

Annual report and financial statements 2023-24



Scouts
Cheshire

Annual report and financial statements 2023-24

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Welcome from our Chair

This is the last report that I write as Chair of the Trustee Board and over the last 33 years there have been some changes. When I was first appointed mobile phones did not exist, computers were not in use and our poor County Secretary had to 'Roneo' copies of papers and send them out by post. Bank accounts were established by a meeting with the Bank manager and Scout numbers in Cheshire were about 8,000 and no girls. This puts into perspective where we are now and where we are going and how we must work with the tide of progress. Today we all carry a mobile phone, have a laptop or a home computer and probably a photocopier too. Bank accounts can be online. The local bank manager is no longer local, and proof of I.D. is always required. Entry into Scouts now can start at Squirrel or Beaver age and not just at Cubs and girls make up a significant element of Scouting. In recent years and brought forward by COVID the ability to chat and meet online has opened opportunities previously thought to be impossible. In Cheshire your Board has held meetings online and in situ but always with a link there for those that are unable to attend in person. The magician is your Treasurer, Luke Thornton, who continues to work as Treasurer and attends meetings even when he is on the other side of the world. In the past three years he has tidied up the accounts and put systems in place that has made budgeting, forecasting and accounting simpler and more effective. However, we still need dedicated people in situ as exemplified by the volunteer Activity Centres manager, Luke Morby. The two Lukes make a great team. Both are part of the wave of young

scouters brought on by Graham Phillips and Dave Hopley. Another such individual is Michael Rollinson, Deputy Chair who is to take over as Chair. Both Michael and I share the link to Baden-Powell who, in 1904, was invited to officially open the Salford Lads' Club. My great-grandfather may have invited him, and my grandfather was there too. It is obvious that it was the camping expeditions of the Salford Lads' Club that sewed the seed for Baden-Powell to trial a camp on Brownsea Island 3 years later in 1907 and so (belatedly) start the Scout movement. Michael is a member of the Salford Lad's Club thus Cheshire retains its link to Scouting 3 years before scouting began.

Looking at last year, we were able to change our structure in line with The Charities Commission's by following the revisions made in April of the Scouts' Policy Organisation and Rules (POR) and include them at our Annual General Meeting last June. This resulted in a smaller and more effective 'Board of Trustees' reflecting the role of the board which is 'governance'. The term 'Commissioner' was replaced by 'Lead Volunteer'. The year started with six months as the 'Executive Committee' and finished with six months as the 'Board of Trustees'. It continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis and was supported by the Finance Committee and the Activities Centre committee. The dynamic of the County, as ever came from our County Lead Volunteer, Dave Hopley. He has been able to get the right people in place to support him and continually looks for opportunities to take Cheshire forward and have our young scouts involved. Roverway and the World Scout Jamboree were big events, and the latter was brought back from the brink of disaster with the concerted efforts by all involved. The King's coronation was an opportunity for

selected scouts from Cheshire to be involved and what a privilege for them. Safety in scouting remains paramount and we are fortunate to have John Duley to oversee that the Safety and Safeguarding training is up to date. Cheshire hike, finally, in its new format, was a great success. The ability to see the opportunity, apply for and succeed in the Grant application for 2 Development Officers worth a total of £221,000 over two years is to be congratulated. With new members in the Activity Centres Committee and new financial systems now in place and an onsite presence, maintenance and repair are now on a planned basis with better budgeting. Significant tasks such as the repair of the Climbing Wall, and The Begg Building have been undertaken. The installation of an adequate waste treatment system is closer, but the access issue is stalled awaiting a response from Cheshire West. In Cheshire East we are still waiting for the conclusion of our lease at Tatton. At the end of the year after 20 years Cathy Bland stepped down from her role as County Administrator. Sam Davies has taken over with a larger remit. We thank Cathy for all the work she has done and wish Sam all the best in her new role. The year finished with increased Scout numbers and a significant increase in income over 2022. The projected deficit was less than forecast at £7,719 and an excellent achievement considering the additional works carried out. Our reserves remain strong and bearing in mind unforeseen accidents and pandemics we need to keep them strong. Next year we are forecast for a similar result. I thank you all for everything you have done over the last thirty-three years in my term as Chair. I wish you all in Cheshire every success for the future.



Peter Mather TD
Chair of the Trustee Board

A year of achievement

Each year I look back with nothing but pride at what we've achieved together. This year, I truly believe we've more to be proud of than ever.

Cheshire Scouts recorded a further 3% growth in youth membership this year, with over 304 young people and 65 adult leaders joining our 12,668-strong movement.

Just two years ago, Squirrels – the section for 4-6 year olds – was launched, and this year we've opened another 12 Squirrels Dreys across the County, giving us a total of 21, with another 7 planned for 2024 so far.

