Dudley District Scouts

BEAVERS cubs SCOUTS EXPLORERS network

Scouts

Annual Report 2023

01 April 2022 – 31st March 2023

DUDLEY DISTRICT

WEST MERCIA

June 3rd 2023 16:00
Dudley District HQ, Swindon Road

scouts.org.uk/ourplan
#SkillsForLife

Scouts

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Scouts

May MacMaster Memorial Ground
Swindon Road
Wall Heath
DY6 OAW

Dudley District Scouts

Agenda

1. Introduction from the Chair of the meeting/Opening Statement and Thought - Point of remembrance for 'gone home' scouters - Introduce key people, housekeeping arrangements.

2. Agree minutes of previous AGM held July 9th 2022 at District HQ

3. Apologies for absence.

4. Receive and adopt the Annual Report for the previous financial year (just ended).

5. Receive and adopt the Financial Statements for the previous financial year (just ended).

Elections and appointments of Trustees
6. Elect key appointments in the District Scout Council (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Council + 6 Elected Members).
Kerry Bullock – Chair - Ex Officio
Chris McEwan – Secretary - Ex Officio
Chris Soper – Treasurer - Ex Officio
Ted Batham – DC - Ex Officio
Rachel Wilson – DESC/NESC (14-25) - Ex Officio
Sam Beach – DDC (Volunteer Development) District Scout Council - Elected Members
Fran Sedgley – DDC (Programme) District Scout Council - Elected Members
Bob Fellows - District Scout Council - Elected Members

7. Nominate and/or co-opt members to the Executive Committee.
Alan Chadwick – QM - DC - Nominated Member
Rhiannon Beach - DC - Nominated Member
David Tyler - DC - Nominated Member

8. Appoint the Scrutineer for the coming year

9. District Nomination to County Scout Council
Fran Sedgley
Sam Beach

10. Reconfirm the District Constitution in Line with POR

11. Reconfirm District Subcommittees for Finance and 14-25 with Quorum for the Exec set at 50% Members Including DC + Chair.

12. Appointment of District Presidents

13. Close of meeting

Dudley District Scouts

Current Membership of the District Executive Committee

The District Executive is made up of four types of members:

Ex Officio:

Andre Burns – Chair – Resigned October 2023
Kerry Bullock – Chair – Oct 2023 Onwards
Kerry Bullock – Secretary Until Oct 2023
Chris McEwan – Secretary – Oct 2023 Onwards (Co Opted)
Chris Soper - Treasurer
Ted Batham – DC
Fran Sedgley - Deputy DC (Programme)
Rachel Wilson – DESC / Network Commissioner (14-25)
VACANT - District Youth Commissioner
VACANT - SASU Manager

District Scout Council - Elected Members:

Dawn Rides – Resigned March 2023
Paul Cartwright – Resigned March 2023
Bob Heeley – Resigned March 2022
Sam Beach

DC - Nominated Members (No more nominated members than elected Members):

Rhiannon Beach
Alan Chadwick – QM
Paul Parsons – Resigned March 2023
Bob Fellows

Co-Opted Members (there must be no more co-opted members than elected members)

Jon Whitehouse – Resigned April 2023
David Tyler – Co-opted Feb 2023

Bankers: Lloyds
District Gift Aid Number with HMRC: XR76125
District Registration No with Scout Association: 15822
Custodian Trustees: The Scout Association Trust Corporation

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Dudley District Scouts

Minutes of AGM held July 9th 2022 14:00
Minutes

Taken by Sam Beach in the Absence of Secretary.

Dudley District AGM – Minutes

9th July 2022 @ District HQ, Swindon Road, Wall Heath

Welcome

Andre the Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Mayor of Dudley, County Vice-President, members of the County Team and Mike Wood – MP for Dudley South for attending today.

A special thought was given to those Scouters that have sadly passed away over the past 12 months (Colin Foster, June Bowen and Fred Cole).

Andre explained that the District Executive Committee have been doing a lot of work in the background and have set up two sub-committees to deal with some of the work in the District more quickly.

Agree minutes of the 2020/21 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 5th May 2021 were included in the AGM pack. Minutes were accepted (Jon Whitehouse + Fran Sedgley).

