



MEDWAY TOWNS SCOUT DISTRICT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 6th October 2025

Glassbox Theatre

BY KIND PERMISSION OF MID KENT COLLEGE

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

AGENDA

1. **Introductions and welcome**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Governance topics**
 - a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 01/10/2024
 - b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)
 - c. Note the District's financial year
 - d. Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council
 - e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
 - f. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)
4. **Review of the previous year**
 - a. The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the Medway Towns Scout District
 - b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts
5. **Making appointments**
 - a. Appoint the District Chair, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
 - b. Appoint the District Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
 - c. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
 - d. (Re-)appoint District President and/or Vice Presidents
 - e. Appoint the Scrutineer / Independent Examiner / Auditor
 - f. Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council
6. **Closing remarks**
7. **Presentations**
 - a. Invite Cllr Alex Paterson, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Highways and Enforcement, to address the meeting.
 - b. Invite County Chair Des Harris to address the meeting.
 - c. DLV Update and awards

MEDWAY TOWNS DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

01/10/2024
Glass Box Theatre

Vice President - made Health & Safety and domestic announcements.

1. Introductions and welcome

Vice President

a) Made the following opening remarks.

We'd like to thank Mid Kent College for use of the Glass Box and its lovely facilities.

Welcome members of the District Scout Council and guests,

Lt Col John Newton – Royal School of Military Engineering.

Cllr Marian Nesterov – Worshipful Mayor of Medway

Des Harris – County Chair

b) Acceptance of the invitation to chair the meeting by Lt Col John Newton and to open the meeting for 2024

2. Apologies for absence

Chair:

We've received apologies from Alice Canty, Clive Harris, Sandra Cooper... for their absence today, and their names will be included in the minutes of this meeting.

3. Governance topics

Chair:

We'll use this part of the meeting to make sure the charity's foundations are in good order

3a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 02/10/2023

Chair:

The District Trustee Board have reviewed the minutes of the previous AGM and agreed these online. The District Trustee Board put forward these minutes are taken as read and ask the District Scout Council to agree they're a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by Marc Harris / Council approved unanimously.

3b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)

Chair:

In line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters, the District Trustee Board proposes we adopt the model constitution from Chapter 5 of Policy, Organisation and Rules. A copy of this was available for review and inspection prior to this meeting, and copies are also available at this meeting.

Seconder – Robbie Riddle / Council approved unanimously.

3c. Note the District's financial year

Chair:

Can the District Scout Council members please note our charity's financial year is 1 April to 31 March.

3d. Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council

Chair notes the District Scout Council can admit other people to membership. Chair advises that no further members are nominated as District Scout Council members.

These are to be admitted as members of the District Scout Council as well as the ex officio list in POR Rule 5.5.4

Council approved unanimously.

Please note: These nominations are to the District Scout Council (the people attending this AGM). They aren't members of the District Trustee Board. Please also note, these nominations can be by name or role.

3e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board

Chair:

Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12, Trustees in total. This includes ex officio and co-opted Trustees.

The District Scout Council must agree the number of people to be appointed to the Trustee Board. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends that 12 people are appointed. I propose the District Scout Council approves that recommendation.

Seconded by John Brisley / Council approved unanimously.

3f. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

Chair:

The District Scout Council must agree its quorum – the minimum number of District Scout Council members that must be present at District Scout Council meetings. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends the quorum should be set at twice the number of trustees plus one. Does the District Scout Council approve that recommendation?

Seconded by Sverre Sverresonn / Council approved unanimously.

4. Review of the previous year

Chair:

We'll now use this part of the meeting to reflect on the activities of the past year.

4a. The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the Medway Towns District

Chair asked David Knight to present their Annual Review.

District Lead Volunteer gave their review.

Chair thanked District Lead Volunteer for their review.

4b. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board including the annual Statement of Accounts

Chair notes the District Trustee Board has approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, and has received the report on the accounts from Helen Shepherd

Chair asks Graham Hancock (member of finance subcommittee, FSC) to give an explanation of the Statement of Accounts.

FSC explains the Statement of Accounts.

Chair invited questions from the floor regarding the Trustee Annual Report, and the Annual Accounts.

Chair thanks the FSC Alice Canty & Graham Handcock for their efforts.