We've secured funding to support our ambitious Inclusive Growth Plan, recruiting two full-time Local Growth Officers to help us open more than 40 new sections in under-represented communities over the next two years.

We were awarded Charity of the Year 2023 by The Cheshire and Warrington Pledge for Chamboree – our international Scout and Guide Jamboree.

Our annual Cheshire Hike event in April was a sell-out, with over 700 Scouts and Explorers taking part. Whilst 275 Cub Scouts slept under the GAIA Earth Artwork at Chester Cathedral. We opened our Skills Day out to Young Leaders, with over 120 taking part.

We had our first ever Cheshire 'King's Scouts on Parade' at Windsor this St. George's Day. Over 560 Scouts and Explorers were awarded top awards at our

Celebrating Success event this autumn, including 60 Explorer Belts, 130 You Shape Awards. The High Sheriff of Cheshire also made special awards to our Explorer Belt and World Scout Jamboree adult leadership teams in celebration of our global summer.

Over 100 Cheshire Scouts and leaders had an unforgettable experience out in South Korea for the 25th World Scout Jamboree. Despite the hurdles, our Scouts broadened their horizons and showed incredible adaptability, while exploring the cultural heritage of South Korea during the once-in-a-lifetime experience.

In addition, our Explorer Belt contingent of 60 Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members had an amazing two-week European international expedition this Summer, with teams traveling across Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

We held two successful Community Impact Days at Tatton Park for under-represented communities, and children in foster care, as well as 24 'Big Help Out' events across our 9 Districts for the King's Coronation.

I am really excited to have appointed Dan Skinner as the next as Youth Lead for Cheshire Scouts, a role designed to ensure young people are empowered to share their ideas and have a meaningful voice, getting them involved and engaged in our decision making.

Dan said, "I can't wait to get out and meet as many young people as I can and get them engaged in everything we do. Young people have brilliant ideas and talent that can drive Scouting forward and drive growth. Let's inspire and support our youth – to shape their own adventure!".

Scouts is a team game, and everyone plays their part. Thank you for all you do, making Scouts open to all, supporting our young people, and most of all, looking out for each other, as we continue to transform our volunteering experience and help more young people gain the skills, they need to shine bright.



Dave Hopley
County Lead Volunteer



Our purpose and method

Cheshire Scouts actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

In partnership with adults, young people take part in fun indoor and outdoor activities. They learn by doing, by sharing in spiritual reflection and by taking responsibility. They make choices, undertake new and challenging activities, and they live their Scout Promise.

Cheshire Scout's Trustees have a duty to report on our public benefit in this Annual Report. We've assessed our aims, activities and charitable objectives, which are to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full potential as individuals, as responsible citizens, and as members of their local, national and international communities. We believe that we've met the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria for both the advancement of education, and the advancement of citizenship and community development.

Cheshire Scouts follows 2 key principles set by the Commission with regard to public benefit:

1. Identifiable benefit

The way in which we help young people in their personal development and empowers them to make a positive contribution to society. This benefit is directly linked to the purpose of Cheshire Scouts.

2. Public benefit

Cheshire Scouts is a county wide movement, open to young people aged 6-25 and adults who are willing to make the Scout Promise. People in areas of deprivation are able to benefit from our programme; while we charge a subscription to our members, access to our benefits aren't constrained by a member's ability to pay. There are arrangements to waive subscriptions and other costs for those who face financial hardship, so that young people aren't excluded from Scouts on purely financial grounds.

The benefits of Scouts are further demonstrated throughout this report.

Vision and strategic objectives

Our vision for the future

In our Skills for Life Strategy, we aimed to prepare more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders delivering an inspiring programme. We talked about growing, being more inclusive, being shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

Skills for Life

Our Plan to prepare better futures

2018-2025

Our vision

By 2025, we'll have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders delivering an inspiring programme.

We'll be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

Our mission

Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Our values

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

Our goals

By delivering this plan, we'll achieve the following goals against our four objectives:

Growth

Inclusivity

Youth Shaped

Community Impact

Our three pillars of work

To support the movement to achieve these objectives, we will focus on three pillars of work:

Programme

A fun, enjoyable, high quality programme consistently delivered and supported by simple (digital) tools.

People

More, well trained, better supported and motivated adult volunteers, and more young people from diverse backgrounds.

Perception

Scouts is understood, more visible, trusted, respected and widely seen as playing a key role in society today.

Programmes of work

Programme

In 2023, the Programme team had an eventful and rewarding year. In February we hosted the second successful Programme Forum, inviting all Programme Team members from across the County to represent their sections and districts. This opportunity allowed for networking with their equivalents from across all Districts of Cheshire. It was particularly successful due to the network-style of the event which gives volunteers the chance to meet with others to share best practice, problem solve and share new ideas.

