



MEDWAY TOWNS SCOUT DISTRICT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 2nd October 2023

MEDWAY COUNCIL, CHATHAM

BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE OFFICE OF THE

MAYOR OF MEDWAY

- Agenda for Annual General Meeting
- Trustees Report, incl. Accounts and Financial Report
- Appendix A – Reports Etc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 2nd October 2023

AGENDA

1. Welcome by President/Vice-President
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations of conflicts of interest
4. Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting
5. To receive and consider the Trustees' Report
6. To receive and consider the Annual Statement of Account
7. To receive the District Commissioners' Report (see Appendix A)
8. To approve the District Commissioner's nominations to the following appointments:
 - District Chairman
 - Nominated members of the District Executive
9. To elect a District Secretary
10. To elect a District Treasurer
11. To elect members of the District Executive Committee
12. To nominate a Representative of the Medway Towns Scouts onto the Kent County Scout Council
13. To appoint an independent Examiner
14. To receive an address by the representative of Kent Scouts
15. To receive an address by the representative of Medway Council
16. WSJ Super 7 Presentation
17. DC Update & Presentations
18. Any other business which should be directly related to the business of the AGM
19. Address by President concluding with the formal closure of the 2023 AGM

Trustees Annual Report,

for the period 1st Apr 21 – 31st Mar 22

Charity Trustees

Name	Position	Ex-officio/Nominated/Elected
John Brisley	District Commissioner	Ex-officio
Marc Harris	Chairman	Nominated by DC
Alice Canty	Treasurer	Co-Opted
Vacant	Secretary	Elected
Steven Slater	District Explorer Scout Commissioner	Ex-officio
Henry Brackley	District Youth Commissioner	Ex-officio
Robbie Riddell	Member	Elected
Sarah Edmonds- Magee	Member	Elected
Graeme Pryke	Member	Elected
Kara Cooper	Member	Elected
David Knight DC	Member	Nominated by DC
Graham Hancock	Member	Nominated by DC
Paul Randall	Member	Nominated by DC
Sverre Sverresonn	Member	Nominated by DC

Trustee Annual Report

Welcome to the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Medway Towns District Scout Council. The reporting year 22/23 proved to be another challenging year as Scouting continues to grow further to surpass pre pandemic numbers.

The Census showed strong growth reinforced by the new Squirrels provision, and to date 9 groups now have Squirrels which is a huge accomplishment for all those involved within the district.

Hopefully you will have seen the reports and financial statement of accounts presented by the District Team and Trustee Board via the links sent out through the various media channels.

Medway Towns District Scout Council is a registered charity governed by the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scouts. The District Scout Council is responsible for providing management, and support to Scout Groups across the District as well as events and activities.

The members of the District Trustee Board are charity trustees of the Scout District. Appointed under POR through nomination or election at the AGM, they serve for one year and are eligible for re-election or re-appointment if so willing. Other trustees may be co-opted during the year to serve until the next AGM.

The District Trustee Board must act collectively, and in the best interests of its members, ensuring compliance with the Associations rules, along with management of finances, property, equipment and insurance. The focus has been on supporting Groups to get back to full strength with Leaders and Young people alike and it is great to see Groups working together and helping each other out. Whilst we were disappointed to lose the 21st Strood Scout Group, we are pleased to report the new 1st Medway Towns Scout Group is going from strength to strength. The Leaders are working closely with the District and has now established itself with a view to be fully independent once their bank account has been opened. For all those involved we must give credit for their perseverance and support to what is already a very strong group.

The Governance Sub Committee continues to ensure everything is above board and safeguard all our members, trustees and property.

The Finance Sub Committee have continued to keep on top of the finances & budgets and introducing online banking and modernising processes. Including New accounts with Lloyds

The Appointments Advisory Committee manages the process of inducting new leaders and is also responsible for training compliance, probably the two most loathed words in the District over the last few years, however it is pleasing to report we continue to have one of the best compliance records in the County. This also was apparent at the APEX conference at Canterbury University recently where the district was referenced for its innovative processes ahead of the changes currently taking place.

The Districts campsite, Buckmore Park is operated by the CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) on behalf of Medway Town Scouts and is responsible for the day-to-day operations, management and continued development of the park.

Whilst this is a very brief summary of the activities of Medway Towns District Scouts over the reporting year it barely reflects the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of so many Leaders, Supporters and Managers across the District. The pure scope and variety of activities and residential events undertaken in Groups and across District, has again, been truly inspiring to see, with so many young people experiencing exciting opportunities and adventures and making memories for a lifetime. The quality of Scouting in Medway Towns is a credit to each, and everyone involved. Thank you all.

Finally, a massive extra thanks to the District Team, District Trustee's and all involved at Buckmore Park, virtually all of whom hold other roles. Without this extra commitment and enthusiasm, the District would be a very different place. We would also like to thank MAST for their continued support and exciting activities. There are still plenty of opportunities for anyone who wishes to give a little extra to ensure the next year is even more successful.

District Trustee Board.

Financial Report

A copy of this report can be found in the AGM Pack and will be presented to the floor by the Finance Sub Committee

Reserve Policy

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short.

