

HARROGATE AND NIDDERDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Minutes of the AGM held on 12th June 2023 at Christ Church Centre, Harrogate.

Opening Prayers were said by Jill Connors, District Vice President. We also remembered Bob McBratney, our previous District Chair who had died earlier this year.

Welcome

District Executive Chair, Jean Laight welcomed the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Chris Aldred; Vice Presidents Jill Connors and David Mosley; Jess Ward, Inspire Youth Yorkshire; Leaders representing 9 Groups, Explorer Unit and Scout Active Support Unit (Fellowship).

Apologies for Absence were read by Acting AGM Secretary, Brenda Wilson

Janis Heward; Alan Ross; John and Helen Westmancoat; Iain Shaw; Andy Minty; Joe Sarmiento; Amelia Annear; Ivan Chamberlain; Diane & Pat Walsh; Elizabeth Hewick June Graham, Russ Hirst, Luke Harrison.

Minutes of the last AGM held on 13th June 2022 were circulated prior to the meeting. These had been previously reviewed by the District Trustee Board and approved as a true record by a show of hands.

Governance Topics

The Chair read out various topics which were all approved by a show of hands

- a. To adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules Chapter 5
- b. Our Charity's financial year is 1st April to 31st March
- c. 4 people can be elected to the Trustee Board at the AGM
- d. Agree the quorum for each of the District Scout Council meetings.
- e. The quorum should be set at 15 persons for an AGM
- f. Quorum for Trustee Board meetings and any sub-committee meetings should be set at one third of Members plus one. This is based on the Charity Commission good practice statement.

District Commissioner's Review of Scouting in the District

District Commissioner, Karsten Hartmann had produced a full Report which was circulated to the Meeting. Recovery from Covid shows that membership is now 95.5% of what it was prior to the pandemic with 1387 youth members. Changes are coming and Karsten gave a guideline of the dates.

Karsten reported on the work which has gone on at Thornthwaite and at Scout HQ Omega Street for the benefit of the District. He thanked everyone for their support

Presentation of Accounts

Joanna Kent had circulated copies of the Accounts and outlined some figures on the screen. No questions were asked from the floor.

Appointment of District Vice Presidents

The Chair, Jean Laight advises that Helen Westmancoat, Jill Connors, Dave Mosley and Jack Tyler are proposed as Vice Presidents. A show of hands from the meeting approved this.

The District Commissioner's nomination of the District Chair

Karsten nominated Jean Laight as District Chair and asked for a show of hands as approval.

District Secretary

Claire Lowcock has been formally proposed and seconded. Since there were no other nominations this was approved by a show of hands.

District Treasurer

Joanna Kent has been formally proposed and seconded. Since there were no other nominations this was approved by a show of hands.

District Trustee Board

The following have been formally proposed and seconded in writing and were duly approved by a show of hands.

John Noe

Henry McBratney

Amelia Annear

Rachel Capstick

District Commissioner's nominations to the District Trustee Board

Jill Connors

Peter Romanec

Luke Harrison

Bryan Wilson

Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Tim Jones has been proposed and seconded and is qualified for the role. Agreed by show of hands.

Representative from the District on the County Scout Council

We are required to nominate 1 person as our District Representative. Petra Koristkova has been proposed and seconded. Agreed by a show of hands.

Presentation of Awards

The District Commissioner presented Wood Beads to Mike Higlett; Mark Edwards and Neil Thompson.

Donation to a Local Charity

£364.64 was collected at St George's Day Parades in 2022 and 2023. The Chair presented a cheque for £365.00 to Jess Ward, CEO of Inspire Youth Yorkshire, an independent Charity offering youth support services for Young people aged 8 – 18 across Harrogate and District, York and surrounding

areas. Jess said that due to Local Government cutbacks over the years there are gaps in the lives of children – not fitting in or not accessing youth organisations. They offer a mobile youth base and work in schools. Covid has been a very challenging time and many young people have benefitted from the service by not having to wait for a referral.