Our biggest news from last year is the international events which went on over Summer. Cheshire had 72 young people represent Cheshire at the 25th World Scout Jamboree in Korea, and 62 young people complete their Explorer Belt as part of the County's first led expedition, the challenge of a lifetime. We also held a Roverway selection day, concluding with a Cheshire Patrol attending the Roverway 2024 in Norway.

Bringing success, a little closer into the County we have built up our Squirrel Dreys across the County with support from Mel, our Squirrel Section Lead in the Programme Team, looking to create a Squirrel County Event in 2024. Beavers Skills Challenge and the Cubs Craft Challenge held their annual County Competition, with the Scout section following in suit with their return of the Scout Patrol Challenge, held at Forest Camp. All these events consist of District Rounds, before the winning patrols compete at County level for the title, highlighting the talents and achievements of young scouts across Cheshire.

We also hosted the biggest Cheshire Hike to date, with over 700 hikers, held County Climbing Events for Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, and facilitated over 275 Cubs sleeping under the GAIA at Chester Cathedral.

In 2023, over 560 individuals earned their Top Awards, with 200 young people earning their Chief Scout Award, 80 Explorer Scouts achieving their Chief Scout's Platinum and Chief Scout's Diamond Awards, and 70 young leaders earning belts. Additionally, 133 received YouShape awards, and 8 had achieved their BTEC awards. We also celebrate the 14 recipients of the King and Queen's Scout Award, the highest recognition. As we continue to focus on progressive and sustainable growth, the Programme Team remains dedicated to delivering impactful programs and initiatives for all sections. We extend our support to Districts, Groups, and Units on the ground, and we are looking forward to another amazing year ahead!

Charly O'Brien

County Programme Team Leader

Volunteering Development

A Group Lead Volunteer's Day was held in March with Scout HQ staff giving details of the Transformation and Development programme that will make volunteering easier and support managers in reducing administration work, together with information about the new on-line system.

The census showed a 3% increase in Adult volunteers including 93 front-line leaders meaning that Cheshire can offer scouting to even more young people.

Delighted to welcome 3 new District Lead Volunteers for Mid-Cheshire, Warrington East and Warrington West.

Tim Owen and Richard Johnson became the County Learning Team Leaders and have worked tirelessly

to ensure that leaders can complete their training by delivering 62 face-face or online courses throughout the year. 115 Wood Badges were completed, over 520 First Response validations completed, and they also validated 2,500 Wood Badge modules (highest ever). They have also had the excellent support of the District Learning Team leaders. Neil McAlece was appointed to lead the County Activities Team (with Pete Goodger as his Deputy) and they have reviewed the Assessors and refreshed the programme of training and assessment. Various activity permit training courses have been organised throughout the year meaning we have many more leaders gaining their hillwalking, climbing, rafting, bell-boating, shooting, archery and off-road biking permits. This, of course, means more adventurous activities for the young people.

Over 100 leaders attended the County Skills Training Day in at Forest Camp in September with 120 Young Leaders attending the NEW Skills Day aimed at teaching them skills that they could take back into their group.

2 of our leaders – Carol Frain and Oli Chambers were invited to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party whilst 6 other leaders were invited to attend the Coronation Concert in Windsor – an honour for all.

Pleased that many volunteers have been recognised for their service to Scouting by receiving Good Service Awards – many of them being presented at the County Scout Dinner held in March. High Sheriff Awards were presented to the Team Leaders of the World Scout Jamboree and the Explorer Belt expedition.

Val Thomason

County Volunteering Development Team Leader

Support

The past year has been one of change of focus and team members following the move to being support orientated. There have been a range of areas reviewed from resurfacing the car park at Forest camp along with other regular maintenance activities at both camp sites to receiving the Charity of the Year award from The Cheshire and Warrington Pledge partnership and the annual support given to the Royal Cheshire Show in June among the support of the wide range of county events that have been delivered.

Two Community Impact days have been delivered, one of which was aimed at foster carers in Cheshire East and the other supporting refugees and other disadvantaged sections of the community. The carers event has been established for a number of years with the other day now developing and growing in numbers. Both of these are planned to be delivered again in the coming year.

Inclusion awareness events have been supported and Pride events across the county attended.

The coronation of King Charles III was supported by five Network and one Explorer member as part of the Associations involvement.

Andrew Little

County Support Team Leader

Transformation and Change

During 2023 across the county there was a range of work to prepare for the changes that the Association is adopting following considerable consultation within and outside of the movement.