The District Trustee Board considers that the District should hold the sum of £28,000.00 in reserve.

Investment Policy

The District has a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service.

The District Trustee Board monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the district obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements.

Scouts

Medway Towns



District AGM 4th October 2022

Held at Medway Council, Gun wharf

Minutes of the meeting

Present - John Brisley, David Knight, Lt Col Guy Cheeseman, Mayoress Cllr Jan Aldous, David Brake, Graeme Pryke, David Smith, Sally Cox, Jean Chandler, Sverre Sverresonn, Steven Slater, Graham Hancock Paul Randall, Darren Hopson, Vi Jones, Michelle Kagan, Kim Ward, Carole Reynolds, Samantha Bayliss, Jenny Turner, Clive Harris, Gail Couchman, Angela Taylor, Del King, Ann Hayes, Mike Billin, David Wraight, David Payne, Carrie Payne, Tyler Payne, Silas Maxwell, Helen Maxwell, Graham Maxwell, Joshua Lyons, Suzie Davies, Faye Davies, Graham Durey, Phil Gurnett, Donna Phillips, Carole Foley, Chrissie Firmin, Sarah Edmonds-Magee, Marc Harris, Kelly Beck, Chris Beck, John Pullen, Mike Davies, Andrew King, Gill Sands, Jack Drew and Colin Jones.

1. Welcome by President/Vice-President

Our Vice President Cllr David Brake introduced the County representative Sverre Sverresonn, Mayoress of Medway, Cllr Jan Aldous and the representative for the President of Medway Towns Scout District, Lieutenant Colonel Guy Cheeseman of the Royal School of Military Engineering. David Invited Guy to chair the meeting.

Guy was very privileged to chair the meeting and he hopes to do the meeting justice and starts the 2022 AGM.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Gill Martin.

3. Declarations of conflicts of interest

No Conflicts of Interest was declared.

4. Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

The approval of the minutes from the AGM was held on 5th October 2021 and the minutes had been distributed before the AGM and was a true record.

Proposed by Graeme Pryke and seconded by Del King.

5. To receive and consider the Trustees' Report

Trustee's report

Welcome to the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Medway Towns District Scout Council.

The reporting year 21/22 proved to be another difficult year as Scouting continued initially, in and out of covid restrictions and slowly progressed to somewhere near back to normal as we knew it.

Whilst just outside the reporting period, the District Camp, celebrating St Georges Day and 70 Years of Buckmore Park earlier this year, was a phenomenal success, with around 1000 members camping or attending for the day it was just what was needed to show Scouting was truly back, and back to its best.

Hopefully you will have seen the reports and financial statement of accounts presented by the District Team and Executive Committee via the links sent out through the various media channels.

Medway Towns District Scout Council is a registered charity governed by the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scouts. The District Scout Council is responsible for providing management, and support to Scout Groups across the District as well as events and activities.

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The District Executive Committee must act collectively, and in the best interests of its members, ensuring compliance with the Associations rules, along with management of finances, property, equipment and insurance. Focus has been on supporting struggling Groups to get back to full strength with Leaders and Young people alike and it was great to see Groups working together and helping each other out. Disappointingly we have put one Group in hibernation, the Leaders are working with another Group and it is hoped to restart the Group in the future. Despite this Census figures for January 2022 showed our numbers very close to Pre Covid levels.

The Governance Sub Committee continues to ensure everything is above board and safeguard all our members, trustees and property. The Appointments Advisory Committee manages the process of inducting new leaders and is also responsible for training compliance, probably the two most loathed words in the District over the last couple of years, however it is pleasing to report we now have one of the best compliance records in the County. The Finance Sub Committee have continued to keep on top of the finances & budgets and introducing online banking and modernising processes.

The Districts campsite, Buckmore Park is operated by the CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) on behalf of Medway Town Scouts and is responsible for the day-to-day operations, management and continued development of the park.

Whilst this is a very brief summary of the activities of Medway Towns District Scouts over the reporting year it barely reflects the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of so many Leaders, Supporters and Managers across the District. The pure scope and variety of activities and residential events undertaken in Groups and across District, despite the initial Covid restrictions, has again, been truly inspiring to see, with so many young people experiencing exciting opportunities and adventures and making memories for a lifetime. The quality of Scouting in Medway Towns is a credit to each, and everyone involved. Thank you all.

Finally, a massive extra thanks to the District Team, District Exec and all involved at Buckmore Park, virtually all of whom hold other roles. Without this extra commitment and enthusiasm, the District would be a very different place. There are still plenty of opportunities for anyone who wishes to give a little extra to ensure the next year is even more successful.

District Executive Committee.

Proposed Sverre Sverresonn, Seconded Kim Ward

6. To receive and consider the Annual Statement of Account

Graham Hancock gave a brief resume of the accounts.

Colin Jones raised a couple of questions which were answered by Graham Hancock.

Colin also questioned the absence of the LT700001 (Trustees Annual Report Template) from the AGM Pack and whether this was legally required. On the spot this was considered an oversight and would be investigated post meeting.