Address from the Deputy Mayor of Harrogate

Councillor Chris Aldred said due to County changes there is no Harrogate Council at present but hopefully one will be in place next year. Meanwhile, there are Charter Mayors, basically a babysitting process which will make things easier next year. He was a Cub Scout and Scout and remembers Bob a Job but not Tomahawk throwing and all the other activities that can be enjoyed today. County funding for Youth Clubs etc have diminished so the role played by organisations such as Scouting and Inspire Youth is inspiring. He had noted our core values and said these should be in every organisation. He concluded by saying we are building good citizens and doing a fantastic job.

Closing Remarks

The next AGM will be held on **Monday 10th June 2024**

The Chair, Jean Laight, closed the AGM by thanking all for attending and said refreshments were being served.

HARROGATE AND NIDDERDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL (Charity no. 702344)

Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from	01-Apr-22	To	31-Mar-23
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Receipts and payments

	31-Mar-23			31-Mar-23	
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Donations, legacies and similar income					
Membership subscriptions	8,383	-	-	8,383	-
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-
Other similar income	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	8,383	-	-	8,383	-
Grants					
Maintenance grant	-	-	-	-	-
Other grants	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising events (gross)					
Bonfire Night	11,001	-	-	11,001	-
Winter Camp	12,100	-	-	12,100	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Other fundraising activities	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	23,101	-	-	23,101	-
Camp site income					
Omega Street Scout shop	18,334	-	-	18,334	-
Thornthwaite Centre	35,940	-	-	35,940	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	54,274	-	-	54,274	-
Investment income					
Bank interest	164	-	-	164	-
Building Society interest	-	-	-	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-	-	-	-
Other investment income	6,553	-	-	6,553	-
Sub total	6,717	-	-	6,717	-
Total Gross Income	92,475	-	-	92,475	-
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	92,475	-	-	92,475	-

HARROGATE AND NIDDERDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL (Charity no. 702344)

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For the year from	01-Apr-22	To	31-Mar-23
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Receipts and payments

	31-Mar-23				31-Mar-23
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Payments					
Charitable Payments					
Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)	-	-	-	-	-
District Activity Expenses	306	-	-	306	-
Adult support and training	-	-	-	-	-
Rent and Rates	932	-	-	932	-
Water and Sewerage	752	-	-	752	-
Electricity and Gas	10,263	-	-	10,263	-
Insurance	7,041	-	-	7,041	-
Repairs and Renewals	5,358	-	-	5,358	-
Cleaning	100	-	-	100	-
Printing and photocopying	681	-	-	681	-
Phones and Postage	1,812	-	-	1,812	-
Omega Scout Shop purchases	18,068	-	-	18,068	-
AGM and trustee expenses	3,301	-	-	3,301	-
Investment	45,731	-	-	45,731	-
Other	4,727	-	-	4,727	-
Sub total	99,070	-	-	99,070	-
Fundraising expenses					
Bonfire Night	10,889	-	-	10,889	-
Winter Camp	12,188	-	-	12,188	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Other fundraising costs	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	23,077	-	-	23,077	-
Total Gross Expenditure	122,148	-	-	122,148	-
Asset and investment purchases, etc.					
	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	122,148	-	-	122,148	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 29,672	-	-	- 29,672	-
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	- 29,672	-	-	- 29,672	-

HARROGATE AND NIDDERDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL (Charity no. 702344)

Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from	01-Apr-22	To	31-Mar-23
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Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31-Mar-23				31-Mar-23
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds					
Bank current account	100,130	4,371	-	104,501	-
Bank deposit account	-	-	-	-	-
Building society account	-	-	-	-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service	-	-	-	-	-
Cash/Floats	80	-	-	80	-
Total cash funds	100,210	4,371	-	104,581	-
Other monetary assets					
Tax claim	-	-	-	-	-
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance claim	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Investment assets					
Investment property	-	-	-	-	-
Quoted investments	89,726	-	-	89,726	-
Other investments	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	89,726	-	-	89,726	-
Non monetary assets for charity's own use					
Badge stock	-	-	-	-	-
Shop stock	6,381	-	-	6,381	-
Other stock	-	-	-	-	-
Land and buildings	282,591	-	-	282,591	-
Motor vehicles	-	-	-	-	-
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	288,971	-	-	288,971	-
Liabilities					
Capitation In Advance	- 9,240	-	-	- 9,240	-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-	-	-	-	-
Loan	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	- 571	-	-	- 571	-
Sub total	- 9,811	-	-	- 9,811	-
Total net assets	469,097	4,371	-	473,468	-