Some of the key drivers being the need to replace the ageing Compass Adult membership system and to reduce the administrative workload

on managers at all levels Introduce new learning material and processes to reflect current developments in making scouting a safe and rewarding experience for its members of all ages.

Introduce a new way of welcoming new volunteers that will replace the current Appointments process.

Introduce a flexible and easy to use adult management system that will be easily accessible across computer, tablets and mobile devices.

To align our Trustee boards with current Charity Commission regulations and recommendations

This work was undertaken in line with an original delivery date of the new management system of early 2024. This system supports a range of the changes detailed above specifically the learning and the welcome process.

Implementation has now been delayed as while the Digital System has been built the complex process to migrate data from Compass requires further work.

We will therefore continue to prepare for its delivery which could now be later this year.

My thanks to all who have put so much work into preparation for these changes. And look forward to the benefits we will see from these changes.

John Duley

Transformation Lead

Youth Shaped Scouting

I was thrilled to be appointed to the County Youth Lead role in October.

Young people have brilliant ideas and talent that can advance scouting and drive growth; my mission was to support and inspire them to shape their adventures!

The work began straight away. I attended a UK Youth Lead induction

in Gilwell, meeting other County and District Youth Leads, sharing ideas, and learning from one another. In October, we re-established the Youth Forum at Tatton; despite challenging weather conditions, we had a strong attendance, with six out of nine districts represented. We discussed issues that matter to the young people. The new County Youth Team Instagram was launched @cheshirescoutsy. The shortlist of Chamboree themes was made, and we put it out to all Cheshire Scout members to vote. Lots of other exciting topics were discussed, along with actions to be taken in 2024.

After the Youth Forum, I attended Progfest with Charly and Amelia. It was brilliant to learn more about the programme and discuss how to get young people involved. At our strategy weekend in November, I spoke to the County Team, sharing the vision for how we support young people and engage and involve them in everything we do. I met all the District Youth Leads; it was great to discuss how we can work together and champion young people. In January, a District Youth Lead was appointed in Warrington East, meaning all nine of our districts had a Youth Lead—something to be proud of. 2024 is an exciting year with many Youth Forums planned, including taking them to the road to engage as many young people as possible. The Youth team can't wait to champion and engage young people; together, let's help young people across Cheshire shape their own adventure.

Dan Skinner

County Youth Lead



Cheshire Scouts Go Global this Summer

Our two Cheshire Units of 36 young people and 4 adult leaders, plus 25 International Service Team (IST) members had an unforgettable experience out in South Korea this Summer, for the 25th World Scout Jamboree, a spectacular showcase of cultural exchange and youth leadership development. Despite the hurdles, Scouts broadened their horizons and showed incredible adaptability while also exploring the cultural heritage of South Korea during the once-in-a-lifetime Jamboree.

In addition, our Explorer Belt Contingent of 60 Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members (9 Explorer Scout Teams, and 4 Network Teams) and their Mentors had an amazing two-week European international expedition this Summer. With teams traveling across Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany. Major projects included: Cultural and culinary diversity; Comparison of public transport systems; How historical events, including World War II have impacted culture, and more.

All Explorer Belt participants will receive their Explorer Belt Awards at Celebrating Success on 5th November. In addition, both our Explorer Belt contingent members and World Scout Jamboree unit members will receive their You Shape Awards which they have gained as part of their programme.

There is a great legacy from this Summer with participants articulating the skills they've gained in independence, confidence, resilience, organisation, communication and teamwork, with many now inspired toward either their King's Scout Award, Scouts of the World Award, doing another independent expedition/international travel, and some of whom were keen to volunteer to Mentor future Explorer

Belt participants or join an International Service Team.

Our adult volunteers were recognised with a special award being made by High Sheriff of Cheshire, Dr Dennis Dunn MBE JP DL for our Explorer Belt leadership team, in recognition of the training and mentorship they gave to our 13 teams of Scouts undertaking their expeditions across Europe this Summer. Dennis also made a special award to the 8 leaders who led Cheshire Scout's contingent of 72 young people to the World Scout Jamboree in Korea this Summer, following a two-year training journey, for their determination and resilience in the face of adversity, ensuring young people were prepared and had an exceptional World Scout Jamboree in Korea.



How we operate

Cheshire County Scout Council's 'Cheshire Scouts' governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The County is a Trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The County is managed by the Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout County 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.

The Trustee Board consists of 2 ex-officio members, the County Lead Volunteer and County Youth Lead; 2 appointed officers, the County Chair and County Treasurer; together with and up to 6 appointed members and up to 2 members co-opted by the Trustee Board. The Board typically meets every 2 months (6 times per year).

Members of the Trustee Board complete 'Essential Information for Trustee Boards' training within the first 5 months of joining the committee.

