still have a few more to present but due to staff at Gilwell being furloughed these are slightly delayed.

One theme I have spoken or written about at every AGM over the last 6 years is "Quality Scouting". But what does Quality Scouting actually mean? I know what it means to me and that is why I continue to see the role-out of the Scout Association's "Skills for Life strategy" a major game changer in how we deliver Scouting to our 1000 plus young people in Romford.

Skills for life is not new, it is what Baden Powell taught 20 young Scouts on Brownsea Island in 1907, but what has changed is the skills that we teach. Life was a lot different 100 years ago!



The second theme I often talk about, is that old saying "we have always done it that way" and as I said standing here at the AGM 6 years ago for the first time, My response is still "not anymore".

There is nothing wrong at all with preserving our rich heritage - after all, the Scouts have been in existence for 113 years now - but rolling out the old two year programme book we put together in 1998 and running the same old stuff we done in the last Century is not going to provide our young people with the Skills for Life they need to survive in this modern time, things have changed from 1998, maybe not always for the better, but things have changed none the less. We are not called a "movement" for nothing.

We live in a digital / social media world, there is no point moaning about Facebook / Twitter or Zoom, embrace what we have and use it to our advantage. Leaders need to use the tools available to them to plan quality Scouting programmes that will leave our young people enthused and wanting to come back for more each week and to grow our numbers and to provide Quality Scouting and to see more top awards being achieved.

My final 12 months have been another roller coaster / nonstop busy year, if I look back at my diary for the last year, I am not sure how I managed to fit it all in, so many high lights from St Georges Day, presenting awards, my trip to the World Scout Jamboree in the USA and endless Beaver, Cub, Scout & Explorer events.

Whilst we are in the most strangest of times with no face to face Scouting it is a time to reflect on what to focus my time on in Scouting next. A few people have asked me what I am going to do?

Well, im sure being an Explorer Leader at Unit A, Group Chairman of 19th Romford, GLNE County Awards board Chairman, and more recently the European Jamboree (Poland) Contingent Leader for GLNE will keep me busy for a while. Oh, and the Chairman of the Crow Camp redevelopment project in case I was not doing enough.

Andy Mann – District Commissioner

Beaver Scout Report

Once again, we have had an amazing year in the Beaver section.

As always, the Beaver calendar starts in April 2019 with St Georges Parade where the Beavers outdid themselves with their impeccable behaviour and fantastic turnout. This is never an easy event for the Beavers to sit through.

Unfortunately, it was with a sad heart I had to cancel the Stick Man Hike and picnic in May. The heavens opened as everyone was arriving, so I had to make a quick judgement as it would not have been fun or safe for the Beavers.



June saw over 100 Beavers take part in another extremely hot Beaver Sports Day at Worthington Hall. Many thanks to the Young Leaders who came to our rescue with an ice lolly run to cool everyone down. As always, a big thank you to 2nd Collier Row for the use of the Hall and grounds.

Once again, September brought the rain, threatening to call off the Obstacle Day. With some major reorganisation and the amazing help from 3rd Gidea Park Scouts and their Leaders, we managed to move the whole event to the morning. This meant the attendance was much lower than normal, but we still managed to have fun and dry day. Thank you again for everyone's help.

Christmas time meant party time. So, with over 100 very noisy, excited Beavers and the help of the amazing Mr Papalarny, we all had a brilliant Christmas Party. With a very special visit from Santa and his very lively Elf, lots of dancing and games were had. Thank you to all the Leaders for all your help at this very noisy event. I would like to say a very special thank you to Barbara Hall for helping me with the food on the day.

Finally, I would like to give a special thanks to Kim Chennells and Julia Judd for all their support, in their district Leaders roles.

Also a big thank you to all Groups and their Leaders / Helpers for all your support and help during the year. Thank you for making Scouting so special for all the Beavers in Romford. With a change of DC. I have been very lucky to be asked to carry on the role for the next four years, my thanks to Andy for his support and here's to lots more fun & adventure over the next few years. We now just have to get ourselves back to face to face Scouting.

Cheryl Clark - ADC Beavers.

Cub Scout Report

April began with the Cubs Cooking competition held at Worthington Hall. A big THANK YOU to Laura Pethers who kindly ran this event

The highlight of April was, without a shadow of doubt, St George's Day parade. It was a privilege and honour to lead the Cubs in their renewal promise and amazing to see so many smart and proud Cubs in attendance.



May saw Cubs taking part in the Maureen Preston competition at Crow Camp with bases ranging from pitching tents to making camp doughnuts, fire lighting to pioneering. However, my personal favourite was watching the Cubs perform their sketches.

