



Scouts

Sunderland

**Sunderland
District Scouts
Annual Report
2021-22**

We prepare young people with skills for life

From the District Chair...

Dear Colleagues,

I found out recently that I have been serving Sunderland District Scouts for a decade now – as Chair and before that Treasurer. As colleague volunteers, perhaps like me you don't necessarily keep track of time until it creeps up on you and you ask yourself “where did the those ten years go”?

Having said that, I know that I am a relatively “new” starter compared to the multiple decades of dedication that many of you have contributed to the scouting movement in Sunderland.

When I joined the Executive Committee in 2012, the idea of a global pandemic and a major war breaking out in Europe within ten years were not topics that remotely figured in our thinking. One of the themes of my last two Chairman's letters has been the historical role played by Scouting in responding positively to national and international crises – to carry on and keep our young people aware and engaged through the difficulties and help where we can.

Earlier this year, national HQ restated our commitment to peace, international friendship, and respect for all. Our Chief Scout Bear Grylls wrote to the National Organization of the Scouts of Ukraine expressing our solidarity, and extending the hand of friendship and support. We see on the news hard life must be for the young people of Ukraine anxious about the future and concerned about the safety of their family and friends.

Bear concluded by saying “At times like these, we stand shoulder to shoulder with our friends in crisis, and remind ourselves we're part of a worldwide family of Scouts. Now is the moment for us to live our promise to help other people. Please know that you are in our thoughts, and we pray for your safety and that of your families and your country”.

Assimilating young refugees and displaced children into our Scouting family is something we have been doing since the First World War, when Scouts were asked to meet Belgian refugees at stations and provide them with help; and then again in the 1930's for people fleeing during the Spanish Civil War

Nationally, Scouting continues to bounce back and recover from the challenges faced due to the pandemic. Unsurprisingly, our youth membership figures dipped to 360,000 young people taking part in 2021. Membership figures for April 2022 show 420,000 young people taking part in Scouts across the UK - growing by 16%, our biggest for 80 years.

In Sunderland, thanks to the energy and commitment of all of our volunteers, we continue with our own recovery. With our District Commissioner at the helm we are already seeing positive changes and exciting ideas for the future which he has initiated and you will be hearing from him further at the AGM.

I'm so glad that in 2022 we can celebrate our AGM “live” as opposed to the “studio” versions we held in 2020 and 2021, and I welcome you all to the meeting this evening.

Yours sincerely and with my best wishes

Keith Lowes - District Chair

From the District Commissioner

Well...what a year?

Becoming a District Commissioner during a national pandemic has certainly been an 'interesting' experience and a year of two halves. The first half being all about risk assessments, changing levels of covid restrictions and trying to support what we do in unusual and changing situations. The second half of the year has been about supporting Groups to get back to 'normal' Scouting, or perhaps a newer normal version of Scouting that includes the digital skills that were learned when we took Scouting online.

Where has this left us? Well, much has changed, we have lost a number of young people and adult volunteers over the past years, those that have chosen to step back or found other interests. A number of reasons caused us to take the difficult decision to close the 88th Sunderland (Grindon) and 89th Sunderland (Silksworth), and move the 65th Sunderland from Thornhill to St. Luke's. This loss of adult volunteers has led to those remaining often wearing several "hats" within their groups so we need to find a way of supporting those who need it while attracting new volunteers to help us progress.

But it's not all bad. Since the start of 2022 nearly 50 adults have joined us, I've been about presenting many well deserved good and long service awards to those people who have not just turned up but have kept Scouting going for the young people that needed it. And we have just nominated several more people for awards, pending approval by the National Awards Board. We have opened a new Scout Group for some of the most deprived young people in our District at Hudson Road and Young Asian Voices. But to be honest I couldn't have coped without our two deputy DC's, Dave and Lesley who have both been brilliant at steering me in the right direction and giving me wise counsel when needed.