The County Trustee Board is a team of volunteers who work together, as charity Trustees, to make sure Cheshire Scouts is run safely and legally. At the heart of their role is a focus on strategy, performance, and assurance. They are responsible for:

- Protecting and maintaining any property and equipment owned by and/or used by the County.
- Managing the County finances.
- Providing insurance for people, property, and equipment.
- Promoting and supporting the development of Scouting in the local area.
- Ensuring that a positive image of Scouting exists in the local community.
- Appointing and managing the operation of any sub-Committees.
- Ensuring that Young People are meaningfully involved in decision-making at all levels within the County.

Risk and Internal Control

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

The Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the County is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The principal areas of concern that have been identified are:

Damage to building, property and equipment

The County has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters, and members

The County through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.

Reduced income

The County is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions. The County does hold a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the value of subscriptions to increase the income to the County on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders

The County is reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the County, its Districts and Groups. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or in the worst-case scenario closure.

Reduction or loss of members

The County provides activities for all young people aged 4 to 18. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular District or Group then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or in the worst-case scenario closure.

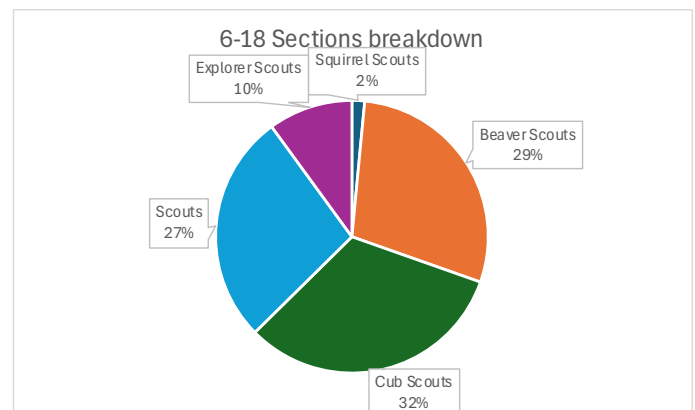
Our members

Census results for the year ending 31 January 2024

	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total
Squirrel Scouts	199	94	0	2	295
Beaver Scouts	2,108	499	0	14	2,621
Cub Scouts	2,340	580	2	18	2,940
Scouts	1,869	675	0	9	2,553
Explorer Scouts (including Young Leaders)	600	304	6	12	922
Scout Network members	164	60	1	1	226
TOTAL YOUTH MEMBERSHIP	7,280	2,212	9	56	9,557
TOTAL ADULT MEMBERSHIP	1,681	1,422	4	4	3,111
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	8,961	3,634	13	60	12,668

UNITS

Squirrel Scout Dreys	21
Beaver Scout Colonies	153
Cub Scout Packs	154
Scout Troops	141
Explorer Scout Units (including Young Leader Units)	50
Local Scout Networks	9
Active Support Units	54



GROUPS	147
DISTRICTS	9

DISTRICT BREAKDOWN	Squirrels	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts	Explorers (incl. YLs)	Network (only)	Adults	Total
Cheshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	145	145
Alderley and Knutsford	48	273	301	297	110	49	327	1,356
Chester and District	27	382	508	383	147	22	384	1,831
Ellesmere Port and Neston	31	189	188	144	44	17	174	770
Macclesfield and Congleton	21	333	405	351	134	18	396	1,640
Mersey Weaver	50	300	303	252	121	48	449	1,475
Mid Cheshire	17	285	281	256	67	2	314	1,220
South West Cheshire	-	343	362	333	134	6	465	1,637
Warrington East	62	269	313	243	93	22	321	1,301
Warrington West	39	247	279	294	72	42	362	1,293
Total	295	2,621	2,940	2,553	922	226	3,337	12,668

Governance structure and Trustee Board membership – 1 July 2023 to 31 June 2024

Founder

Robert Baden-Powell, OM,
First Baron Baden-Powell of Gilwell

Patron

The late Her Majesty Queen
Elizabeth II

President

Lady Redmond (Alexis) MBE LL

Vice Presidents

Peter Ellis
Frank Hough
Eddie Johnson
Margaret Johnson
Margaret Olliver
Graham Phillips MBE DL
Ray Salisbury JP
Geoff Taylor BEM
Steve Wilkinson
Sir Nicholas Winterton

Chief Scout

Lt Col (Hon) Bear Grylls RM OBE

County Lead Volunteer

Dave Hopley

The Trustee Board

The percentages indicate the number
of eligible Board meetings each
member attended.