Despite this oversight the accounts were Proposed by Clive Harris Seconded by Graham Hancock

NB – Post Meeting Note re investigation of above

LT700001 (Trustees Annual Report Template) is just that, a template for reporting this information to Charity Commission, it is not a legal form or requirement with all information required to be reported to the AGM being included in the AGM pack or reported in one form or other, with one exception which will be included in future AGM packs.

7. To receive the District Commissioners' Report

Medway Towns District Scouts. - DC Report

2021 /22 saw a welcome return to face-to-face Scouting with the obvious multitude of precautions and measures in place to avoid returning to the dark days of lockdown again.

This did limit the District Team with regards to larger activities and events and the focus was therefore very much on supporting Groups and Leaders to get back up and running, including growth, recruitment, and training.

The Jan 21 census had shown a significant drop in numbers and it was pleasing to see numbers increasing as the year went on proving Scouting was as popular as ever. Circumstances had changed for many adults and leaders, hence our recruitment of new adults and support from across the District was vital to fill gaps and helping Groups in keeping sections running.

Training has been a hot potato for everyone involved in Scouting over the past two years and after a lot of perseverance it is pleasing to see the District in a very healthy position now with regards to training compliance.

Nights away were very limited but a few Groups held smaller, local camps as well as expeditions to complete Chief Scout Awards for those that were restricted or moved Sections during lockdown.

Buckmore Park, the Districts campsite was key for many Groups as we came out of lockdown, utilising the vast open spaces and open air for weekly meetings and activities.

Buckmore Park itself continued to progress with the rebuild of its infrastructure with the focus over the last year on the installation of spacious, shiny new toilets and showers. This has been a monumental effort with extensive groundworks and installation of a new water main.

January this year saw the introduction of our first Squirrel Drays and these are proving very popular.

2021 into 22 was indeed a challenging year but the ingenuity and resourcefulness of everyone involved in the District has been outstanding to see.

Covid wiped out a District Camp planned for June 20, and we promised as soon as it was safe to do so, we would restage it, no one anticipated waiting as long as we did, but it was well worth the wait. April this year saw over a 1000 young people and adults descend on Buckmore for a fantastic weekend that exceeded all our expectations, lots of fun was had by all as we celebrated St Georges Day, 70 Years of Buckmore Park and of course getting back to normality.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone involved with Scouting in Medway Towns and Buckmore Park.

The Report was Proposed by Kim Ward, Seconded Michelle Kagen

8. To approve the District Commissioner's nominations to the following appointments:

a. District Chairman

b. Nominated members of the District Executive

- a. District Chairman – Marc Harris
- b. David Knight, Sverre Sverresonn, Graham Hancock, Paul Randell

A consensus is needed, and these nominations were agreed and accepted.

The meeting was asked to note the following are ex-officio members of the District Executive Committee

DESC - Steven Slater

DSNC – Currently Vacant

Youth Commissioner - Henry Brackley

9. To elect a District Secretary

No nominations from the floor and the position will remain vacant.

10. To elect a District Treasurer

There were no nominations from the floor, Tracy Knight had stated her intention to step down but was prepared to cover the role while a new treasurer is found.

Proposed John Brisley Seconded Graeme Pryke

11. To elect members of the District Executive Committee

At the annual meeting in 2014 by resolution it was agreed that the number of elected members should be 4.

Open to floor and nominations

Robbie Riddell proposed by John Brisley, seconded by Vi Jones

Sarah Edmonds-Magee proposed by Sverre Sverresonn, seconded by Kim Ward

Graeme Pryke proposed by Kim Ward, Seconded by Nick Swain

Kara Cooper proposed by David Knight, seconded by Graeme Pryke

Any contrary views? Floor was silent

12. To nominate a Representative of the Medway Towns Scouts onto the Kent County Scout Council

Henry Brackley was proposed, and no contrary views were given

13. To appoint an independent Examiner

Call for nominations from the floor. Helen Shepherd has been put forward and proposed by Graham Hancock and seconded by Colin Jones.

Any other nominations and again floor was silent.

14. To receive an address by the representative of Kent Scouts

Sverre Sverresonn gave a brief speech, and thanking everyone on behalf of the County Commissioner

15. To receive an address by the representative of Medway Council.

Mayoress Cllr Jan Aldous gave a brief speech, expressing her delight at being invited along and seeing such support for Scouting in Medway Towns, thanking everyone for everything they do.

16. Any other business which should be directly related to the business of the AGM

No more AOB was declared.

17. Close AGM for 2022

Guy addressed the meeting, thanks passed to our VIP's and all present and the meeting closed.