Please note: No vote is required, the District Scout Council only 'receives and considers' the report.

5. Making appointments

Chair:

We'll use this part of the meeting to organise the setup of the charity until the next AGM. We'll appoint a Trustee Board to oversee good governance for the charity over the next year.

5a. Appoint the District Chair, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board

Chair Due to time constraints for an open selection process and to ensure continuity through the forthcoming transformation the District Trustee boards proposes that the recommendation to the District Scout Council is that Marc Harris should be appointed as District Chair for a further year.

Council approved unanimously.

Please note: If appointing a new Chair, you should agree **prior** to the AGM whether the outgoing Chair will continue to lead this meeting, or whether the new Chair should take over immediately during the meeting. It's strongly encouraged the new District Chair takes over after the AGM's finished – perhaps from midnight following the AGM.

5b. [If required] Appoint the District Treasurer, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board

Chair Due to time constraints for an open selection process and to ensure continuity through the forthcoming transformation the District Trustee boards proposes that the recommendation to the District Scout Council is that Alice Canty should be appointed as District Treasurer for a further year.

Council approved unanimously.

5c. [If required] Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board

Chair Due to time constraints for an open selection process and to ensure continuity through the forthcoming transformation the District Trustee boards proposes that the recommendation to the District Scout Council is that Robbie Riddell, Sarah Edmonds-

Magee, Graeme Pryke, Kara Cooper, David Knight, Graham Hancock, Paul Randall, and Sverre Sverresonn should be appointed as members of the District Trustee Board.

Council approved unanimously.

Please note:

- There can't be more names appointed than were approved at agenda item 3e. There can be fewer than agreed at 3e, but not more. Remember, agenda item 3e is the total number of agreed ex officio, appointed and co-opted members.
- It's very important to arrange the open selection process and its recommendations **before** the AGM. Recruitment needs to be open, organised and in advance, so it's a thoughtful process. It shouldn't be taking place last minute during the AGM.

Chair thanks the Trustees for their work during the year and to Ed and Henry Brackley who are standing down.

Please note: Co-opted members (if any) of the District Trustee Board are appointed by the District Trustee Board themselves at one of their meetings, and not at the AGM.

5d. (Re-)appoint District President and/or Vice Presidents

Chair notes the District Scout Council appoints the District President and/or Vice President.

Since the early 1950s, successive Commandants of the RSME have kindly accepted the invitation extended by Medway Scouts to take office as Scout District President and we are indeed proud and privileged of our continued association. In the event of the President not being available, we have always been pleased to welcome the Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

Chair proposes this agreement continues for District President and Cllr David Brake is re-appointed as Vice President.

Council approved unanimously.

5e. Appoint the Scrutineer / Independent Examiner / Auditor [

Chair confirms that Helen Shepherd has been proposed by Graham Hancock, seconded by John Brisley, and is qualified for the role, and asks for a show of hands to approve Helen Shepherd

Council approved unanimously.

Please note:

- Please find the requirements for whether to appoint a Scrutineer, Independent Examiner or Auditor on: [Accounting & Audit Requirements for Group Districts, Counties/Areas & Scottish Regions](#)
- Please find the template for a Scrutineer or an Independent Examiner to use to report back to the Trustee Board on: [Accounting and Reporting](#)

5f. Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council

Chair:

We need to nominate a District representative to the County Scout Council. Robbie Riddell and Graeme Pryke have been proposed by Sverre Sverresonn and seconded by John Brisley.

Council approved unanimously.

Please note: Each County Scout Council sets the number of nominations per District. If you're not sure how many representatives your District needs to elect, check with your County Trustee Board. Some Counties might also need youth members to represent the District on the County Scout Council.

6. Closing remarks

Chair closes the AGM, thanking everyone for attending and outlined the following arrangements for the rest of the event.