Peter Mather TD (100%)
County Chair

David Hopley (100%)
County Lead Volunteer

Daniel Skinner (100%)
County Youth Lead

Michael Rollinson JP DL (67%)
County Deputy Chair

Luke Thornton (100%)
County Treasurer

John Duley (100%)
Eve Vickers (83%)
Jake Vickery (83%)

Co-Opted Members

Carl Askew (100%)
Ben Savage JP (100%)

Right of attendance (Non-voting)

Brendan Booth
Regional Commissioner

Oliver Chambers
Charly O'Brien
Nominated member on the Council of
The Scout Association

Invited to attend

Toby Abbott (shadowing Nominated
18-24 members)

Our advisers

Examiners:

Stacey Mason FCCA
HGA Accountants & Financial
Consultants Ltd
t/a Chittenden Horley - Chartered
Accountants
Hyde Park House
Cartwright Street
Hyde
SK14 4EH

Bankers:

Royal Bank of Scotland
27 Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AB

Our office

Cheshire Scouts
Asher House
Barsbank Lane, Lymm
Warrington, WA13 0ED

Registration

Charity Commission 511356
The Scouts 00077

Team Cheshire 2023-24

County Lead Volunteer

Dave Hopley

County Youth Lead

Dan Skinner

Volunteering Development Team Leader

Val Thomason

Programme Team Leader

Charly O'Brien

Support Team Leader

Andrew Little

District Lead Volunteers

Will Burnham
Alderley and Knutsford

Alan Wilding
Chester and District

Richie Thornley
Ellesmere Port and Neston

Mike Brown
Macclesfield and Congleton

Oliver Chambers
Mersey Weaver

Stuart Young
Mid Cheshire

Dan Baldwin
South West Cheshire

Mike Timmins
Warrington East

Adam Potts
Warrington West

Volunteering Development Team

Neil McAleece
Activities

Tim Owen and Richard Johnson
Learning

Joanne Turner
Volunteering Development

John Duley
Growth & Transformation

Jane Duley
Welcome

Programme Team

Mel Black
Squirrel Scouts

Ruth Clemson
Beaver Scouts

Pam Owen
Cub Scouts

Amelia Riley
Explorer Scouts

Ian Turnbull
Scout Network

Carol Frain
Top Awards

Diane Blurton
Young Leaders

Graham Shaw
International

Support Team

Roger Owens and Cathy Bland
Active Support

Nigel Flatman
Events

Josh Diamond
Communications

Paul Brown
Community Impact

Dave Metcalfe
Inclusion

John Bennett MBE
Safety Adviser

Laura Livingstone
Safeguarding Adviser

Employees

Sam Davies
County Office Manager & Executive
Assistant

Deb Ardern
Activity Centres Administrator



Roll of Honour 2023-2024

Awards issued between 1 January 2023 and 31 March 2024

Member of the British Empire

John Bennett MBE

County and South West Cheshire



British Empire Medal

Ken Salter BEM

Ellesmere Port and Neston



King Charles III Coronation Medal

Brandon Hone
Jessica De Sousa
Grace Brookhouse

Chester and District
Macclesfield and Congleton
Macclesfield and Congleton



Silver Wolf



Peter Mather TD
Pamela Owen
Janet Williamson
Derek Mangan

County
County
County
Ellesmere Port and Neston

Bar to the Silver Acorn



Anne Duckett

County

Silver Acorn



Joanne Turner
John Harm
Heather Millington

County
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Macclesfield and Congleton

Award for Merit



Marie Carr
Laura Livingstone
Celia Froes
Phil Hughes
Luke Morby
Luke Thornton
Janette Whittaker
Neil Bishop
Anne Bishop
Alan Jackson
Anthony Atkins
Thomas Cooke
Peter Horan
Zoe Hunt
Kirsty Marchant
Janet McNulty
Angela Mellor
Jack Port
Andrew Rimmer
Helen Washington
Alan Firth
Simon Piasecki
Lee Kendall
Steve Savage

County
County
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County
County
County
County
Alderley and Knutsford
Alderley and Knutsford
Alderley and Knutsford
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Ellesmere Port and Neston
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Ellesmere Port and Neston
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Macclesfield and Congleton
South West Cheshire
Warrington West
Warrington West

Meritorious Conduct



Laura Lambert

Mersey Weaver

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service



Ali Comline
 Heather MacBean
 Sophie Mather
 Charly O'Brien
 Hugh Cunning
 Alex Dodd
 Thomas Rippon
 Richard Atkins
 Sally Beddoes
 Nickie Candeland-Smith
 Sandra Holmes
 Neal Holmes
 Clare Jones
 Joanne Mcghee
 Chelsea Nixon-Phillips
 Emily Reddy
 Claire Reid
 Amada Roscoe
 Angela Scott
 Gordon Taylor
 Charlotte Worthington
 Victor Crawford
 Michael Fennell
 Paul Green
 Elizabeth Grindon
 Ruth Linde
 Roger Lomas
 Peter Nash
 Edward Parrish
 David Pegg
 Malcolm Wood
 Emily Brown
 Abi Woodcock
 John Franks
 Lisa Grady
 Joanne Hurst
 Mark Johnson
 Peter Johnson
 Helen Vaughan
 Adam Potts