On a VERY HOT Saturday in June, Cubs took part in a variety of "sports" at Worthington Hall. Attendance was low, and it was decided that this event would no longer run as most Groups could do the Sports Badge during a normal weekly session.



In July, 180 Cubs took part in the District Cub Camp held at Thriftwood Campsite. The whole Camp was themed around Land, Sea and Air activities and a fantastic time was had by all. Huge congratulations to Andy Knight and Rosemary Oakwell for organising such an exhausting but amazing weekend for Leaders and Cubs alike. I was reminded of the "family" spirit in scouting and how great it was to see Leaders and Groups come together.

A Superhero themed sleepover at the Secret Nuclear Bunker in Brentwood took place in November with an outstanding 181 Cubs in attendance. My thanks must go to Richard Oatham who arranged for Batman and Deadpool, among other Superheroes, to drop in to see the Cubs. Some great bases were run by Groups and little sleep took place but a wonderful event, nonetheless.



We ended the year with the District Annual Carol Concert at Corpus Christi Church and it was great to see everyone getting into the Christmas spirit and after three years the event has started to grow. A great time was had afterwards with old time pub games for the leaders.

February saw just over 70 Cubs take part in the St Georges Competition at Crow Camp, on a beautiful sunny morning demonstrating skills learnt and working as a team.

AND THEN COVID-19 HAPPENED !!!

As a Cub District we had so much planned for 2020 including our Annual Sixers Camp, Cub Skills Day and a District Cub sleepover. These events were postponed. However it has been amazing to see so many Groups and Leaders take on "virtual scouting".

As always, I am astounded at the energy and time Leaders/Helpers give to Scouting and know that none of these events would take place without their commitment, so THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. FOR ALL YOU GIVE TO SCOUTING. Fingers crossed we can resume face to face in the very near future.

Maria Green - ADC Cubs Scouts

Scout Report

Another year has gone by and it always seems non-stop in the Scout Section with a number of District events and competitions. I am sure the time and effort you have put in is continually enjoyed and appreciated by our Scouts. Scouts is not just about a Monday or Tuesday night; it is so much more. In the Scout Section we endeavour to get our members to begin working as teams and teamwork is a characteristic of many of our competitions throughout the year.

The Franklin Shield is our Camping skills competition. This event is held over a weekend and tests the Troops knowledge on all aspects of camping, including cooking on both open fires and gas stoves. It also gives an opportunity for the younger, more inexperienced Scouts to be assisted through the outdoor challenges camping entails, as well as challenging our more



experienced Scouts. A special thank you to James Mortimer for arranging this event



The Expedition Challenge yet again saw the Scouts make their way for the second year to London, navigating via bus routes, tube maps to various places and locating various items on a maritime theme with the added bonus this year of a river trip on the TFL riverboats. Great fun was had by all including the leaders. A big thank you to all the leaders that helped with this event.

The Cooking Competition was well attended. Scouts prepared and served a 3 course meal set by the organisers, giving teams the chance of winning based on how well their dishes taste whilst following a recipe. As always there was a plentiful amount of brave & daring Leaders willing to judge. Special Thank you to James Mortimer & Tony Osborne for assisting in the planning and running of this event.



The Survival camp in November was again held at Thrift wood, where Scouts over the age of 12 have a back to basics experience. Thanks to all the Leaders for helping and for taking over the running of the event in my absence.

The Orienteering Competition in March was again held at South Weald with Michael Isaacs and Mark Hutton stepping up to the challenge of running this event for us. Scouts attempted to find all markers scattered across the park in a pre-defined time.



Unfortunately, this is my last report as ADC Scouts as my 5 year term has come to an end. It's been a great journey and it's been good to be on it with Andy as he started as the DC. I have made some good friends along the way and have some great memories and its be an amazing time.

However, you cannot away get that easily, as I have taken on a new role as ADC Events so I will be around on the various events and camps across all Sections. I would like to thank you all for your support and help over the last 5 years, I could not have done it without your support.

Congratulations go to two of my former District Leaders Michael Isaacs & Tony Osborne on their new appointments and I wish them both well. I look forward to seeing you all soon

Mick Clark – ADC Scouts

Explorer Scout Report

At the time of writing we can report that the Explorer numbers are at 106, and we are expecting more young members after September. However, numbers are very hard to predict at this time, we believe our numbers are set to drop, due to lock down,

Sadly, we have had no option but to close Unit Z Explorers. We tried very hard to keep it open, but the broken relationship with the host group and its Leaders and Executive made it impossible for the Unit to continue meeting there. Most of the young members transferred to Hornchurch District, and to my knowledge are still in Scouting, and no members have joined Romford Explorer Scouts from 3rd Squirrels' Heath since our last AGM. A rather sad commentary all round, I think, hopefully a lesson learned by all !