7. Presentations

- **Presentation from the District Zanzibar Trip**
- **Invite the Worshipful Mayor of Medway, Cllr Marian Nesterov to address the meeting.**
- **Invite County Chair Des Harris to address the meeting.**
- **DLV Update and awards**

Trustees Annual Report,

for the period 1st Apr 24 – 31st Mar 25

Charity Trustees

Name	Position	Ex-officio/Nominated/Elected
John Brisley	District Lead Volunteer	Ex-officio
Marc Harris	Chairman	Appointed
Alice Canty	Treasurer	Elected
Liam Archer	District Youth Lead	Co-opted
Elliot Reed	District Youth Lead	Ex-officio / co-opted
Robbie Riddell	Member	Appointed
Graeme Pryke	Member	Appointed
Kara Cooper	Member	Appointed
David Knight DC	Member	Appointed
Graham Hancock	Member	Appointed
Paul Randall	Member	Appointed
Sverre Sverresonn	Member	Appointed

Trustee's report

Welcome to the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Medway Towns District Scout Council.

The reporting year 24/25 proved to be another busy year as Scouting continues to grow further.

The Census data showed good growth, bringing the total of young people to 1721. We had 7 groups over 100, and 11 over 70. We now have 14 groups with dreys (16 dreys in total) Squirrels have reached 220 members. All groups have Beavers through to Explorers. We have 99 sections in total.

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.

Our 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. In line with our growth and development ambitions, Medway Towns, has had an increase of 135 young people, 8 new sections across the district. Since the census figures were calculated, we have had more groups open Squirrel dreys and increased capacity with new sections due to demand.

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. In addition to the Lloyds account last year, we have introduced prepayment cards, allowing District Section Leads to manage their events more easily as well as The District badge shop. The District has also taken advantage of higher interest rate savings accounts which has helped to maximise efficiency and reduce individual financial burdens.

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 Chair's/DLV day at The Ashford International Hotel, where the district was once again referenced for its innovative processes & fast adoption of the Transformation process's that have taken 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. The small and dedicated crew continue to keep the site serviceable. We are so grateful for their service and are constantly looking at ways to encourage members to join them. This year we saw approx. 13,000 children and young people visit Buckmore. A testament to the efforts of All those involved.

Our District St George's camp was held again in 2025, and we were pleased to March with over 2000 of our members, our largest parade ever to Rochester Cathedral. Massive thanks to David Knight and the team for making the event so successful.

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.

We would like to give a special mention to our award-winning Digital team, keeping us so well informed and celebrating our successes with the District newsletter 'Scouting About.

We would also like to commend the Youth Leadership team for ensuring that scouting is youth shaped, putting the wants of needs of young people at the fore front of programme delivery.

We would like to welcome our newest team, The New Volunteer Development Team. Thank you to them for their outstanding efforts so far, ensuring that Volunteers receive the vital support and help they need in their endeavours to supporting scouting.

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 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.

Medway Towns District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from	01/04/2024		To	31/03/2025
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Receipts and payments

	2024/2025				2023/2024	
	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	105 265		-	-	105 265	80 511
Donations			-	-	-	911
MAST funds		230	-	-	230	300
Gift Aid			-	-	-	-
Capitation rebates	795		-	-	795	719
Sub total	106 060	230	-	-	106 290	82 441
Grants						
Maintenence grant	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising events (gross)						
Badge sales	10 914	-	-	-	10 914	8 683
Equipment hire		-	-	-	-	-
Jamboree receipts		-	-	-	-	3 537
Other fundraising activities		-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	10 914	-	-	-	10 914	12 220
District Activities						
Section Activities	6 786	-	-	-	6 786	3 368
District International trip		-	13 855	-	13 855	-
District Activities	3 708	-	-	-	3 708	646
Sub total	10 494	-	13 855	-	24 349	4 014
Investment income						
Bank interest	1 533			245	1 779	723
Loan to Group					-	116
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service					-	748
Sale of Equipment	2 200				2 200	-
Sub total	3 733	-	-	245	3 979	1 587
Total Gross Income	131 202	230	13 855	245	145 532	100 262
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	131 202	230	13 855	245	145 532	100 262

Medway Towns District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date

Year end date

For the year from	01/04/2024		To	31/03/2025
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Receipts and payments