County
 County
 County
 County
 Chester and District
 Chester and District
 Chester and District
 Ellesmere Port and Neston
 Ellesmere Port and Neston
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 Ellesmere Port and Neston
 Macclesfield and Congleton
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 Macclesfield and Congleton
 Macclesfield and Congleton
 Macclesfield and Congleton
 Macclesfield and Congleton
 Macclesfield and Congleton
 Macclesfield and Congleton
 Macclesfield and Congleton
 Macclesfield and Congleton
 Mersey Weaver
 South West Cheshire
 Warrington East
 Warrington East
 Warrington East
 Warrington East
 Warrington East
 Warrington East
 Warrington West

Commendation Award



Barry Bridge
 Elizabeth Grindon
 James Johnson
 David Pegg
 Geoffrey Smith
 Martin Taylor
 Marion Tugwood

Macclesfield and Congleton
 Macclesfield and Congleton
 Macclesfield and Congleton
 Macclesfield and Congleton
 Macclesfield and Congleton
 Macclesfield and Congleton
 Macclesfield and Congleton

High Sheriff's Awards

In recognition of the training and mentorship they gave to young people undertaking Explorer Belt expeditions across Europe Summer 2023

Carol Frain
Chris Hanning
Charly O'Brien
Adam Potts
Graham Proctor
Amelia Riley
Graham Shaw
Alex Stubbs
Martin Taylor
Ian Turnbull

County
Mid Cheshire
County
Warrington West
County
County
County
South West Cheshire
Macclesfield and Congleton
County

In recognition of their determination and resilience in the face of adversity, ensuring young people were prepared and had an exceptional World Scout Jamboree in Korea 2023

Emily Brown
Oliver Chambers
Simon Piasecki
Thomas Rippon
Michael Rollinson
Stephen Washington
Christopher Williams
Abi Woodcock

Mersey Weaver
Mersey Weaver
South West Cheshire
Chester and District
County
Ellesmere Port and Neston
Warrington West
South West Cheshire

King's Scout Awards



Sean Mcnamee
Ben Anderson
Joshua Boissery
Tom Gilman
Thomas Sheridan
Joseph Duckett
Mathew Duckett
Tara Jennings
Charlotte King
Jake Vickery
Rory Innes
Jonathan Mullett
Harriet Faulkner
Lucy Landolt

Chester and District
Macclesfield and Congleton
Macclesfield and Congleton
Macclesfield and Congleton
Macclesfield and Congleton
Mersey Weaver
Mersey Weaver
Mersey Weaver
Mersey Weaver
Mersey Weaver
Mid Cheshire
Mid Cheshire
South West Cheshire
South West Cheshire

Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Awards



James Duncan
Matthew Smith
Marcus Fleming
Joseph Green
Harry Green
Robert Bridge
Carson Green
Thomas Smith
Grace Perrin
William Wootton
Samuel Wood
Rory Villiers
David Frisher
Harriet Faulkner
Tom Loxley

Alderley and Knutsford
Alderley and Knutsford
Alderley and Knutsford
Chester and District
Chester and District
Macclesfield and Congleton
Macclesfield and Congleton
Macclesfield and Congleton
Macclesfield and Congleton
Macclesfield and Congleton
Macclesfield and Congleton
Mersey Weaver
South West Cheshire
South West Cheshire
Warrington West

Our Finances

Cheshire Scouts' financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, (Accounting and Reporting by Charities) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland, FRS 102, known as the Charities SORP (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011.

Reserves Policy

The County's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the County should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Trustee Board considered the normalised expenditure from one year to the next, excluding the impact of Chamboree, and used 6 months of expenditure as a starting point for their analysis. This showed a c.£150k requirement for the reserves. In addition to this, the Trustees considered the additional impact of Chamboree on the charity. They therefore calculated a 25% expenditure overrun, based on a gross budget of £500k, and established an additional reserve of £125k. This gives a total reserves requirement of £275k. To be prudent, the Trustees evaluated a reasonable ongoing minimum reserves position of £300k. This clearly leaves headroom above the £579k unrestricted reserves position currently. The Board therefore are looking to utilise this additional headroom, by doing the following:

- Investing an amount of the additional resources, via the Board's investment policy

- Looking to create a managed deficit in the year, via investing in the long-term development of the charity through growth initiatives and supporting large events (e.g., Chamboree & Jamboree).