Wood Badges continue to be earned, our compliance figures for mandatory training for safety, safeguarding continue to be the best in the County. Nights Away have started to take place again and I have been inundated with notifications of sleepovers, camps and many other exciting events and activities that our young people have been able to enjoy. We've also been assessing people for new Nights Away permits enabling more young people to do what a lot of people see as being one of our best activities. We have held a number of successful District events which have had good support and participation and our both our Explorer and Network members have taken part in some of the County Events and competitions that have restarted and represent us quite well in the winning tables. Thank you to one and all for making this happen, whether as the leader who has planned and organised, the parent that has newly joined the team, or indeed the person that comes in to drive the minibus or make the squash.

Having been at a number of the County events in the last few months it has been overwhelming to see how many members of the District manage and support these events over and above their roles in Groups and District – without this support these events simply wouldn't take place, so on behalf of the County I would like to extend additional thanks to our Sunderland volunteers.

We have had good trusteeship from our District Executive committee who have been hugely supportive of our charitable activities in the last year. The Scout Shop continues to be a hub of community as well as an income-generating asset, and through some additional grant funding we were able to provide a subsidy on membership fees for Groups this year. There is still some work to be done in the releasing of the Seaburn Scout Hall back to the council and plans to relocate the District HQ to a more suitable home, where we will be able to offer a hall for Groups to meet in, maintaining the Scout Shop and potentially being able to provide a storage solution for those Groups who do not currently have their own halls. I would like to thank all members of the executive for their sterling work in the last year, the assets and finances have certainly been in safe hands.

Positive changes are coming – I hope to share at the AGM (and beyond) some of the transformation work that is taking place over the coming months, it's primary purpose to make the lives of adult volunteers easier, more welcoming and more supported.

The latest national scouting slogan is “Volunteering is Good for you” and it is true. There is a role in scouting for everyone, uniformed and behind the scenes. If we can take care of our leaders, giving them the life opportunities they value, they will ensure an even greater number of young people acquire the unique skills for life that scouting offers.

I look forward to continuing through this period of recovery, rebuilding our sections and continuing to provide life changing experiences for our members. None of this would be possible without you.

Yours in Scouting,

Carlton Gronow - District Commissioner

1 Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name: **Sunderland District Scouts**
Charity Number: **520713**
Scout registration: **100001701**
Principal Address: **Kayll House, 9 Foyle Street, Sunderland SR1 1LB**

1.1 Trustees

Keith Lowes,	District Chair
Pip Cottam	District Secretary
Fiona Slater	District Treasurer
Carlton Gronow	District Commissioner (acting)
Ben Hudson	District Explorer Scout Commissioner
Phil Atkinson	Elected Member
Vicky Hunter	Elected Member
Kris Woods	Elected Member
Lesley Robinson	Nominated Member
Steven Whatt	Nominated Member
Dave Russell	Coopted Member (from July 2021)
Aaron Horton	District Scout Network Commissioner (<i>from November 2021</i>)

2 Structure, Governance and Management

2.1 Governing Document

The District's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of the Scout Association.

2.2 District Scout Council

The District Scout Council is the electoral body to which the District Executive Committee is accountable. Membership of the District Scout Council is open to:

- President and Vice Presidents (if any)
- Commissioners;
- Scouters;
- Administrators;
- Section Assistants;
- Skills Instructors;
- Advisers;
- all Explorer Scouts;
- all members of the District Scout Network;
- Representative of Troop Leadership Forums; selected from amongst the membership of the Forum.
- Members and Associate Members of the Movement registered in the Scout District and including Members of District Scout Fellowships;
- Representatives of each District Explorer Scout Unit, selected from amongst the membership of each Explorer Scout Unit;
- all parents of Explorer Scouts;
- A representative of the District Scout Network, selected from amongst the membership of District Scout Network
- Members and Associate Members of the Movement registered in the Scout District and including Members of District Scout Active Support Units;
- Persons elected or reselected annually by the District Scout Council on the recommendation of the District Commissioner and the District Executive Committee;
- The County Commissioner and County Chair are ex officio members of the District Scout Council.

2.3 Constitution

The District is a trust established under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.

It has a constitution agreed by the District Scout Council, but which is subservient to its governing documents.

2.4 Trustee Selection

The trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association and the District's constitution.