			2024/2025			2023/2024
	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)	96 159				96 159	77 284
Youth programme and activities	6 612				6 612	10 986
Adult support and training	1 599				1 599	-
Group loans					-	2 700
Jamboree 2023 Payments					-	4 000
District International Trip			9 425		9 425	-
Insurance	253				253	238
Repairs and Renewals				11 734	11 734	-
Equipment	300				300	-
Printing and photocopying					-	-
District Events & activities	10 136	578			10 714	-
Bank charges/ Adminisatation	101			60	161	60
AGM and trustee expenses					-	
Donations and Grants					-	-
Film licence	662				662	
Capitation rebates paid to Groups	703				703	521
Sub total	116 525	578	9 425	11 794	138 322	95 789
Fundraising expenses						
Badge purchases	9 556	-	-	-	9 556	7 344
Detail 2		-	-	-	-	
Detail 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other fundraising costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	9 556	-	-	-	9 556	7 344
Total Gross Expenditure	126 081	578	9 425	11 794	147 878	103 133
Asset and investment	-	-	-	-		-
Total payments	126 081	578	9 425	11 794	147 878	103 133
Net of receipts/(payments)	5 121	- 348	4 430	- 11 549	- 2 346	- 2 871
Transfers between funds	- 2 500		2 500	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	115 472	12 564	16 816	14 103	158 955	161 826
Cash funds this year end	118 093	12 216	23 746	2 554	156 609	158 955

Medway Towns District Scout Council

Receipts and Payments Account

Year start date		Year end date		
For the year from	01/04/2024		To	31/03/2025

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	31st March 2025					31/03/2024
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds MAST	Restricted/ Designated funds overseas trips	Holding Trustees funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds						
Bank current account - Badge Account			-	-	-	-
Bank current account -Lloyds & Santander	24 865	12 216	4 430		41 511	34 715
Bank deposit account Lloyds	92 681		19 316	-	111 997	87 603
Bank accounts - Nat west					-	22 065
Equal Credit card	533				533	451
Holding Trustees -Buckmore park				2 554	2 554	14 103
					-	-
Cash Float	14			-	14	18
Total cash funds	118 093	12 216	23 746	2 554	156 609	158 955
Free balances with receipts and payments a/c)	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok
Other monetary assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Group loan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Group /Unit Subscriptions not yet paid	7 220	-	-	-	7 220	6 011
	7 220	-	-	-	7 220	6 011
Sub total						
Investment assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment property - detail	-	-	-	-	-	-
Quoted investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non monetary assets for	-	-	-	-	-	-
Badge stock	1 100	-	-	-	1 100	1 329
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
	7 821	-	-	399 380	407 201	407 430
Sub total						
Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capitation rebates	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions not paid to County		-	-		-	-
Loan - detail	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities						
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	133 134	12 216	23 746	401 934	571 030	572 396

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
Marc Harris

Treasurer
Alice Canty

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 2025.

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): FCCA

Address: 43 Mayford Road Kent ME5 8QZ

Date: 14/09/2025

Medway Towns District Scouts

Its fair to say 2024/25 has been a challenging year in one way or another, but overall another positive one for Medway Towns district none the less.

Once again our overall growth saw another rise in young people taking our total to over 1700 for the first time in decades. We now have 8 groups over 100, and 14 over 75, and have all but 2 of our 21 groups with squirrel dreys. Squirrels reached 174 members. All groups have Beavers through to Explorers. We have 91 sections in total.

It been fantastic to see such a busy and vibrant District activity programme with activities including but not limited to teddy bear picnics, golden box challenge, trips arrowhead, cub task master and its great to see so many groups continue to come out to support our District events. Section teams continue to plan exciting programmes.

Our 14 to 24 provision continues to go from strength to strength, and it is pleasing to see YL training, DofE, top awards and explorer and Network activities taking place.

Buckmore Park has been extremely popular this year and continues to rely on a very small and dedicated crew for activities and to keep the site serviceable. We are so grateful for their service. The popular Buckmore Blog continues to feature in our newsletter keeping everyone up to date with progress at the park.

The highly anticipated 'new system' finally arrived in November and whilst we were promised so much it is has presented us with plenty of challenges, that have tested us to the full. Improvements continue to filter through and only time will tell if lives up to its promise.

I would like to say a massive thanks to all our amazing leaders and helpers, our totally awesome District Team, trustee board and Buckmore crew, together you are all really making a difference. Thank you...

And of course, a final thanks to my right hand for the last 7 years, DC Dave who's dedication and commitment over that time has helped shape the District into what we see today.