Receive the annual report

Ted the DC thanked everyone for attending and gave a brief statement on what has happened over the past 12 months. The AGM pack has been circulated. However, things to note, youth members are up and as always we could do with more adult volunteers to help provide Scouting to young people. Finance has been difficult with both the District and Groups having lost income over the past 2 years. Ted reminded everyone that the District HQ is there for the use of the District and its Groups. There are changes in the line that are coming from HQ and as a District we are looking at these and are putting things in to place now rather than waiting.

Receive the financial report

Chris explained the position of the accounts. A question was raised about the level that the Executive Committee had set the District levy. Andre and Chris advised that the District had not charged any subs last year and that we have not had a chance to do any fundraising, events, etc so for us to provide a District programme we have had to increase this year.

Elect/approve members to the District Executive Committee

- Approve the DC's nomination for Chair

Andre Burns was nominated by the DC to continue in the role as Chair. Ted thanked him for the hard work that he has done over the past 12 months. – No objections, nomination approved.

- Elect the proposed Secretary

Kerry Bullock was proposed to continue in the role of Secretary - No objections, elected to the committee.

- Elect the proposed Treasurer

Chris Soper was proposed to continue in the role of Treasurer – No objections, elected to the committee.

- Elect Scout Council Members to the Committee

The members put forward for election were: Sam Beach, Fran Sedgley, Dawn Rides, Paul Cartwright, Paul Parsons and Bob Fellows – No objections, elected to the committee. (Mike Abrahams + Kelly Searle)

- Approve DC's nominations to the Committee

The DC nominated: Rhiannon Beach, Alan Chadwick and Jon Whitehouse to the committee – No objections, appointments approved.

<u>District nomination to the County Scout council</u>

The District would like to nominate: Fran Sedgley, Sam Beach and Jon Whitehouse as County Scout Council members – No objections, approved.

<u>District constitution & sub-committees for 'Finance' and '14-25'</u>

Andre explained the District has updated its constitution and that it includes policies/procedures for meetings and sub-committees. No objections, confirmed.

<u>Appointment of District Presidents</u>

The District Executive Committee would like to put forward the below two individuals for presidency/vice-presidency of the District for the service they have provided to Scouting over a number of years.

- District President – Mike Abrahams
- District Vice-President - Bob Heeley

No objections, appointments approved.

<u>AOB -</u> Nothing raised. Meeting closed – 14:40.

Dudley District Scouts

District AGM Scouters Report –

01 April 2022 – 31st March 2023

Welcome and Notable mentions

Please welcome:
West Mercia County Vice President: Dave Tyler
County Team Members

Scouters Gone Home

Point of Remembrance of all scouters and friends of the movement.

Well Wishes

Tough 12 months again and many people have been affected by loss, ailments, illness and incapacity. We recognise the challenges that everyone has to go through always putting family and work at the forefront. We are extremely lucky and thankful that so many people have continued scouting in the current climate and would like to recognise this for all.

DC Foreword – Ted Batham

Well, what a quick 12 months it has been, lots of quality scouting has been going on and there has been lots of changes across the district.

As an annual necessity we have had to hold reviews with all GSLs to ensure that we are having open honest conversations in person to recognise and then in turn address our issues. Again, we've step back to really acknowledge what works well in scouting and well as recognise what isn't working. The key is we are all talking and being open and honest.

The Key parts of the District Strategy still remain:

1) Communications / Advertisements
2) 14-25 - Explorers / Young Leaders / Network
3) Section Leader Skills/Scout Skills, Training and Support
4) Parent Engagement - Recruitment of New Adults / Youth Members – Developing Volunteers
5) Charity Governance Support
6) District Programme of Events/Calendar

These issues won't be solved overnight and there are going to be hiccups along the way – that is why we follow the scout values and work constructively and positively towards the end goal of giving young people skills for life! We also recognise that where support is

wanted – it's a very general term. It's very easy to lay the blame elsewhere and until we all start taking ownership of addressing these issues they will not be resolved.

Support is given on an equity basis – some groups need more support than others – we need to be clear about our expectations for people – everyone is trying their best and it can be hard to know where to turn. This is why we hope to make clear the support that District can provide very clear as well as signposting the support groups can give each other through collaborative working.

We also don't want to be in a position where people feel like district is dictating and always welcome open honest conversations. We have chatted as a District Team, with GSLS, With Section leaders, With Young people (in and out of scouting) and with Parents. We want to work constructively and positively.

Few points of note; firstly, I'm very pleased with the progress that is happening in the 14-25 space however there is still more work to do. With the revival of Network and the Explorer units working together this will be in a much more stable place than in the past and allow us to ensure as many people aged 14+ have the opportunity to purse this within Dudley.