2.5 District Executive Committee

The District is led by a District Commissioner and managed by a District Executive Committee. They are accountable to the District Scout Council for the satisfactory running of the District.

The Executive Committee exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment.

Members of the Executive Committee must act collectively as charity

Trustees of the Scout District, and in the best interests of its members to:

- Comply with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association
- Protect and maintain any property and equipment owned by and/or used by the District
- Manage the District finances.
- Provide insurance for people, property and equipment.
- Provide sufficient resources for Scouting to operate. This includes, but is not limited to, supporting recruitment, other adult support, and fund-raising activities.
- Promote and support the development of Scouting in the local area.
- Manage and implement the Safety Policy locally
- Ensure that a positive image of Scouting exists in the local community.
- Appoint and manage the operation of any sub-Committees, including appointing a Chair to lead the sub-Committees
- Ensure that Young People are meaningfully involved in decision-making at all levels within the District
- The opening, closure, and amalgamation of sections as necessary.
- And all other duties as set out in Policy, Organisation and Rules.

2.6 Risk and Internal Control

The District Executive Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed which are:

2.6.1 Injury to Leaders, Helpers, Supporters or Members

The District supports compliance with the Safety Policy and ensures appropriate risk assessment; elimination, reduction and control measures are taken to reduce the likelihood of any injuries.

In addition, through membership fees, the District contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy.

2.6.2 Damage to Buildings, Property or Equipment

The District would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations. The District has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

2.6.3 Reduced Income from Subscriptions and Fund Raising

The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fund-raising. The District holds adequate reserves to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The committee could also raise the value of subscriptions to increase the District income either temporarily or permanently.

2.6.4 Reduction or Loss of Leaders

The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there were a reduction in the number of volunteers to an unacceptable level, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of activities or sections.

2.6.5 Reduction or Loss of Members

If there were a reduction in membership of a particular section or the District as a whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section.

2.6.6 Material Mismanagement or Loss

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include expenditure controls as detailed in the District delegated authority document and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

3 Objectives and Activities

The primary objective of the District is that of the Scout Association generally, namely:

‘to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.’

The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

- Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.
- Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we cooperate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

4 What we have been doing and continue to do

	<p>Directly supported Scouting Supporting front line programme and support by leading and developing the Explorer Scout and Scout Network (14-24) provision.</p>
	<p>Activities We encourage all sections to run adventurous activities for young people and adults and support the acquisition and renewal of activity permits, including Nights Away permits that allow our leaders to take young people on overnight camps and other residential activities.</p>
	<p>Growth & Development Growing by attracting new young people and adult volunteers to Scouting and supporting the development of</p>
	<p>Events 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 We own and manage a District headquarters at Kayll House, including the Scout Resource Centre, and Dene Lane - all resources which directly benefit Scouting in Sunderland.</p>
	<p>Group Support Scout Groups & Units are where the magic happens - we provide direct support to help them run their programmes and activities.</p>
	<p>Vetting and appointment of adults We have a functioning Appointments Advisory Committee that works to welcome and support new adult volunteers to Scouting and carries out all relevant DBS checks and other vetting procedures to ensure the safety of our young people.</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! Whether the badges our young people earn, with trophies and certificates for competition winners, or awards and medals to recognise the good and long service of our adult volunteers</p>

4.1 Public benefit statement

The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

5 Receipts and Payments Account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	1st April 2021	To	31st March 2022

Receipts and payments

	2021-22	2020-21
	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £
Receipts		
Donations, legacies and similar income		
Membership subscription from groups	12,321.00	15,217.50
Membership rebate received from County	142.50	244.00
Explorer subscriptions	1,093.00	820.00
Donations	6,496.74	2,700.00
Gift Aid	0.00	0.00
Other similar income	0.00	0.00
Sub total	20,053.24	18,981.50
Grants		
Maintenance grant	0.00	0.00
Other grants (City of Sunderland Council)	0.00	20,000.00
Sub total	0.00	20,000.00
Fundraising events (gross)		
Camps, training courses, events (non-Explorers)	300.00	25.00
Camps, training courses, events (Explorers)	2,103.50	797.50
Camps, training courses, events (Network)	0.00	0.00
Shop income	4,911.12	1,024.60
Sub total	7,314.62	1,847.10
Rental income		
Hire of Kayll House car parking space	1,000.00	1,250.00
	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00
Sub total	1,000.00	1,250.00
Investment income		
Bank interest	3.80	0.03
Sub total	3.80	0.03
Total Gross Income	28,371.66	42,078.63
Asset and investment sales, etc.	0.00	0.00
Total receipts	28,371.66	42,078.63