Medway Towns District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from	01/04/2022	To	31/03/2023
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Receipts and payments

	2022/23				2021/22	
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds MAST	Restricted/ Designated funds overseas trips	Buckmore Park Holding Trustees	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Donations, legacies and similar income						
Membership subscriptions	85,870	280	-	-	86,150	67,221
Donations		600	-	-	600	838
EJ 2020 Refunds			-	-	-	-
Gift Aid			-	-	-	-
Capitation rebates			-	-	-	484
Sub total	85,870	880	-	-	86,750	68,543
Grants						
Maintenence grant	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other grants	-	-	-	100	100	-
Sub total	-	-	-	100	100	-
Fundraising events (gross)						
Badge sales	7,612	-	-	-	7,612	5,391
Equipment hire		-	-	-	-	-
Jamboree receipts	-	-	13,502	-	13,502	200
Other fundraising activities	-	10	-	-	10	-
Sub total	7,612	10	13,502	-	21,124	5,591
District Activities						
Section Activities	3,524	-	-	-	3,524	2,978
Mast		-	-	-	-	220
District Activities	1,231	-	-	-	1,231	800
Sub total	4,755	-	-	-	4,755	3,998
Investment income						
Bank interest	96	-	-	48	144	16
Interest on Group Loan		-	-	-	-	166
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	645	121	-	-	766	21
Group Loan Repayments		-	-	-	-	10,177
Sub total	741	121	-	48	910	10,380
Total Gross Income	98,978	1,011	13,502	148	113,639	88,512
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	98,978	1,011	13,502	148	113,639	88,512

Medway Towns District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from	01/04/2022		To	31/03/2023
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Receipts and payments

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			2022/23			2021/22
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds MAST	Restricted/ Designated funds overseas trips	Buckmore Park Holding Trustees	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Payments						
Charitable Payments						
Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	126,331	-	-	-	126,331	
Youth programme and activities	10,667	450		-	11,117	3,029
Adult support and training	-	-	-	-	-	-
Admin	16	-	-	-	16	350
Jamboree 2023 Payments	-	-	21,700	-	21,700	8,551
Electricity and Gas	-	-	-	23	23	-
Insurance	385	-	-	-	385	334
Repairs and Renewals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment						46,583
Printing and photocopying	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional fees	4,180	-	-	-	4,180	21
Bank charges	-	-	-	60	60	26
AGM and trustee expenses	-	-	-	-	-	
Donations and Grants	-	752	-	-	752	355
Film licence	-	-	-	-	-	
Capitation rebates paid to Groups	114	-	-	-	114	741
Sub total	141,693	1,202	21,700	83	164,678	59,990
Fundraising expenses						
Badge purchases	7,136	-	-	-	7,136	5,190
Detail 2		-	-	-	-	
Detail 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other fundraising costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	7,136	-	-	-	7,136	5,190
Total Gross Expenditure	148,829	1,202	21,700	83	171,814	65,180
Asset and investment	-	-	-	-		-
Total payments	148,829	1,202	21,700	83	171,814	65,180
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 49,851	- 191	- 8,198	65	- 58,175	23,332
Transfers between funds	2,500		2,500	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	173,276	12,380	20,477	13,870	220,003	196,671
Cash funds this year end	120,925	12,189	14,779	13,935	161,828	220,003

Medway Towns District Scout Council Receipts and Payments Account

	Year start date		Year end date
For the year from	01/04/2022	To	31/03/2023

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31st March 2023				31/03/2022	
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds MAST	Restricted/ Designated funds overseas trips	Holding Trustees funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds						
Bank current account - Badge Account	568	-	-	-	568	601
Bank current account -General Account	23,377	1,658	14,779		39,814	98,239
Bank deposit account General Account	21,977	-	-	-	21,977	21,880
Bank current account - B/park		-	-	1,933	1,933	916
Bank deposit account B/park		-	-	12,002	12,002	12,954
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	75,000	10,531			85,531	85,410
Cash Float	3	-	-	-	3	3
Total cash funds	120,925	12,189	14,779	13,935	161,828	220,003
	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok
(agree balances with receipts and payments a/c)						
Other monetary assets						
Group loan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Group /Unit Subscriptions not yet paid		-	-	-	-	6,497
	-	-	-	-	-	6,497
Sub total						
Investment assets						
Investment property - detail	-	-	-	-	-	-
Quoted investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non monetary assets for						
Badge stock	2,351	-	-	-	2,351	4,327
Shop stock	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other stock	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land and buildings B/Park	-	-	-	328,730	328,730	328,730
Maintenance equipment B/park	-	-	-	70,650	70,650	70,650
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	6,721	-	-	-	6,721	6,721
	9,072	-	-	399,380	408,452	410,428
Sub total						
Liabilities						
Capitation rebates	484	-	-	-	484	484
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions not paid to County		-	-	-	-	56,848
Loan - detail	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities						
Sub total	484	-	-	-	484	57,332
Total net assets	129,513	12,189	14,779	413,315	569,796	579,596

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

Chair
<i>Marc Harris</i>

	Treasurer
	<i>Alice Canty</i>

England & Wales

Template 1: Unqualified report for a non-company charity preparing receipts and payments accounts with a gross income of £250,000 or less in the relevant financial year

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Medway Towns District Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **Medway Towns District Scout Council** for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the **Medway Towns District Scout Council** you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the **Medway Towns District Scout Council** accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the **Medway Towns District Scout Council** as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Name:

Helen Shepherd

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

ACCA, MAAT

Address:

43 Mayford Road, Lordswood, Kent ME5 8QZ

Date:

18-08-2023

Medway Towns District Scouts

District Lead Volunteer Report

2022/2023 was another positive year in Medway Scouts. The hangover from 'the virus that shall not be named' crisis took longer to shake off than we anticipated but this period of reporting is feeling very normal again.

