



Scouts Sunderland Annual Report 2021

**Do more.
Share more.
Be more.**

From the District Chair

Dear Colleagues

Sunderland District Scout Council Annual General Meeting – 30 June 2021

I welcome you all to the 2021 Annual General Meeting of Sunderland District Scout Council and what is now the second such meeting (and hopefully the last) to be held entirely online. Talk about Groundhog Day.

Unsurprisingly, due to the prolonged and enforced hiatus over the past twelve months and more, the Scouts movement in Sunderland, as with the rest of the UK, has suffered a worrying decline in youth participation.

However, that is not to say that there has been prolonged inactivity. On the contrary the “behind-the-scenes” work has continued at a pace – training still has to be done, bills still have to be paid, property has to be maintained, risk assessments need to be done, badges awarded and our young people engaged in scouting, as far as circumstances and internet communications will allow.

In the face of these challenges the sustained active efforts of our local volunteers, the district officers, the group leaders and helpers, have been inspirational and invaluable. Scouting in Sunderland, because of the (absolutely necessary) Covid-19 restrictions would be in an existential crisis if it had not been for your dedication, enthusiasm and determination to keep going.

Now, I don't believe any of us think there is a switch that we can turn on to take us back to where we were before the various lockdowns were put in place. We will need to build back from the grass roots and hopefully, slowly and surely, group by group, we will reach and exceed our former levels of face-to-face scouting.

The key driver, more so than ever, will be recruitment – we currently remain without a District Commissioner though the interim arrangements with Dave Russell and Lesley Robinson providing leadership, continue to work very well (my personal thanks go to them for the assistance they have given me over the past year). We have lost leaders and helpers which threatens the viability of some of our groups. We continue with our recruitment drive in both of these areas and will look to attract back those youth members who have drifted away and in the longer term, we will work our hardest to bring new members on board.

There are other serious challenges which confront us locally, not least in some cases, in relation to group premises where there are problems of rising costs or suitability or both. We at District are investigating how we can help and how we can best use our property assets to address these issues and sustain those groups.

I trust my message to you this year is not too downbeat but as we all recognise these are challenging times for Scouting. As we recover from this international public health crisis we can take comfort that in Sunderland District we remain strong in key areas. Most importantly we are financially sound and have a core of dedicated volunteers who can lead us forward successfully into 2022 and beyond.

Yours sincerely and with my best wishes

Keith Lowes

District Chair

10 June 2021



2020-2021

From the District Team

It might be stating the obvious but it's certainly been a challenging year. However, Scouting in Sunderland has still been operating when possible throughout the past year. We have lost a number of young people and adults due to restrictions, time constraints and other factors, but we have also found strength in adversity and our members and volunteers have risen to the challenge of how to make Zoom meetings work, participated in the County Camps@Home and are slowly getting back to face to face meeting when restrictions allow (and risk assessments have been signed off!). There has also been an inordinate amount of training happening and we are the only District in Durham County with 100% compliance for all Mandatory Modules – so a massive thank you to the Scout leaders and training advisors.

As a district we haven't been able to hold any events this year but as restrictions ease, our usual program will be slowly reinstated. A massive thank you to all of the leaders and helpers who give their time to give such a balanced, rounded experience for our membership giving them #SkillsForLife. An equally great thank you must also go to our youth members, who continue to engage, grow, develop and challenge us to be our best as leaders and volunteers. Without all of you, Scouting in Sunderland would not exist.

The District team are working hard to support Groups and Leaders to deliver Scouting in these difficult times.

Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who helps to make Scouting in Sunderland what it is and why we are proud to be part of the Scouting Movement .

Dave Russell & Lesley Robinson
Deputy District Commissioners & the District Team.



What does Sunderland District do?

As a District we have many functions which keep us really busy...

	<p>District Scouting</p> <p>Explorer Scouting, Scout Network and Scout Active Support are all District responsibilities.</p>
	<p>Activities</p> <p>We encourage all sections to run adventurous activities for young people and adults and support the acquisition and renewal of activity permits.</p>
	<p>Development & Growth</p> <p>Growing Scouting and supporting the retention of members are key objectives of Scouting and we work hard to achieve these aims.</p>
	<p>Events</p> <p>District events are probably the most visible things that we do, bringing Groups and Units together to show everyone they're part of something big.</p>
	<p>Facilities</p> <p>We manage the District headquarters at Kayll House, including the Scout shop, and Dene Lane - all resources which directly benefit Scouting in Sunderland.</p>
	<p>Group Support</p> <p>Scout Groups & Units are where the magic happens - we provide direct support to help them run their programmes and activities.</p>
	<p>Policy, Organisation and Rules</p> <p>Keeping things legal, decent and honest is a vital function of District, through our own District Executive Committee and supporting Group Execs. We also ensure we have a functioning Appointments Advisory Committee and carry out DBS checks for our volunteer leaders.</p>