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scout Council
Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scout Council or the year ended 31st March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Harrogate and Nidderdale 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 accounts of the Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scout Council 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 Harrogate and Nidderdale 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: T P Jones

FCCA

23 Victoria Avenue Harrogate HG1 5RD

10th June 2023



HARROGATE AND NIDDERDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Trustees' Annual Report 2023

For the period

From (start date)

0	1	0	4	2	2
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 to end date

3	1	0	3	2	3
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1. Section A: References and Administration details

Charity Name: Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scout Council

Registered Charity Number: 702344

HQ registration number: 10001796

Charity's principal address: Culross House
20 Omega Street
HG1 2BZ
Harrogate, North Yorkshire

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Ex-Officio Members	Office (if any)	Appointed	Resigned
Karsten Hartmann	District Commissioner	01-Feb-22	
Russel Hirst	District Explorer Scout Commissioner	13-Jun-22	
Joe Sarmiento	District Youth Commissioner	13-Jun-22	
Dr Jean Laight	District Chair	13-Jun-22	
Claire Lowcock	District Secretary	18-Jul-22	
Joanna Kent	District Treasurer	25-Jun-22	

Elected Members	Appointed	Resigned
Amelia Annear	13-Jun-22	
Henry McBratney	29-Jun-18	
John Noe	21-Jun-21	
Richard Bowering	13-Jun-22	29-Dec-22

Nominated Members	Appointed	Resigned
Peter Romanec	13-Jun-22	
Jillian Connors	09-Jun-14	
Rachel Capstick	21-Jun-21	
Bryan Wilson	16-May-17	

Name and addresses of advisers:

Independent Examiner: Tim P Jones, FCCA
TP Jones & Co LLP
 23 Victoria Avenue
 Harrogate
 HG1 5RD

2. Section B: Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the Charity's trusts:

The District's governing documents are those of the 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 of The Scout Association. In addition, the District has its own Constitution that is reviewed annually.

The charity is a trust, established under its rules that are common to all Scouts. The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy Organisation & Rules (POR) of The Scout Association.

Additional governance issues:

The District is managed by the District Trustee Board, the members of which are the Charity Trustees of the District Scout Council, which is an educational charity.

As charity trustees, they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to The Charity Commission as appropriate.

In line with POR and the Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scout Council Constitution, the Board of Trustees consists of 6 ex-officio members which includes the Chair and Treasurer.

Four members are elected by the District Scout Council and up to 4 are nominated by the District Commissioner in consultation with the District Chair. The Trustee Board meets at least 4 times each year.

The District Board of Trustees exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment. Trustees 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 fundraising 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 Groups, Explorer Scout Units, Scout Network and Scout Active Support Units in the District as necessary.
- The appointment process within the District
- Supervising the administration of Groups, particularly in relation to finance and the trusteeship of property.

Risk and Internal Control:

The District has systems of internal control in place that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss. These include 2 signatories for all payments and insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

3. Section C: Objectives and Activities

Summary of the objectives of the charity as set out in its governing document:

The Purpose of Scouting

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

The Values of Scouting

We act with care, respect, integrity, and cooperation, exploring our own and others' beliefs. 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 co-operate 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.

The main activities of the Scout District are:

- Developing Scouting in the District.
- Supporting the Scout Groups and Explorer Scout Units in the District.
- Operating a Scout Shop and District Headquarters
- Providing adult training and activity training
- Operating Scout Campsite
- Providing events to support the youth programme

4. Section D: District Commissioner Report – Achievements and Performance

I'd like to give you a quick update on what we have achieved in Harrogate and Nidderdale District in the last year, and the areas the District Leadership Team is currently focusing on.