This positive theme continued as we collected the census data. Our overall growth saw a rise in young people of 224. We had 5 groups over 100, 2 over 90 and the top 10 all over 70. All but 4 of our 19 groups recorded growth! All groups have Beavers through to Explorers. We have 91 sections in total. Squirrels reached 86 members. We have 5 Drays.

Our District Campsite, Buckmore Park, continues to be the jewel in our crown. The motivated and visionary crew continue to maintain and improve all aspects of the site. This is helping us encourage our groups to visit for activities or camping or sometimes just to meet in the wonderful woodland environment. A regular Buckmore Blog features in our newsletter so that everyone can be excited and up to date with the progress. **Our most humble thanks go to everyone in the crew that work so hard for us all.**

'Ingle Nook' at Buckmore Park also housed our book of Condolence as we paid our respects to Queen Elizabeth.

Our groups have been coming out in their droves to support District events again. All the section teams are meeting and planning their next programs.

Eight of our groups attended the Knockout KIJ camp and had the most amazing experiences.

We caught up with our Chief Scout Awards Celebrations. 100 recipients received an old-fashioned invitation in the post to join us in the grand St George's church. On the Day our amazing collection of VIPs handed out 70 certificates to the fantastic Scouts. We handed out our first Acorn award and our last Queens Scout Award.

The week after nearly 700 Scouts and parents joined us in Rochester as we marched into the Cathedral for our St George's Parade.

The district newsletter 'Scouting About' continues to help us communicate news, events as well as sharing information on all that we do.

We are so proud to be supporting an amazing group of leaders and helpers.

The things that scouting achieves cannot be done by one or two people ...But together you are all really making a difference.

And all the thanks in the world is not enough to thank to you all for that. God Bless you all.



DISTRICT TEAM REPORTS

Medway Towns District Beaver Team Report.

This year we organized a Beaver picnic in May which was very well attended. We are also arranging a new biannual Beaver event called The Golden Box Challenge to be held on 23rd September at Buckmore Park. This event is to give Beavers a chance to work as a team and compete against other Beavers in the district.

After speaking to Beaver leaders in the district last year, many were concerned about the struggle parents are facing financially, so the aim was to keep the cost of district Beaver events down this year. Both the events above were very reasonably priced.

We have had great pleasure visiting some of the Beaver sections around the district and presenting Bronze Challenge Awards. We would like to thank the Beaver Leaders who have put so much time and energy into offering the young people a very full and interesting programme.

We are very pleased to see a new group with a thriving beaver section open at the 1st Medway Towns and have been assisting with their startup and are offering ongoing support when and where required.

Squirrels are now feeding into Beaver sections keeping many of the District Beaver sections full. Some groups are opening a second Beaver Section so they can offer the young people on there waiting lists the opportunity to become members of the Medway Towns scouting family.

Overall its been a successful year for Beavers, the future looks very exciting.

Medway Towns District Cub Team Report.

The Cub section has been quiet over the past year, but we have now a new Leadership Team in place, consisting of Andrew and Della Burford (28th Medway), Carrie Payne (30th Cuxton), and Michael Watts (50th Medway Towns). The Team are working hard to organise a programme of events for the coming year for Cubs to attend. Two events have be planned for the remained of the year, the Cub Activity Day on the 16th September and the Fizz and Quiz on the 21st October. Next year there are trips to Dover Castle and the RAF Museum being planned along with other events. If there are any events or activities that Leaders would like the District Team to put on please let us know.

The Cub Team

Medway Towns District Scout Team Report.

District Scout Events over the past year consisted of the following.

Conker Bash. This was well attended as usual.

Arrowhead. This was held at Buckmore Park. 14 teams took part, and it was a very close finish with the 50th winning overall.

District Quiz. We had 9 teams take part. It was a great evening with the 50th coming in first and second place, followed by the 30th.

I would like to thank the 41st for volunteering their hall for the Conker Bash and District Quiz. I would also like to thank MAST for their assistance with Arrowhead and the District Quiz.

We are regularly holding District meetings at Buckmore Park for the scout leaders to attend. We have on average 14 leaders attend most meetings but would love to have every troop from the District represented.

Generally, I feel that the Scout Section has had a good year.

Yours in Scouting,

Dave Payne, District Scout Team

Medway Towns Scout Active Support Unit (MAST)

Medway Towns Scout Active Support Unit known as MAST has continued to run activity sessions for all section in the district ranging from Squirrels up to Explorer Scouts, on rope making and knotting, pioneering and water rockets. These events equate to in total, over 1000 hours of service.

Members have also supported the District and Kent Scouts at various events organised by them. We have also assisted at Community events organised by the local Member of Parliament.

We have continued to meet monthly at the 41st Medway Headquarter in Walderslade and have had a range of speakers from various Charities ranging from the Motorbike Blood delivery services, Tools for a Mission, and healthy eating, together with how to use a Defibrillator and making Christmas crafts.