We've also had a few changes and 1st Dawley Brook has become 1st Kingswinford with a change of Venue under tough circumstances, but the group is doing well! We've also seen 1st Upper Gornal and 1st Lower Gornal amalgamate formally, to now be known as 1st Gornal. We've also seen interest for more squirrel Sections and these are being pursued to allow to 4-6 provision across Dudley.

Sadly 1st Russells Hall remains dormant, but we are in constant dialogue with the hospital in the hopes this will reopen soon!

It's been a pleasure to attend the AGMs that have been taking place so far and whilst I cannot always attend; its great to hear what is going on across the district.

As always, I'm an open door – if anyone needs anything please just ask – I can't guarantee I will have the answers but we can certainly get you to the right place. If you need anything you know where I and the rest of the district team are.

I'd like to thank everyone for another year of hard work and the census results show that as we continue to grow with youth members and adult members, as well as strengthening our existing groups – scouting still has a huge part to play in our local area and is very much needed.

Dudley District Scouts

Trustee Report – Kerry Bullock – Chair of Trustees

This year has seen a lot of changes on the executive committee, we have said farewell to Andre Burns and wish to thank him for all he has done for Scouting, we have also said goodbye to Jon Whitehouse, Paul Parsons and Paul Cartwright, and we have welcomed Dave Tyler and Chris McEwen . I have taken over as Chair since December 2022, but have been involved for some years with the exec as Secretary and a member of the finance sub-committee. This year we have focused on ensuring that all groups are reporting to the Exec in the same format and actively encouraging groups in their recovery post Covid.

As Chair I would like to thank all the committee members for their contributions during the year, with a special mention to Fran Sedgley for organising district activities and posting updates of activities on the Facebook page, and also to Chris McEwan for running the Easter Raffle which was very well supported by the District.

Finally a big thank you to all the Leaders Helpers and Volunteers who without them Scouting would not be able to continue in Dudley District.

Programme Team Report – Fran Sedgley – Programme Team Leader

The District has run 2 events in the last year, an Outdoor Challenge Day for the Scouts and a Christmas Cracker event for Beavers and Cubs. Both were enjoyed by all who attended.

We have held 3 Leader meetings where we discussed meeting going forward been open to all sections except if planning a sectional event. To have a sectional event each year for each section and a District camp in the future.

Also discussed was Buddying up with other groups, sharing good programme ideas, consistency across the board for badges and support if needed.

My thanks to Sam and Rhiannon for all their support this year

Fran

Dudley District Scouts

14-25 Team Report – Rachel Wilson 14-25 Team Leader

Dudley District - 14-25 Scouting		
Explorer Units – 14-18 Years 5 Units	Explorer Young Leaders 14-18 Years	Network – 18-25 Years 1 Unit

It's been a great year for Dudley District Explorers. We have seen some exciting changes, which have allowed us to build good relationships with all the unit leaders and have improved communication among the team. This has allowed us to work together to provide the young people with a fab programme of activities.

There have been a few events throughout the year that all Explorer's have had the opportunity to take part in, and which all who attended have thoroughly enjoyed.

One such event was Night Hawks, which was held earlier in the year. During the evening it was great to see the young people working together as teams to complete various tasks along the route of a short night hike from Baggeridge to District HQ, which also gave the participants a good opportunity to interact with and learn from the leaders and support teams from the various units within the district who were running the bases, in a way that they might not have the chance to do during the course of their normal unit programme.

A number of smaller events have taken place that have involved smaller units joining forces to provide the young people with activities that they wouldn't necessary be able to put on with small numbers, which is a further example of how collaboration and the sharing of skills and resources between units can help scouting to succeed in providing opportunities for young people in Dudley district.

Among the team we have seen a few young people achieve their Young leaders Award and the Chief Scout's Platinum Award which is wonderful to see. It shows that the young people are committed and dedicated, and that with the fantastic support of their unit leaders they can achieve great things.

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Dudley District Scouts

The district has seen the re start of Dudley Network. I am happy to say that is a growing unit with lots of enthusiastic adults pulling together to run activities, including a trip to climb Snowdon a few weeks ago.

A few of the Network members had the great pleasure of attending the Kings Coronation as helpers, which is a rare honour, and we now have some of our Network members working towards their King's Scout Award – so hopefully by his time next year I will be able to announce the first of members of our district to have achieved this since the sad passing of our late monarch and Patron Queen Elizabeth II.