We all know that the Covid-lockdowns impacted all levels of scouting in terms of numbers of within our District, however I'm pleased to report that we have now bounced back to our pre-pandemic levels and are on an upwards trend in both the number of Young People and the number of Adult volunteers. Since September 2022, we're again offering all three sections, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at every Group within the District, and, we also have two Squirrel Drey's running with a further two Groups planning to open Squirrel Dreys within the forthcoming year.

In March 2022 we initiated our District Strategy and Development plan. This plan is aligned with similar initiatives at County level and with the overall #Skills for Life Strategy of the Scout Association, to support the development of young people and adult volunteers within the District. It's a dynamic document that will help keep us on track in the years to come.

In the last year we have focused on providing more support and development opportunities for Adult Volunteers particularly with regard to adventurous activities and delivery of district wide events, and have also re-established Young Leader training. The Young Leaders Leadership Team is now fully operational and is providing training on a monthly basis to the approx. 60 Young Leaders within our district, and we now have a District Skills/Activities and Events team as an integral part of the District Structure not only providing activity training for Adult volunteers, but also supporting individual Scout Groups with adventurous activities and running district events and activities. As a result, we now have many more qualified permit holders to support High Rope activities, Archery and Tomahawk Throwing and we were able to successfully facilitate and support Hill Walking, Rock Climbing, Water Activities and Nights Away permits which in return enhances the program and the offerings to our Young People moving forward.

District events since the last AGM have included, Cubs Orienteering Competition, Beavers Sports Day, Remembrance Sunday, Cubs Mowgli Cup, St. Georges Day Parade, Scout and Explorer Winter Camp and recently the Cubs Activity Day. In addition, many of the Skills/Activities and Events Team members are also active at County Level, supporting events such as the Pateley Bridge Cub Camp last year, Junior Warrior, Ignite, and the upcoming Damboree and Larkin 24.

I'm pleased to welcome six volunteers to join the District Leadership team in their role as Group Scout Leaders at: 7th Harrogate - Lynda Corner, 10th Harrogate - Kerry Benny, 14th Harrogate - Petra Koristkova, 20th Harrogate - Jenn Pietrowski, 23rd Harrogate - Sharon Gladish and 1st Marston Moor - Simon Blake. A big thank you goes out to all the previous GSLs who provided, and in many cases are still providing, much needed support and experience to their groups and to district over the years.

In addition to the above, we have also focused on various digital enhancements within the District as part of our Digital Strategy. Our new District website has recently gone live and we are now focusing efforts on a new Campsite and Activities Booking system utilising Online Scout Manager. An upgrade to the Wi-Fi systems at Headquarter as well as Thornthwaite centre has been completed and has vastly improved connectivity at both locations. We are also currently in the process of moving from physical keys to electronic smart locks for improved access control and to better facilitate Thornthwaite Campsite bookings, Activity bookings and booking of District HQ.

As you know, as part of the #Skills for Life strategy, the Scout Association is simplifying how we volunteer together with new roles and structures, to both improve the volunteer experience and make scouting more open, accessible, and relatable to the wider public. These exciting changes are currently in progress at District level throughout North Yorkshire. More information re the Scout Association changes are available on-line, and County/District will continue to share additional updates as they become available.

To conclude this report, I would like to thank all volunteers in Harrogate and Nidderdale for all the work you do, day in and day out. Some work might be more visible than others, but all the support, time and skills that you give truly counts and is very much appreciated, as it ensures that Scouting in Harrogate and Nidderdale District can continue to go from strength to strength.

I've met many young people and also their parents during my various visits to section meetings and District events. The consistent positive feedback that I hear from parents regarding the scouting that we deliver together and the infectious enjoyment of the young people is what makes it all so worthwhile.

Thank you again.

Karsten Hartmann

District Commissioner | Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scouts

5. Section E: Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have reviewed the District's financial strategy with a view to setting general reserves at a level sufficient to cover its running expenses should its income fall short, or if unforeseen emergencies or opportunities occur.

The District Trustee Board considers that the District should hold at least a sum equivalent to 12 months of normal running costs, approximately £40k.