Finally given that the Scout Association have proposed changes to names and structure coming in in 2024 it is hoped that we will still be able to continue to offer the same kind of support to the District.

Medway Towns District Inclusion Team.

Support in the District is now available to all young people and adults. Module 36 Adjustments to Scouting can be run within the district. Two dates were offered but unfortunately we only had 2 adults apply so the sessions were cancelled. Information sessions will also be available on Inclusion areas such as ADHD, ASD and many more. Please do get in contact if you would like these delivered in your groups or even as a district.

Sean and Robbie have been delivering sessions on Deaf Awareness and attended a district day to present information to adults. This was an excellent session, and they are happy to come out to your groups.

The county Inclusion Team are available to support when needed and deliver the training of module 36 and information sessions and are frequently run at Lower Grange Farm.

Groups can also have sessions delivered to young people if needed of any area of Inclusion and I have delivered a Anti Bullying session to a group of Cubs who were an excellent audience.

Please do contact me if you need advice or support and if I don't have the answer, there are people who can help.

Michelle Kagen
District Inclusion Team Lead

Nights Away Team

The team has been working hard this year assessing and visiting camps and residential experiences and although it's been a busy spring and summer this year with many camp permit requests most have been completed in a timely manner which is fantastic to see.

We have had 12 requests for camping permits this year to which all have been successful...and the team would like to wish them well for future camps..

Night's away notifications have been flooding in 1649 to date.....which just goes to show how fantastic the Adult Volunteers and Helpers are with in this district putting all these activities and experiences on for the young people of Medway Towns

Please keep sending in your night's away notifications as well as your requests for permits and help us to keep your young people safe ...the team really enjoy visiting and chatting with the young people on the camps.

GROUP REPORTS

1st Medway Towns Scout Group.

As a new Group we have had a wonder first 5-6 months. So far we have welcomed Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs.

We have 15 Squirrels, 22 Beavers and 16 Cubs.

Across all 3 sections 53 badges have been earned and a joint investiture with the Mayor of Medway and representatives of The Salvation Army joining us in celebrating our Children.

Across our sections the children have enjoyed trips out such as a hike round Shorn Country Park and visitors coming to the Group. In the coming months there are plans to visit the fire station and visitors to the Group from Ambulance and Police.

We have hosted a clothing swap with the Salvation Army.

Moving forward, we are looking at recruiting more adult leaders so our group can grow more.

MaryJane and 1st Medway Towns Team

12th & 17th Medway Towns Scout Group

There have been a lot of changes to the 12th & 17th over the past 3 to 4 months. We have had a change around in not just section leader roles but also group lead roles. As with any major changes there have been hiccups along the way, but everyone has now settled, and the group is beginning to thrive.

The group has been working hard on fundraising and have bag packed at Asda, had parent quiz nights, and ran a week of summer scouting. We had a whole week of sessions that anyone in the group and their siblings could book in for with a family fun and award afternoon on the Friday. This proved extremely popular, and we already have young people and parents asking about next year. There is lots of group fundraising planned for Christmas too.

Our new squirrel section starts in September, currently there are 16 Squirrels starting with us and we have lots of fun activities planned for them including Izzy's Tea Party.

Beavers have been busy over the past year; we have had 19 beavers in our group some have now moved up to cubs so they will be starting the year with 16. They have held a bring a friend night, had a visit from reptile and rodents and tried their hand at Archery. They have been busy finishing their builder's badge, first aid and community badges. They have many things planned for this year to help them move forward to their bronze award.

Cubs have been busy this year, paddleboarding, backwards cooking, a night away, road safety and model making and much more. They have one young person who has just

completed their silver badge. Their programme is looking very busy for this next term including Den building at Buckmore.

Scouts are one of the sections that has seen a bit of change at the end of this year. They have completed many badges including, Paddle Sports, Science Badge, Model Maker, Sailing Lv2, Adventure Challenge, Team Challenges and we are waiting for our rebooked Micro lighting which was cancelled due to weather. We have 8 working towards their climber's badge and much more fun planned this year.

Explorers have had quite a lot of change but have now settled into their section with new leaders, they have started to complete badges and have completed their Chef Activity Badge. They have started on Navigator 3 and practice towards the platinum expedition. They have been working with axe and knives and have a lot of fun things including camps planned for this year. We have one Explorer due their Platinum Badge.

The group as a whole is looking forward to whole group camps in the spring and summer next year.

25TH Medway Scout Group.

It's been a year of development, action and change at the 25th headquarters.

Our Section nights have carried on successfully, with all sections working towards different badges and challenges. The Beavers recently went climbing at Lower Grange Farm and won the district Den-building competition at the Beaver fun day at Buckmore. Our Cubs section and Explorers respectively both won the district Tug of War, and our Scouts and Explorers have been Micro lighting, which was going great until the weather turned, and we had to finish the day early.

This September we are welcoming our brand-new Squirrel section. Starting small with just 10 spaces, our books have already begun to fill up. Squirrels programme for this term has already begun to take shape, and even includes celebrating Grandparents Day in October with an Afternoon Tea at the hall.

The Explorers, Scouts and Cubs all spent a wet and muddy week in the New Forest at Ferny Crofts Activity Centre in July.