On a much brighter note, we have at last opened up our long overdue Unit C - based at Crow Camp, and is concentrating on a full array of Scouting skills and Bush Scouting practices. It has only 6 members at the moment, but will also act as part of the Crow Service Crew we reported on at the last AGM

Units have been encouraged to camp as often as possible, and not locally. Unit X and E went off to Derbyshire for some hiking along the ridge and up to Mam-Tor followed by a well-earned day in Alton Towers.





We held a Duke of Edinburgh Awards nights in April and it was great to see so many young people being recognised for their achievements. The awards were presented by the District Commissioner and the Deputy Lieutenant for Havering, Colonel Mark Bryant.

Our DofE programmes continues to be a success with so many young people gaining awards. Sadly, this years proposed Expeditions are all postponed due to lockdown restrictions but we will be back with a bounce in 2021. It was also great to see three young people gain their DofE Gold & Queen Scout Awards, well done to Aaron Rayment-Davis, Laura Mann & Katherine Cooke.



Four Explorer Leaders have now completed their climbing permit training at Thriftwood and will soon run a validation session so they can gain their permits and start running sessions for our young people. The goal for next year is to increase the leaders who complete this training.

All Units camped at least once since the last AGM. It is not nearly enough for the Explorer section, but a step in the right direction and our priority for life after lockdown is to encourage and support leaders to travel further away camping.

As ever we held our annual Christmas Dinner, it is always amazing seeing 75 young people and leaders take over the Toby Carvery for the night. The young people are always a credit to us and it's a great way to end the year.



There were more flying sessions booked, which like most other things will roll into 2021 now. We also had a great day with 40 Explorers at ESSA in Hertfordshire taking part in Dragon Boating. It may have been a little cold but a fun day for all who took part in it.

Our Explorer trip to Croatia had to be postponed due to Covid, but it has now been confirmed for August 2021, we have 66 people attending next year. We just now need to hope that that things get better and the trip goes ahead. We will be launching our Kandersteg, Switzerland 2022 trip late this year as well.

It was also good to hear the stories from our young people (and adults) about their time at the World Jamboree last year. 10 Explorer Scouts from Romford took part in a 3-week trip to the USA and Canada. It will not be long before we

start to receive details for the next World Scout Jamboree in 2023 to South Korea.

As explained last year, there are masses of work to do in the Explorer section, and we will not gloss over the cracks. Everything is going in the right direction in the Section. We really have only touched the surface and we are STILL extremely short of Leaders. My thanks to Andy and Steve in particular over the last year for their input and all the Leaders that have supported the section.

We do have a plan and hopefully, more to report at the 2021 AGM about the amazing stuff our Explorers are doing.

Dick Catchpole - District Explorer Scout Commissioner

District Chairman's Report

At the time of you reading this report, we will be holding our first ever virtual AGM in Romford District. Welcome to you all.

With this report only dealing with the year ending on the 31st March I can't dwell too much on the current Covid situation, which brought us the ban on Face to Face Scouting back in March. What I can say though, is since we were instructed to stop any face to face meetings our Section Leaders have stepped up and are keeping Scouting alive with Zoom meetings and work challenges being set on Facebook Groups or by email home across the District.

What I do need to say in this report is a special thank you to both Andy Mann and Steve Wiltshire who have steered the District over the last 5 ½ years. Their tenure has now come to an end and we should all be grateful for the momentous amount of time they both put into the District. Andy in particular has gone out of his way to try and attend Group AGM's and District events and supported by Steve from the beginning and more recently Tony Peters, it's not

an easy job being a DC, I should know ! So a massive thank you from me on behalf of the District to Andy, Steve & Tony. We now look forward to our new joint D.C's getting involved in the District.

I need to thank the support of all the District Executive members who diligently look after the finances and the behind the scenes side of Scouting, an import role looking at the Governance of the District.

Keith Pethers - District Chairman

District Secretary's Report

We have been living in interesting times !! The last year has provided Scouting with an unprecedented challenge and through the dedication and effort of all of Romford District we have managed to come through it even stronger. One of the biggest changes on the District Executive – in fact across the whole District - was DC Andy Mann standing down, along with Steve Wiltshire. They have both made a massive contribution to the development and growth of Romford Scouting and will undoubtedly continue to be a force to be reckoned with in other roles. The transition over to the new DCs Sam Sparks and Anne Smith has proved seamless and, although they have taken over under the most difficult of circumstances, it has proved to be a highly successful decision to run with two DCs.