This is in addition to unrestricted funds designated to meet the longer term aims of capital Investment in equipment and facilities and contributions towards new development projects.

The Reserves Policy will continue to be reviewed annually.

Investment Policy

The district has adopted a medium risk strategy for the investment of its funds. Surplus funds, approximately £90k are held in Investment Assets.

6. Section F: Other Optional Information – District Contributor Reports

➤ **District Board of Trustees - Report**

Last AGM was very well attended.

Several changes on the Board since the AGM – several new people carrying on the excellent work of those who have allowed us to be where we are currently.

Work to the House and Campsite have enabled us to move forward after the Lockdown period. Thornthwaite Campsite going from strength to strength during the past year, hosting several District events.

Events involving our young people included:

- Cub Scouts Orienteering Competition at Brimham Rocks – July 2022
- Beaver Scouts Sports Day at Rossett - Oct 2022.
- Bonfire Night Fundraising event– Nov 2022.
- Winter Camp and Activity Day at Thornthwaite– Jan 2023.
- Mowgli Cup at District HQ – Apr 2023.
- St George's Day Parade - Apr 2023
- Cub Scout Activity Day at Thornthwaite – May 2023

The District has also been instrumental in enabling Scouting to thrive in rural areas, seeing several volunteers coming through, outside the Harrogate area.

Dr Jean E Laight

District Trustee Board Chair | Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scouts

➤ **Local Training - Report**

Last year we had just over 200 leaders in District. Today I reckon we have around 230 adults on the books. Since the AGM last year, we have issued 11 Wood Beads and I am aware there are 3 others completed over the last few days not yet on compass. Well done all and thank you for giving your time to validate.

For mandatory training it is the leader's own responsibility to keep safeguarding, safety and first aid up to date and the GSL's job to monitor no one gets out of date. Reminders are sent to individual leaders showing 60 days' notice, then again at 30 days' notice direct from Gilwell to individual email addresses so everyone should know when the training is due.

Have you checked your email on compass lately? Has your email address changed?

If your mandatory training expires your role will be suspended for a short time to enable you to update and 'unsuspended' when you are back in date. If the training stays out of date the role will be cancelled.

Getting started modules for new leaders, modules 1, 3, Safety, Safeguarding and GDPR are all to be done on eLearning with a certificate showing completion. Getting started must be completed within the 5 months allotted, that is from the time a new leader goes on to compass. Sticking point is usually having to wait for references.

Message to Group Scout Leaders; Board of Trustee members now need to complete a number of modules and keep them in date. Suspension works the same for Board of Trustee members as it does for leaders.

Each Group Scout Leader should have a copy of the district training diary. If you wish another copy for training up to Christmas, please send me an email.

Thank you to all the leaders who gave up their time to validate for their Wood Beads.

Many thanks to Christine Turner, David Leonard and Neil Thompson for their time and input into the training sessions and the Training Advisor's who try their best to encourage leaders to gain their Wood Beads.

Pat Roberts

Local Training Manager | Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scouts

➤ **Scout Active Support Unit (Skills and Activities) – Report**

The past 12 months has seen a great expansion in skills and qualified instructors to match the introduction of new activities at the Thornthwaite Centre. We have run training courses for the Thornthwaite High Ropes, Archery and Tomahawk Throwing. During the year CLARO Orienteering Club have produced an up-to-date orienteering map of the Thornthwaite Site and suggested a permanent course which we had opportunity to trial at the recent District Cub Activity Day.

The District Skills team has grown over the past 12 months and now that we have expanded activities up and running at Thornthwaite, in the next 12 months we hope to be able to work on introducing other skills training in the district. My thanks to the team members and I'm really pleased that Luke Harrison is taking on the team in his DDC Programme Role, it's been a pleasure working with Luke and I'm glad we'll still be working together on skills.

Personally, as I concentrate on my role as a District Skills Instructor, I hope to focus on all things navigation (hill walking, orienteering, map reading, gps, geocaching, hiking for all age sections, ...). See you at the correct end of a compass bearing.