They all had a fantastic time at the activities, such as climbing the Jacobs-Ladder and Climbing wall (one of our Girl Scouts managed to get from the bottom to the top in 38 seconds!)

They built rafts in teams and paddled them around a lake, most of them falling or jumping in. We've thrown Tomahawks and played mini golf, learned some circus skills and even a new sport called AeroBall (imagine basketball on trampolines!). We even joined a volleyball competition with other scout groups, even though the ref was a little distracted and missed some of our Explorer teams points! Just down from our site was a peddle go-kart track that

we spent an afternoon racing around, and even some of the leaders had a go. We explored the whole site on the nature trail and taken in the beautiful surroundings of the New Forest. Wild Horses, Deer and Cows roam freely across the heath that surround the site, and we often woke to a dawn chorus of mooing!

By the end of the week the young people were muddy and exhausted, but they'd made some lifelong memories, and we were especially impressed with some of those young people for whom this was their first ever camp. They did amazingly well.

During our annual parents BBQ and AGM we sought to re-establish our parents committee group, which is something we have struggled to do in the past. It has been a resounding success with over 25 parent's signing up to help the group in tasks such as grounds maintenance and fundraising. So far the parent's committee has arranged a fundraising quiz night set to take place in October, which we are really looking forward to.

We have also welcomed our first young person who is a wheelchair user into our Explorer scout section. Although we had a ramp entrance to our headquarters, it quickly became apparent that it was far too steep, and so our Explorer section spent an evening levelling it out with concrete to make it much safer for her. We are also now working to install a disabled toilet for this young person as our current facilities are not quite suitable. Thanks to a wonderful Scout parent, Mr Blackmore, we have been gifted a full disabled toilet suite, and Cub parent, Mr Andrews has already offered to help us fit it. We are incredibly grateful to our fantastic parents who have really stepped up to help anyway they can.

Looking to the future, we have lots of plans for maintenance for our hall and grounds, including fitting a new boiler and changing the flooring in the hall, which we have received lots of offers of support for from parents. We are also working towards gaining charity status for our group and have a parent who is does this as a career who has offered to help us achieve this.

The 25th has always been a family, community group, and this year we are really focusing on the future of the group, and building a successful sustainable support system around it to see it last long into the future, and secure it's place for many children to come.

28th Medway Scout Group, Including 28th Medway Explorer Unit

2022-23 has been a year of growth following a previous drop in numbers over the last few years. The group opened our first Squirrel drey in April with several very keen new young people joining the group. Over the last two years all of the young people have been working hard to gain badges with 7 Bronze awards achieved in Beavers, and 8 Silver awards in Cubs. One of our Beaver leaders, Julie Fothergill, has also just completed 30 years of service having started in 1993.

We have held several camps for each of the sections throughout the year and our young people have taken part in some of the many excellent events run by District and are keen for more this coming year.

The group continues to play our part in the local community by helping with the Copperfield fun day in September, and in running fund raising and social events for group members, families, and the local community.

The group will be 100 years old in 2025 and we wish to get in touch with as many previous members as possible, so that we can plan some appropriate events to celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Rochester with the 28th Medway.

38th/ 40th Strood Sea Scouts

The Squirrels section has been open for over a year now and has been a great success in every respect. You need to see the activities (and the messy scout hall inside and out) to know that the young people are having a great time. Many visits to places of interest, fire station, alpacas, to name a couple. District and county activities. Lots and lots of badges gained and worn with pride. A great success.

The Beaver section, I cannot keep up with the number of activities they get up too not only their section but work closely with the Squirrels, I am sure there is a competition to see which section makes the most mess! Many visits, Boating (well we are Sea Scouts) Coast guards and many others. Lots of awards gained by the Beaver section shows the young people work very hard to obtain these awards. Well done.

The Cub packs are as active as ever, camping, visits to many places, helping in the community, which all go to gaining awards.

The Scout section and the Explorers are just as active as ever and passing on training in all life skills and lots of fun and learning.

The group have a very active committee in looking after the group, keeping the funds in check and spending as and when on new or replacement equipment when required. We are always looking to raise funds for the group.

Also, a small team of pensioners keep the grounds and the hut in tip top condition by cutting grass, painting, refurbishment where required.

I would like to thank all the leaders, helpers, and committee members for the great work they all do. Thank you all very much.

Michael Billin – Group Scout Leader



BUCKMORE PARK REPORT

Buckmore Park Scout Campsite – Medway Towns District AGM Report 2022/2023

We start this report with a big thank you to all those who have helped at Buckmore Park in the past year. Your support is important to us as we continue to develop your campsite. Buckmore Park is run by a small management team on behalf of Medway Towns Scout District but it needs your continuing support to grow to meet the needs of our Scouting movement.

The year started with a very big challenge, the District camp. This required a lot of logistics to ensure it ran smoothly, from arrival to finish. It was achieved by the TEAM with the support of our neighbours who allowed us to use their car park and field. It was a very successful event, and the weather was kind. This was also a big test for our new toilets and showers. It highlighted some issues that we have now put right. This event is to be repeated in 2024.