John

MAST Report 2025



With the changes announce in July 2023, that following the introduction of the new membership system, all Scout Active Support roles would cease. Despite this Medway Active Support Team known as MAST continued to offer support to the district and youth sections within the district. When more details of the changes became known, a meeting was held, and it was agreed that whilst some of the members opted to become retired members. The remainder of MAST agreed it would become a sub-team within the Programme Team and continue to have monthly social events and actives and continue to provide support to the district and elsewhere when asked.



EDI (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)

The district still has a kit of equipment which can be used at events, and this is now stored at Buckmore Park.

Behaviour training has been delivered to 4 groups in the district who wanted the support and is available to others. This can be delivered mid-week as this worked well starting at 19:30 and lasts for approximately 2 hours. Groups of up to 30 can attend in one sitting. The session can also be adapted for young leaders to attend as well. The session looks at why some young people behave as they do with ideas to support their futures in Scouting.

This year HQ introduced some evening sessions around Inclusion and were worthwhile attending. Resources that were made by members of the Kent Scouts EDI team are used in the sessions and these can be downloaded from the Kent Scouts website. The resources include Stim Toys and Autism information.

Some groups have asked for ideas to support young people in their sections and contact is always welcomed. Help can be given via phone, email or by a visit to the section. This has worked well with one group to see what they have in place already for a high level of needs in that section. The leaders were able to demonstrate what they do to meet each young person's individual needs, and this has been great to see.

A helpful way to find out how to support a young person is to ask the parents themselves. Ask what the child's school does, do they have an EHCP or a individual plan to meet the needs. These all really help and most importantly is to listen to the young person themselves. Most of the same principals can be used for adults who may need support as well.

Michelle Kagan

Buckmore Park Scout Campsite

Report 2024 – 2025

We need to start this report with a **big thank you** to all those who have contributed to the operation, growth and development of Buckmore during the past year. It is obviously too many to mention individually but your efforts are much appreciated.



The reporting year started with District Camp. Our site needed a little bit of t.l.c. following on from the winters tree clearance and a working weekend ensured the preparation were completed. Despite some cold weather the camp was a success with around 1200 attending during the weekend.

Some restoration became necessary on the track by caving, it had become virtually impassable and a group from the crew spent a couple of day relaying the surface. Our next event was the annual 'Trail Jam' this walk around our boundary, open to the wider Scouting family, was good fun and well attended. We also again provided the venue for the District shooting and archery competitions over a weekend in May.

During the summer months we hosted a lot of Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition groups from across the County and beyond. We are ideally placed for this, as we have excellent and numerous footpath routes to and from the site. We also saw a local primary school hold a summer camp, this was a successful event, that could lead to future visits.

The school holiday summer camping season was not very busy, but it did give us chance to catch up with a few jobs.



The starkness of the winters coppicing began to disappear at the end of the summer as the expected regrowth appeared.

In October the Explorer Scout section held their overnight challenge event called 'Spearhead'. This went well with kind weather.



However, our next event was not so lucky. Our large annual sell out event "Reindeer Workshop" took place during named Storm Bert. This called for a bit of an organisational rethink. The event was its usual success with lots of new reindeers and happy faces leaving the site.

In order to manage our woodland properly we require an approved plan. These last 10 years and ours expired in November. A new one was written and approved accompanied by a Felling Licence allowing us a further 10 years of coppicing. Having got this new plan, we decided not to carry out any during 24/25 winter mainly due to a predicted poor financial return.

We were pleased to allow Buckmore to be used for a large training event for the Kent Search and Rescue charity. Buckmore's large area provides them with an excellent space, and they used this to bring some new recruits up standard.

During February the Ingle Nook was given an external make over. This was very necessary to extend the life of this building. The outside was clad, new secure exterior doors and shutters were fitted. It looks a different building.



Also, in February we hosted the Scout section's 'Arrowhead' challenge event. Sixteen teams of six took part. The event involves them undertaking short challenges around the site, for points, during a long evening. All the teams

finished, and the weather was fairly kind although the fog rolled in at the end.

Buckmore Park is your district campsite, it's there for you to use. Many of you are now bring your sections for evening visits. We have plenty of room with 148 acres of woodland for you to use as part of your programme, and of course a number of activities to try.

For up-to-date information about what's happening at Buckmore follow the blog in the Districts monthly 'Scouting About' publication.