Mike Higlett

Former ADC Skills & Event Support | Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scouts

➤ **Scout Active Support Unit (Events) – Report**

Following the couple of fallow years (for obvious reasons) we were pleased to be able to host a number of district events this year for Young People and Leaders alike, a year of welcome returns:

The district organised bonfire night catering was a great hit with the Harrogate Public who appreciated the consistent offering and value for money.

The Scouting attendance returned to the district Remembrance Day Event at the Harrogate Cenotaph.

In January the Winter Camp at Thornthwaite returned with fantastic participant feedback for the weekend experience.

The Cub Mowgli Cup made a welcome return in early April

Both Harrogate & Knaresborough saw a return of their full St George's Day Parade, with the damp squib of a Government Emergency Notification Test.

Most recently in May we saw the District Cub Activity Day at Thornthwaite trialling a new format. It appeared to work well with some good feedback about cubs enjoying the event and some ideas on how to make it better.

Moving forward, the District now has an Active Support Unit that focuses on event delivery. This is a small core team that calls upon the help of other adults for specific events. During the coming year, as well as repeating the events above, we hope to introduce other events including something district wide for Beavers & Squirrels and the reintroduction of the popular Monopoly Events.

Mike Higlett

Former ADC Skills & Event Support | Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scouts

➤ **Scout Active Support Unit (Fellowship) - Report**

Our renamed group comprises twenty-three members of which at least nine have other active roles in the District or County.

Our main role is that most months we spend a day working at the campsite either on outside jobs or thoroughly cleaning the centre.

We also meet socially several times a year.

We are available to help with District activities requiring extra people such as the Mowgli Cup competition and the recent Cub Scout Activity day.

David Leonard

Scout Active Support Unit – Fellowship | Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scouts

➤ **Scout Shop**

It has been another successful and busy year in the scout shop, which is open each Thursday at Culross House, District Headquarters, Omega Street, from 6pm to 8pm (during term time). If

these times prove difficult, we are able to make alternative arrangements to try to be helpful and accommodating to our customers.

We are now almost back to pre-pandemic trading as normality resumes. However, like many other business, availability of stock is still being affected by the aftermath of the pandemic and now the Felixstowe strikes causing delays to deliveries not being able to dock. We have been grateful to all parents and leaders for their patience and understanding as they have waited for certain items to come back on the shelves. As the cost of living has risen sharply over the last year so, unfortunately, have prices for uniforms and badges. In spite of this we are still able to offer a discount which sits favourably with all the customers.

Although it is our District shop, run by volunteers from Harrogate and Nidderdale District, it also benefits Scouting throughout our county and beyond as we have many customers from Ripon, York and South Craven from North Yorkshire as well as Hull and Wetherby. We are pleased to be able to support their Scouting needs.

The two hours on a Thursday evening are very enjoyable and sociable and much networking takes place in the shop. I am personally very grateful to Moira Hainge for her weekly support and to other members of Scout Active Support Unit- Fellowship for their sessions on the rota. If anyone else feels that the shop is their calling and would like to volunteer to be on the shop rota please email on shop@harrogatescouts.org.uk and we can arrange a time for you to come in to see how we work.

Volunteering in the shop could also be used as a service for part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme so if any Explorer Scouts or Network members are in need of a service opportunity and feel this could be for them, please get in touch at the above email.

Thank you to those district groups who support the shop by purchasing from us and directing parents to us to purchase uniforms. The district benefits greatly from the use of the shop. We have met some congenial and interesting people over the last year so do keep the footfall coming to support the district and make our Thursday evenings so pleasant.

Jill Connors

Badge Secretary/ Shop Manager | Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scouts

➤ **Omega Street Headquarters House Committee - Report**

Since the last AGM significant changes have been made to our District HQ.

New windows and doors were installed which have visually improved the exterior of the building. In addition, a new Smart lock system was successfully implemented to allow better visibility and access to the district downstairs and upstairs meeting rooms as well as the Quartermaster store.

Upstairs two rooms were combined to form a new Meeting Room including a big Conference Screen which has proved to be a very useful addition. Secure document Storage facilities were installed to facility the ongoing document review and archiving process.