The board are also actively considering how access to additional funds, for example through grants, can support Cheshire Scouts through activity centres and accessibility to accelerate our growth, and this is viewed to be in the long-term financial interest of the Charity.

Investment Policy

The Trustee Board takes a proactive approach to its financial position. In doing so, when there are surplus reserves above that which will be required over the short to medium term, the Trustees will look to allocate it to areas which will benefit the long-term health of the charity, be that in the level of activity through investing in the development of the charity, or into financial investments to generate a long-term financial return to the charity. The Trustees have the authority to allocate the financial resources as it sees fit to further the charitable endeavours of the charity. The charity's investment objectives are to generate a return on the financial assets of the charity, so that its resources continue to keep pace with inflation and ideally generate a return above inflation.

The charity's approach to risk is as follows:

- To ensure the charity's resources are appropriately diversified across asset classes, when considering all the financial resources of the charity.
- To invest over a sufficient timeframe so to achieve higher returns and be able to weather out any shorter-term downturns in the market.

- To invest in funds with specified strategies/ trackers, rather than specific stocks or bonds, to ensure that we are utilising fund managers and strategies broader than the charity.
- To invest with reputable and respected investment managers, to safeguard the charity's assets and reputation.
- To ensure that our funds are not held with a single institution, to protect us from concentrated credit risk.

Our Finances

Independent examiner's report

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Stacy Mason FCCA
HGA Accountants & Financial
Consultants Ltd
t/a Chittenden Horley - Chartered
Accountants
Hyde Park House
Cartwright Street
Hyde
SK14 4EH

22nd May 2024

Consolidated statement of financial activities

for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.23 funds £	31.12.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	13,466	4,300	17,766	10,942
Charitable activities				
Campsites	125,359	-	125,359	77,372
Duke of Edinburgh Awards	5,265	-	5,265	4,771
Cheshire Hike	18,339	-	18,339	6,975
Investment income	6,180	-	6,180	119
Membership fees	85,766	-	85,766	41,585
International activities	14,126	-	14,126	25,443
Other scouting activities	9,457	-	9,457	-
Total	<u>277,956</u>	<u>4,300</u>	<u>282,256</u>	<u>167,207</u>
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities				
Campsites	169,159	4,300	173,459	92,606
Chamboree	-	-	-	12,862
Other Scouting Activities	48,613	-	48,613	35,818
Training	24,201	-	24,201	5,106
Duke of Edinburgh and Higher Awards	7,162	-	7,162	6,218
Cheshire Hike	15,756	-	15,756	15,870
Group Computer Systems OSM	23,220	-	23,220	18,576
Total	<u>288,111</u>	<u>4,300</u>	<u>292,411</u>	<u>187,057</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	2,436	-	2,436	(97)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	<u>(7,719)</u>	-	<u>(7,719)</u>	<u>(19,850)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	<u>578,693</u>	<u>135,239</u>	<u>713,932</u>	<u>733,782</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>570,974</u>	<u>135,239</u>	<u>706,213</u>	<u>713,932</u>

Balance sheets

As at 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31.12.23 Total funds	31.12.22 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	114,208	-	114,208	100,639
Investments	22,103	-	22,103	19,668
	<u>136,311</u>	-	<u>136,311</u>	<u>120,306</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	23,047	-	23,047	20,450
Cash at bank	497,546	135,239	632,785	659,105
	<u>520,592</u>	<u>135,239</u>	<u>655,831</u>	<u>679,555</u>
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	(85,929)	-	(85,929)	(85,929)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>434,663</u>	<u>135,239</u>	<u>569,902</u>	<u>593,626</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	570,974	135,239	706,213	713,932
NET ASSETS	<u>570,974</u>	<u>135,239</u>	<u>706,213</u>	<u>713,932</u>
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds:				
General fund			266,127	273,847
Building Fund			194,696	194,696
County Activity Fund			54,408	54,408
International Fund			8,487	8,487
Campsite Development			47,256	47,256
			<u>570,974</u>	<u>578,694</u>
Restricted funds:				
Rolling Fund			15,430	15,430
Leverhulme Fund			4,489	4,489
Presidents Fund			3,499	3,499
Ernest Mather Fund			111,821	111,821
			<u>135,239</u>	<u>135,239</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>706,213</u>	<u>713,933</u>

Approved by the Trustee Board on 14 May 2024 and authorised for release and signed on its behalf by:



Peter Mather TD
County Chair of the Trustee Board



Luke Thornton
County Treasurer

Our thanks

Cheshire Scouts would like to thank all its volunteers and supporters for their commitment and contributions over the last year

Cheshire Scouts

Charity number:
511356 (England and Wales)

Registered address:
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Barsbank Lane, Lymm
Warrington, WA13 0ED

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