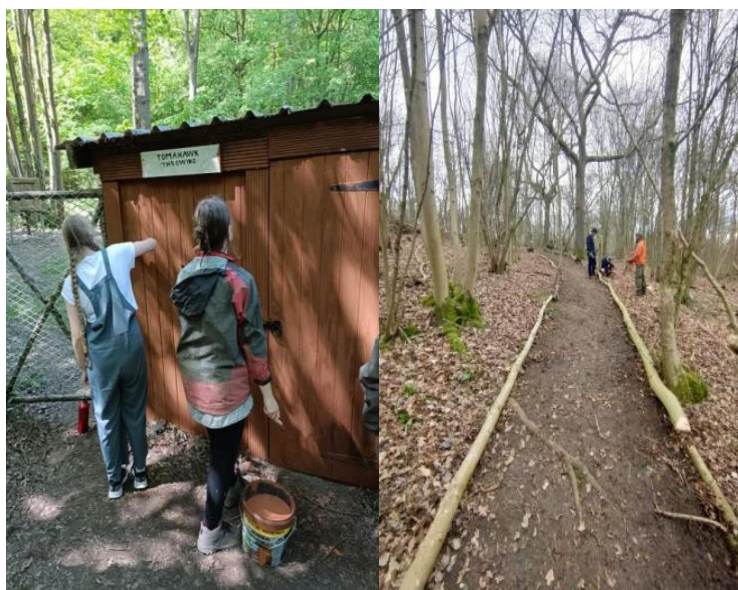
One issue the site had was lack of water pressure. Our water main was not big enough and



was shared with the Kart track. The solution was to re-lay it with a bigger pipe, all 160m of it. This was a major job and completed by our crew with part funding by the Kart track. It has resulted in a great improvement, so well worth it.

Throughout the year we have had a number of D of E expedition groups using the site from a range of organisations. Our location is good for both training and expeditions themselves. We also have

had a number of schools make use of our facilities and of course we have a Forest School on site which operates throughout the year.



The summer holiday saw several week-long camps take place. With visitors from, Brighton, North London, Lydd and of course our own District. The feedback we received was very positive especially about our toilet and shower facilities.

We have introduced monthly working parties this year. These are held at weekends and are for all the District to take part in. You participate however best you can, no skills are necessary. (Look in 'Scouting About' for the next date).

We have been working throughout the period to improve the area around the new toilet blocks, this has been a lengthy project, but it is nearly complete and has made such a difference to the access. We have also been making improvements to the Perk catering area.

Ahead of Remembrance Sunday a large Poppy appeared on the activity field. Only to be really seen from the air, it was drawn by a computer-controlled line making machine.



In early autumn preparations started for our Reindeer Workshop held as a fund raiser at the end of November. Publicity went out and ticket went on sale and were quickly sold out. The aim of this event is to build your own reindeer (with help) normally as a family group. It is a fun event with a **wow** factor and delivered by a fantastic and large team of around 50 people. There was also a chance to visit Santa too.



REINDEER MAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday 26th November 2022
9:30am to 3:30pm

Join us for this family event at
Buckmore Park Scout Campsite
Maidstone Rd Chatham ME5 9QG

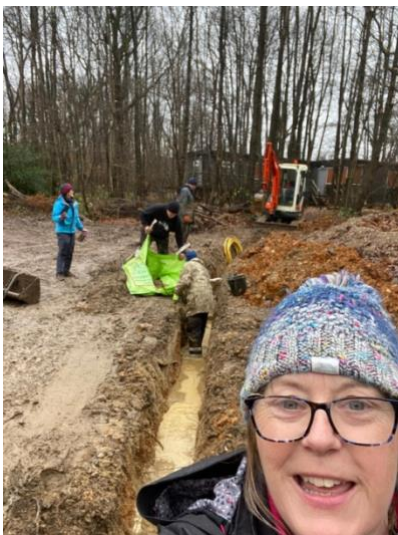
£20 a Family
(Makes one Reindeer)

Refreshments, Crafts, Santa's Grotto, raffle and stalls are also on site
Book via the website
www.buckmorepark.org.uk/shop
Tickets are limited and must be prebooked

Buckmore Park
Scout Campsite
04471 611720



In December the next round of coppicing of our chestnut woodland started. This is contracted out through a woodland management company. We are regulated to harvest 10 acres per year and this brings a significant income to Buckmore Park without any physical effort on our part. The coppicing is part of managing woodland as a harvest crop and is on a rolling year on year programme of around 20years.



As part of our ongoing project to move all our buildings onto our tanked gas supply, on a very wet and muddy day in January we excavated a trench and laid a gas pipe from the side of the Perk area up to the Wynne Brook Lodge, Gillingham Districts building. The next stage was to get our supplier to connect it, sadly this took a while but is now complete.



This is the last of the buildings to be plumbed into the supply.

What of the future? The caving system is currently being extended. This year we will see the Ingle Nook building being refurbished. This will focus on the outside with cladding, new

windows and doors, new roller shutters, some remodelling to the rear with steps onto site B1. The interior too will be redecorated. And of course those 101 other jobs that need doing.

www.buckmorepark.org.uk