Sadly, we lost David Partridge who for many years served on the Executive and in other aspects across the District. He was always a great supporter of Scouting and a kind gentleman who will be sadly missed.

Over the last year (since March 31st 2019) the Executive has met four times up until the Covid-19 lockdown. These meetings continue to focus on key decision with the day-to-day running of Scouting being delegated to the relevant officials, making the best use of the time available

and the expertise of the members. The Executive has continued prioritising the re-development of both DHQ and Crow Camp, with major projects planned for both sites.

Working parties have been set up to organise plans, budgets and contractors. There is still a deal of work to be done and everyone needs to be included in the process to ensure the end 'product' matches everyone's needs. I am pleased though that former DC – Andy Mann has taken on the task of Chairman of this redevelopment. This work will be progressed in the coming months and will make a significant impact in the District.

After last year's steep learning curve tackling Facebook and WhatsApp, Covid-19 has opened a new spectrum of skills. Meetings have been held via Zoom or Teams and it has been great to nose into everyone's houses and be interrupted by people's children/cats. The Executive has kept on top of what great efforts are being made to keep Scouting running even when people cannot physically meet up.

I am glad to see that everyone heeded my heartfelt plea regarding Health and Safety in the last AGM Report. A handful of incidents have been reported to Gilwell and these were of a low level, so they were being recorded mainly as a precaution and not because the incident was serious. As Crow Camp is developed and a wider range of more adventurous activities are regularly timetabled, Leaders will need to keep H and S as a high priority. Please keep this up. !

During difficult times and knowing that it is going to take a lot of hard work to pick up the various programmes and provisions for all age groups the Executive is looking forward to a productive 12 months ahead which will be beneficial and enjoyable to all members of the District.

Penny Williams – District Secretary

Appointments Advisory Committee Report

Things got off to a good start last year and the Committee have interviewed 18 people, all of whom were new Leaders, with a further 14 being interviewed, via Zoom, following the suspension of Scouting activities due to Covid 19. All interviewees were successful and once again the Members of the Committee were impressed with the level of enthusiasm of the new Leaders.

The breakdown is as follows:

Assistant Beaver Scout Leader 4

Beaver Scout Leader 2

Assistant Cub Scout Leader 11

Cub Scout Leader 2

Assistant Scout Leader 3

Group Scout Leader 1

Assistant Explorer Scout Leader 2

Section Assistant 5

Additional roles 2

Well done to all those, within our Groups, that were actively recruiting new members prior to lock down. Gilwell have asked us not to put any new Leaders on Compass for the time being.

The trend of Young Leaders taking out Adult Appointments is continuing, which is fantastic, and is testament to the commitment of all those involved with YL's and the young people themselves. We are now able to put them on Compass and initiate their DBS and reference enquires shortly before they are 18, which is speeding up the Appointments process considerably.

Many of our GSL's are inputting their new Leaders on to Compass and doing the DBS's then sending the Appointments Secretary the Adult Application forms so that the Appointment process can be completed.

Andrew Green has recruited a further 4 members on to the AAC, which is great news. In view of the success of conducting AAC interviews via Zoom, which enables the Committee to interview people without the necessity of a trip to DHQ, we are going to continue to use that system in the future.

Vicky Hood – AAC Secretary

Shop and Badge Report

The Shop has had another successful year, despite having to close from the second week in March due to the national Covid-19 lock-down.

Since the closure, Badge sales have continued to a number of Groups who have been running virtual programmes across the District. Some orders have been placed for other items and these have been either delivered or collected by the Groups.

The Shop has made a profit of £1,600 and £1,000 of that was paid over to the District. This was slightly down on last year. Unfortunately, sales continue to suffer from both Leaders and parents purchasing uniforms and a variety of other items directly on-line or at other District shops which means they do not visit the Romford Shop and support the District through their purchases.

Badge sales are now being organised by the new Badge Secretary, Carol Patten, and are being purchased as requested by the District Leaders. Thanks to everyone who has continued to support the District by helping in the Shop or by making purchases there.

Barbara Hall - District Shop Manager

District HQ Report

The facilities in Park Drive continue to be well used by both the Scouts and a couple of outside bodies. Maintaining the facility is becoming more of a challenge as the structure deteriorates, and whilst it is still fit for purpose, no major works will

be carried out while plans are pending for the rebuilding of the site.

Some of the grounds have been allowed to become overgrown, partly because of a lack of resources to keep the area clear, but mainly to encourage the flora and fauna of this corner of Romford – with some success, as can be seen when you visit.