I would like to say a big thankyou to all the Dudley District Explorer leaders for the time and effort that they all give to the young people within the units and for embracing the changes that have been made, change is rarely easy and I recognise the effort that it has taken to adapt to these changes at times. When visiting units its clear that the young people and the leaders love being part of Dudley District.

Finally, I would also like to say a huge thankyou to Ted and the rest of the District team for their continuous support throughout the past year.

Here's to the next 12 months, lets see what it brings!

Thankyou,

Rachel Wilson

Team 14-25 Lead

Dudley District Scouts

Volunteer Development – Sam Beach

For young people to have the opportunity to participate in Scouting activities we need a team of dedicated and well supported volunteers that either work directly with young people or support volunteers that do. Over the past 12 months there have been 80 new volunteer roles started, these include: leaders, managers, trustees and helpers.

Learning & Development:

Our volunteers complete various learning opportunities depending on the way they support Scouting, ensuring that our young people gain 'Skills for Life'. During the past 12 months our volunteers have completed:

Safeguarding learning – 76 volunteers

Safety learning – 93 volunteers

First aid learning – 58 volunteers

Essential information learning – 55 volunteers

Tools for the role learning – 46 volunteers

Trustee learning – 26 volunteers

Also, to support the programme of activities that are provided for our young people, 29 volunteers have completed additional learning and have been awarded a permit, this allows them to lead authorised activities. 21 volunteers have completed a Nights Away permit, this allows them to lead overnight residential experiences and 8 volunteers have completed an activity permit for adventurous activities.

Awards & Recognition:

To show thanks to our volunteers, The Scouts has an award and recognition process that aims to thank all volunteers for their contribution to Scouting and recognise brilliant achievements. Over the past 12 months 31 volunteers have been recognised, these awards include:

Long Service Awards –

These awards recognise the length of service that volunteers have provided to Scouting, they come in 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70 year intervals.

Good Service Awards –

These awards are for volunteers that have been nominated for service that stands out, is outstanding or specially distinguished.

Wood Badges –

This award is for volunteers that have completed the Wood Badge which is our award for adult training

Joining List

To support groups and district level teams we have set up a centralised joining list to have an overview of the young people that would like to join Scouting in Dudley. As with other areas we have seen an increase in the number of young people that would like to join, currently we are receiving around 10 enquiries each week from HQ and our new website.

Dudley District Scouts

Census Review

I think its best as always to take our census numbers with a pinch of Salt as they are always a snapshot of a Date. I felt it key to include the numbers in the report so we can see what positions people are in. This is part of the basis of our Support via equity – helping people that need it most. In 2023 we achieved and 8% Growth on Young people and have an extra 40 Adults in the District.

Our members

Census Results for the year Ending 31/Jan/2023

Sections	
Beavers	18
Cubs	18
Scouts	15
Explorers (Including YL Unit)	6
Network	1
Groups	17

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Dudley District Scouts

Totals

	Youth	Adults
	T	T
10001663 Dudley - District Level	0	5
80001663 Dudley District Scout Network	0	0
70001663 Dudley District Explorers and Young Leaders	70	19
12118692 5th Dudley - Dormant	0	0
12072062 1st Russells Hall Hospital - Dormant	12	0
10014142 3rd Brierley Hill	27	10
10011914 1st Coseley	36	14
10015120 1st Kingswinford	49	22
10010818 7th Dudley	38	15
10012390 2nd Kingswinford	41	6
10014564 3rd Kingswinford	41	15
10015471 2nd Lower Gornal	70	21
10010821 1st Netherton	15	13
10010819 1st Quarry Bank	53	12
10011306 1st Sedgley	71	39
10014455 3rd Sedgley	44	17
10013514 1st Gornal	43	18
10010988 1st Wall Heath	66	17
10013299 1st Wordsley	51	17
10014295 2nd Wordsley (Holy Trinity)	40	14
TOTAL	767	277

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Dudley District Scouts

Recognition

Adult Thank You

Honorary Members – District Presidents

The Exec have again put forward the following for presidency of the district:
Mike Abrahams – Ex Dudley West DC

The Exec have again put forward the following for vice-presidency of the district:
Bob Heeley – For Service to the District over many years

And finally, a massive thank you to everyone for everything they do for scouting across the district.....

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