The move to a new Broadband provider and an upgrade to the Wi-Fi system has been completed and has significantly improved connectivity which now allows team conferencing and sharing of information. In addition, the District Commercial Printer has been repaired and serviced and is now available for different district teams to support their work by printing up to A3 format.

Forthcoming projects, hopefully this summer, include decorating the upstairs room outside the shop, the staircase, and the large room downstairs. Installation of a Web camera to support in-person and remote hybrid meetings and a large screen in the downstairs meeting room to support district training and larger team meetings.

Brenda Wilson

Omega Street HQ House Committee | Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scouts

➤ **Thornthwaite Campsite and Centre**

The District SASU-Fellowship team with the help of Leaders from the District have continued to ensure the Campsite is maintained. We thank them for their valued contributions.

The District Board of Trustees have been very supportive of Thornthwaite over the last 12 months and have approved significant investment in both activities and infrastructure.

We are now able to offer archery, tomahawk throwing and tree climbing to complement crate stacking. Adult volunteers have been trained as Instructors for these activities.

Investment continues in the site environment to ensure it remains a safe place for our young people use. A number of trees have been removed to allow light into the camping areas and any that had the potential to cause injury were also removed. All felled timber has remained at the campsite for use during scouting activities. We have also upgraded the security of the site and added additional signage for users of the public footpath that runs from the stream to the car park.

An upgrade to the Wi-Fi system in the centre has been completed and has improved connectivity. This has allowed us to begin the process of moving from physical keys to electronic locks.

During March 2023 we were delighted to receive a grant from Harrogate Borough Council for the purchase of a Public Access Defibrillator for the site.

Site bookings have been consistent throughout the year, with visitors to the site both camping and in the centre most weekends. We have hosted a number of District events, such as Winter Camp and Cub Activity Day, as well as events being run at Thornthwaite by other Districts. Our visitors are mainly from Scouts, but also include Schools, Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, Outdoor Activity Providers, faith and family groups.

Peter Romanec

Thornthwaite Campsite Chair | Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scouts

➤ **Explorer Scouts, Young Leaders, DofE – Report**

The Explorer Scout Units within our District are now fully active with some excellent events and camps occurring across the District.

The provision for Young Leaders training is working well with the team established in 2022, led by Tom Whitelegg ESL-YL and Chantell Langford AESL. Additional assistance has been provided by other ESLs on occasion for which we are very grateful.

The training consists of a Module a month, with the exception of July, August and December. In addition, several Module A sessions have been held and will continue to be held on a regular basis.

In addition, there is a good deal of activity with DofE across the district which is great to see.

We hope to run an Explorer "Scavenger Hunt" event in September, based on the Monopoly idea but modernised and digitised!

Russ Hirst

District Explorer Scout Commissioner | Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scouts

➤ **Appointments Committee - Report**

We have had a total of 17 meetings of the Appointments Committee during the last 12 months. Direct discussions took place with 50 new volunteers willing to take on either Leader or Section Assistant role i.e., 1 for Section Leader, 25 for Assistant Leader, 20 for Section Assistant, and 2 each for Group Scout Leader and Deputy Scout Leader roles. All proved satisfactory for their respective roles,

The Committee also approved 32 changes of roles within the District plus 9 stepping down to Occasional Helpers. 7 individuals added a further role alongside their existing one.

Regrettably, we had to note the resignation and membership closure of 16 from Leader / Section Assistant roles.

Should anyone be interested in joining the Committee they would be made most welcome to discuss with us what the role involves.

Bryan Wilson

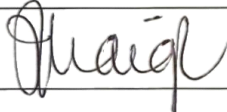
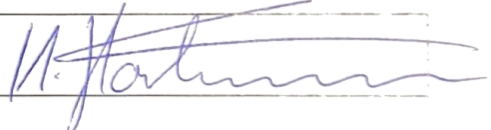
Appointment Advisory Committee Secretary | Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scouts

7. Section G: Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full Name

Jean Laight

Karsten Hartmann

Position (e.g. Chair)

District Chair

District Commissioner

Date

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