	<p>Links & Community Impact</p> <p>Maintaining links between our District and our neighbours, be they other Scouting Districts and Areas or external bodies, is essential. We encourage and support giving young people the opportunity to take part in high quality social action as part of the Scouting Movement.</p>
	<p>Training</p> <p>Working with County, who appoint local training advisors, we ensure all our adults have the skills and knowledge to deliver safe, quality, inclusive Scouting.</p>
	<p>Youth Shaped</p> <p>We're committed to trying as hard as we can to get young people working in partnership with adults to run Scouting through youth engagement, the young leader scheme and youth led scouting.</p>
	<p>Recognition</p> <p>Ensuring that we shout about our successes and recognise those who help us achieve them!</p>

Charity Trustees 2020-2021

Keith Lowes – Chair

David Kay – Secretary (to Jan 2021)

Fiona Slater – Treasurer

Phil Atkinson – Elected member

Joanna Chapman – Elected member

Victoria Hunter – Elected member

Andrew Robinson - Nominated member

Lesley Robinson – Nominated member

David Russell - Nominated member

Steven Whatt - Nominated member

Kris Woods – Elected member

Philippa Cottam – District Commissioner (to June 2020)

Ben Hudson – District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Sunderland District Scout Association Charity number: 520713

Last year....

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held online using "Zoom" 1st July 2020 due to not been able to hold a Face to Face AGM.

Welcome and Introductions by District Chair.

Attendance - Keith Lowes, Pip Cottom, Dave Russell, Alan Toll, Steven Whatt, Deanne Dutton, Phil Atkinson, David Kay, David Stokes, Andrew Donaldson, Julie Lovell, Fiona Slater, Maurine Dale

Apologies for absence were received from: Lesley Robinson, Andrew Robinson, Kris Woods, Lynne Embley, Alex Smith, Benjamin Spence, Matthew Shovlin, Vikki Hunter, Marilyn Fairs,

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1st July 2020: The minutes were proposed and seconded and signed in to the record.

Acceptance of the statement of accounts: Question raised from David Stokes CC - YIF. Last year receipts and payments basis, not profit and loss so would not capitalise, All money was spent as requested. If Lottery asks the question we have the answer.
Question answered and the Accounts were agreed by the executive committee as this had not been done.

We are above £25,000 so we must to submit.

The statement of accounts was presented by the District Treasurer and accepted by the meeting.

Approval of the District Commissioner's nomination for Chairperson: The District Commissioner proposed Keith Lowes for the post of District Chairperson. All present were in agreement.

Nomination and election of District Secretary: David Kay was proposed and seconded for the post of District Secretary and accepted by all present.

Nomination and election of District Treasurer: Fiona Slater was proposed and seconded for the post of District Treasurer and accepted by all present.

Results of the election of members to serve on the Executive Committee: Victoria Hunter, Joanna Chapman, Andrew Robinson and Kris Woods were appointed as nominations with the most votes from the Scout Council Members.

Approval of persons nominated by the District Commissioner to serve on the Executive Committee: DC nominates Dave Russell, Steven Whatt, Phil Atkinson and Lelsey Robinson. All present agreed.

Election of a representative as the nominated adult member to The Council of Durham County Scout Council: Steven Whatt was nominated and elected to represent the District.

Mr David Stokes - County Commissioner Durham Scouts addressed the meeting and thanked all of the volunteers in Sunderland for another great year.

Following the conclusion of the official matters and County Commissioners speech, the Chair informed the meeting that all Officers and members of the District Executive were available to answer questions. He then brought the meeting to a close.

Date of next meeting: July 2021

Accounts

Sunderland District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01 April 2020	To	31 March 2021
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Receipts and Payments

	2020/21 Unrestricted funds £	2019/20 Unrestricted funds £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership Subscriptions	15,654.00	22,185.50
Donations	22,700.00	2,700.00
County rebate	244.00	233.00
Rent from Kayll House car park	1,250.00	750.00
Sub total	39,848.00	25,868.50
Grants		
Grants	0.00	0.00
Sub total	0.00	0.00
Fundraising (gross)		
Camps, training courses, events	25.00	2,087.82
Shop	1,024.60	6,772.53
Network	0.00	5.50
Explorers	1,181.00	4,077.50
Other	0.00	0.00
Sub total	2,230.60	12,943.35
Investment Income		
Bank Interest	0.03	0.12
Sub total	0.03	0.12
Total Gross Income	42,078.63	38,811.97
Asset and Investment sales, etc.	0.00	0.00
Total Receipts	42,078.63	38,811.97

Sunderland District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01 April 2020	To	31 March 2021
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Receipts and Payments