Geoff Hutton - Acting DHQ Manager

Statement of Accounts for the year ending March 31st 2020

Romford District Scouts

Independent Scrutineers Report for the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2020

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st March 2020.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that there are any material items,
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts,
3. which give me reasonable cause to believe that the finance function, as defined in the Scout District Constitution, are not being met.

E G Rogers

Mr E G Rogers

Romford District Scouts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

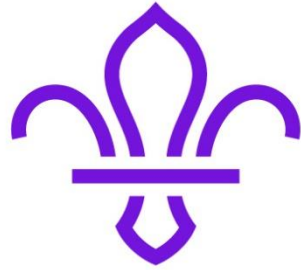
	Balance at 31/03/2020	Balance at 31/03/2019	Year on Year Movement
INCOME			
Member Fee (Net) - District	19,104.90	17,876.30	1,228.60
District HQ and Crow Camp Rental Income	1,259.25	1,259.00	0.25
Adult Training & Development	860.00	580.00	280.00
Beavers Activities	371.36	2,403.75	-2,032.39
Cubs Activities	7,142.49	1,523.00	5,619.49
Scouts Activities	52.72	255.84	-203.12
Explorer Activities	12,142.57	15,574.61	-3,432.04
Explorer International Camps and Jamboree	39,382.00	25,138.40	14,243.60
Scout Shop	2,215.23	1,596.87	618.36
Donations, Fund Raising, Gift Aid	5,551.26	4,359.51	1,191.75
Investment income & Bank Interest	7,902.53	5,429.83	2,472.70
TOTAL INCOME	95,984.31	75,997.11	19,987.20
EXPENDITURE			
District HQ and Crow Camp Costs	6,518.43	5,810.09	708.34
Training	1,514.83	944.14	570.69
Beaver Activities	268.69	2,465.19	-2,196.50
Cub Activities	6,026.21	1,710.54	4,315.67
Scout Activities	103.40	10.50	92.90
Explorers Activities	23,404.46	10,339.62	13,064.84
Explorer International Camps and Jamboree	28,142.21	54,488.66	-26,346.45
Network Activities	253.95		253.95
District Events	2,629.09	1,229.03	1,400.06
Jack Petchey	1,120.00	742.47	377.53
Officers & Sundry Expenses	2,289.21	3,228.31	-939.10
Equipment	344.43	0.00	344.43
Mini Bus & Van	2,437.61	6,184.93	-3,747.32
Online Scout Manager	0.00	432.00	-432.00
Crow Camp Redevelopment	337.25	0.00	337.25
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	75,389.77	87,585.48	-12,195.71
SURPLUS / -DEFICIT	20,594.54	-11,588.37	32,182.91
Loan repayment		3,000.00	-3,000.00
SURPLUS / -DEFICIT	20,594.54	-8,588.37	29,182.91

Romford District Scouts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2020

STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITES AND FUNDS

	Balance at 31/03/2020	Balance at 31/03/2019	Year on Year Movement
ASSETS			
Bank Current Account Barclays	12,165.78	73,443.17	-61,277.39
Reserve Account Barclays	126,121.26	65,762.33	60,358.93
District Shop Bank Account (Co-Op)	2,429.59	2,398.69	30.90
Badge Shop Bank Account (Santander)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Explorers Bank Account	47,058.14	31,910.78	15,147.36
Bank Accounts	187,774.77	173,514.97	14,259.80
Hampshire Trust Bank	103,131.59	101,285.75	1,845.84
Cambridge Building Society	102,433.59	101,319.08	1,114.51
Teachers BS	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00
Skipton BS	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00
Nationwide BS	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00
Nationwide BS	66,265.30	65,542.36	722.94
Investment Accounts	491,830.48	488,147.19	3,683.29
Shop & Badge Stock	7,645.41	6,961.08	684.33
Accrued Investment Interest	1,607.12		1,607.12
TOTAL ASSETS	688,857.78	668,623.24	20,234.54
LIABILITIES			
Prepaid Membership fees	1,665.00	2,025.00	-360.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,665.00	2,025.00	-360.00
NET ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	687,192.78	666,598.24	20,594.54
FUNDS			
Accumulated Fund	78,456.17	87,044.54	-8,588.37
Current Year Balance of Income & Expenditure	20,931.79	-8,588.37	29,520.16
Total Accumulated Fund	99,387.96	78,456.17	20,931.79
Bunny Warren Legacy	36,931.93	36,931.93	0.00
DHQ Redevelopment	451,210.14	451,210.14	0.00
Crow Camp Redevelopment	99,662.75	100,000.00	-337.25
TOTAL FUNDS	687,192.78	666,598.24	20,594.54



Scouts

Romford

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