For the year from	1st April 2021	To	31st March 2022
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Receipts and payments

	2021-22	2020-21
	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £
Payments		
Charitable Payments		
Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	15,651.00	13,822.50
Membership rebates paid	108.50	203.50
Youth programme and activities	54.43	72.00
Adult support and training	300.00	43.03
Kayll House costs		
- Rates	232.61	0.00
- Water and Sewerage	149.84	150.39
- Electricity and Gas	3,731.18	1,332.21
- Telephone, alarm and broadband	797.88	1,021.76
- Repairs and Renewals and cleaning	0.00	276.00
Insurance (not including Dene Lane)	754.45	747.82
Dene Lane costs		
- Rent and rates	65.35	24.96
- Water and Sewerage	161.04	164.34
- Insurance	251.67	244.83
Materials and equipment	0.00	0.00
Printing and photocopying	0.00	0.00
Contribution to camp costs	0.00	0.00
AGM and trustee expenses	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	71.94
Other costs detail 2	0.00	0.00
Other costs detail 3	0.00	0.00
Sub total	22,257.95	18,175.28
Fundraising expenses		
Camps, training courses, events (non-Explorers)	0.00	0.00
Camps, training courses, events (Explorers)	2,838.84	1,304.50
Camps, training courses, events (Network)	0.00	0.00
Shop purchases and expenses	3,938.33	489.00
Bank charges	20.97	11.05
Sub total	6,798.14	1,804.55
Total Gross Expenditure	29,056.09	19,979.83
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	0.00	0.00
Total payments	29,056.09	19,979.83
Net of receipts/(payments)	-684.43	22,098.80
Cash funds last year end	74,243.62	52,144.82

Cash funds this year end (before accrual)

75,559.19

74,243.62

For the year from

1st April 2021

To

31st March 2022

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31st March 2022	31st March 2021
	Unrestricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £
Cash funds		
Lloyds current account	74,663.22	72,243.17
RBS current account	0.00	1,179.85
Building society account	820.97	670.60
Soldo account	0.00	0.00
Cash/Floats	75.00	150.00
Total cash funds	75,559.19	74,243.62
Other monetary assets		
Tax claim	0.00	0.00
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	0.00	0.00
Insurance claim	0.00	0.00
Sub total	0.00	0.00
Investment assets		
Investment property - detail	0.00	0.00
Quoted investments	0.00	0.00
Other investments - detail	0.00	0.00
Sub total	0.00	0.00
Non monetary assets for charity's own use		
Badge stock	0.00	0.00
Shop stock	5,873.56	7,045.00
Other stock	0.00	0.00
Land and buildings	75,000.00	75,000.00
Trailer	500.00	500.00
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	1,500.00	1,500.00
Other	0.00	0.00
Sub total	82,873.56	84,045.00
Liabilities		
Accounts not yet paid - electricity invoice accrued	-2,000.00	0.00
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	0.00	0.00
Subscriptions not yet paid	0.00	0.00
Loan - detail	0.00	0.00
Other liabilities	0.00	0.00
Sub total	-2,000.00	0.00
Total net assets	156,432.75	158,288.62

The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 11th July 2022 (the date of the Executive Committee meeting that approved the accounts) and signed on their behalf by

Signature

Print Name

Chair
Treasurer

6 Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sunderland District Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2022.

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: *T Armstrong*

Name: Tracy Armstrong

Relevant professional qualification or body: Association of Accounting Technicians

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

Date: 17 July 2022

7 Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:

Date:

Full Name: **Carlton Gronow**

Position: District Commissioner

Signature:

Date:

Full Name: **Keith Lowes**

Position: District Chair