	2020/21 Unrestricted funds £	2019/20 Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Membership fees paid to County	13,822.50	19,276.00
Youth programme and activities	72.00	1,707.08
Explorers	1,304.50	2,440.00
Adult support and training	43.03	0.00
Refunds/Rebates	203.50	230.00
Rates (Kayll House)	0.00	448.56
Water and sewerage (Kayll House)	150.39	184.98
Electricity and gas (Kayll House)	1,332.21	1,348.56
Maintenance and cleaning (Kayll House)	276.00	220.05
Telephone, alarm and broadband (Kayll House)	1,021.76	828.41
Rent and rates (Dene Lane)	24.96	110.64
Water and sewerage (Dene Lane)	164.34	184.83
Insurance	992.65	1,231.43
AGM and trustee expenses	0.00	30.00
Shop purchases for resale	489.00	5,308.17
Legal etc. Fees	0.00	0.00
Bank charges	11.05	60.00
Miscellaneous	71.94	94.79
Sub total	19,979.83	33,703.50
Total Gross Expenditure	19,979.83	33,703.50
Asset and Investment purchases, etc.	0.00	0.00
Total payments	19,979.83	33,703.50
Surplus generated in the year	22,098.80	5,108.47

Sunderland District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

For the year from	01 April 2020	To	31 March 2021
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Statement of cash balances at the end of the year

	2020/21 Unrestricted funds £	2019/20 Unrestricted funds £
Cash funds		
Bank current account	72,243.17	50,118.91
Bank RBS account	1,179.85	1,205.31
Building society account	670.60	670.60
Cash Floats	150.00	150.00
Total cash funds	74,243.62	52,144.82
Investment assets	0.00	0.00
Shop stock	7045.00	7,098.14
Land and buildings		
Kayll House	75,000.00	75,000.00
Trailer	500.00	800.00
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total non-cash assets	84,398.14	85,117.98

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets were approved by the Trustees on 14/6/2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Signature *Keith Lowes* Name Keith Lowes

Position Chair

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sunderland District Scouts

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) But that an independent examination is needed, in accordance with the financial rules of the charity.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act ;and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act
- have not been met or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

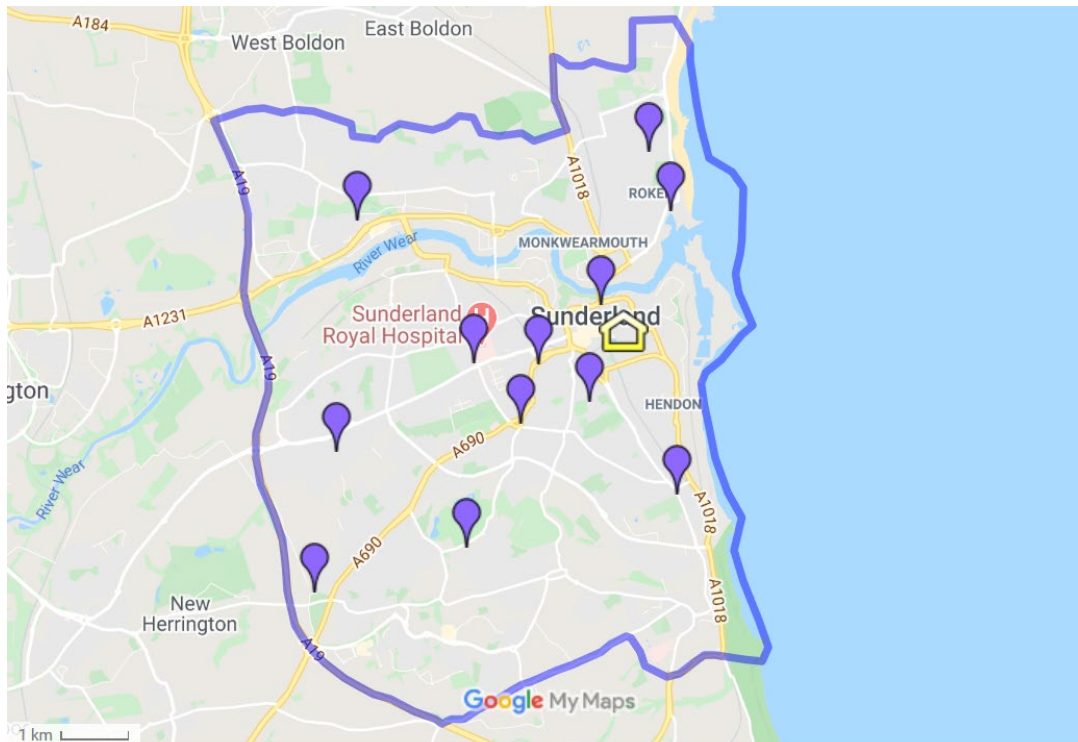
Signed *TArmstrong*

Name: Tracy Armstrong

Relevant professional qualification or body: AAT

Address: 4 Bowood Close, Tunstall Grange, SUNDERLAND SR2 0BY

Date: 18th May 2021



BEAVERS **cubs** **SCOUTS** **EXPLORERS** network [/activesupport](#)



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