

# Trustees' Annual Report

For the period

From 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021

## DC Introduction

This will be our last AGM as District Commissioner and it is therefore with a mixture of sadness and pride that I write this, my final report, on behalf of myself and Abigail. Over the past 4 years a lot has been achieved in Rea Valley and I hope the District now feels closer and more united.

The pandemic has been a huge challenge for us all as individuals and as Scouts too. I keep going back to the saying, "We are all in the same storm, but not in the same boat". The ways in which different volunteers and Groups within the District have navigated their way through the past two years has been varied and inspirational. Everyone has made the best of the situation in a way which works for them. On behalf of all our youth members, I am hugely grateful for everything that all our volunteers have done and continue to do.

While Scouting in 2021 has not always been easy, it has been hugely important. Children and young people have missed out on so much during the pandemic and whether it's teaching six-year-olds how to behave in a group, or enabling twelve-year-olds to hang out and relax with their friends, we've seen this year of all years that we make a really positive contribution to young people's lives. Going outside, getting active and being part of a team has meant so much to our young people, and to their families.

It's great to see Scouting growing again in Rea Valley, to see young people out and about enjoying themselves, and particularly to see young people meeting others across the District again and seeing that Scouting makes them part of something much bigger. There are over 31 million Scouts across the world today and Rea Valley is a very special part of this Movement.

Rea Valley is well placed to continue thriving in the future, with a good financial position and a strong team of Group Scout Leaders, Assistant District Commissioner, Deputy District Commissioners and Trustees, alongside a myriad of other brilliant volunteers. We were very pleased to welcome Jacqui as District President and Thelma as Vice-President in 2021, as well as Kate as Network Commissioner – all of whom are already having a positive impact and will continue to do so into the future.

Sending my very best wishes for a vibrant future of Scouting in Rea Valley.

Yours in Scouting,

**Rachel**

Rachel Wallace

District Commissioner (Team DC)

## Section A – Reference and administration details

Charity Name

**Rea Valley Scout District**

Registered charity number (if any)

**NA**

HQ registration number

**10001594**

Charity's principal address

**14 Powke Lane, Rowley Regis, B65 0AA**

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

(These will be published in the annual report of the charity and the Charity Register if reporting for a Registered Charity with a charity regulator)

Trustee Name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for the whole year
Robert Beesty		
Gemma Dixon	Treasurer	
Lesley Herbert		
Kate Knutton		30/06/21 – 31/12/2021
Bob Mayne		
Abigail McMillan		
Angie Mills-Cooper		
Tom Oldershaw	Secretary	
Joe Suffield	Chair	
Cath Thomas		
Matthew Vas		
Rachel Wallace		
Ben Wilding		

## Section B – Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution)

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.

How the charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company)

The District/Area/County is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods (e.g. appointed by, elected by)

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

Additional governance issues (optional information but encouraged as best practice)

The District is managed by the District Executive Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout District 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 Committee consists of 3 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the District Commissioner, District Explorer Scout Commissioner, District Scout Network Commissioner and representation from the District Scout Council. The Committee meets at least four times a year.

Members of the Executive Committee complete training which includes a trustee introduction, safety, safeguarding and GDPR within the first 5 months of joining the committee.

This District Executive Committee exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

- The maintenance of District property;
- The raising of funds and the administration of District finance;
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment;
- District public occasions;
- Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support;
- Appointing any sub committees that may be required;
- Appointing District Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

### **Risk and Internal Control**

The District Executive Committee has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them. The main areas of concern that have been identified are:

- Damage to buildings, property and equipment. The District has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.
- Injury to leaders, helpers, supporters and members. The District through the capitation fees contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk Assessments are undertaken before all activities.
- Reduced income from fund raising. The District is primarily reliant upon income from the annual District levy. The District 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 the levy to increase the income to the District on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.
- Reduction or loss of leaders. The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there was a reduction in the number of leaders to an unacceptable level in a particular section or a group as a whole, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section, or a Group.
- Reduction or loss of members. The District provides activities for young people aged 6 to 25. If there was a reduction in membership in a particular section or the group as whole then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of a section, or a Group.
- The District 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 a comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

## **Section C – Objectives and activities**

Summary of the objects of the charity 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**

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.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The District works to support Groups and Explorer Units to provide active and safe Scouting and provides activity opportunities to enhance the programme offered by Groups. The District is responsible for implementing a safe recruitment process, in line with Policy, Organisation and Rules.

Public benefit statement

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

## **Section D – Achievements and performance**

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

2021 was a year where the District gradually returned to a closer sense of normality with more face to face Scouting after 2020 when restrictions had been very tight. Many leaders and parents have commented on how much the young people have benefitted from coming back to face-to-face Scouting.

It was key that we returned safely and responsibly, and it should be recognised that our volunteers embraced the restrictions necessary to keep young people and the wider community safe as we gradually returned.

There has been a strong focus on essential training this year ensuring that after the break all leaders were up to date with their safety and safeguarding training, as this is key to serving our young people.

The break in Scouting has given many volunteers time to reflect and some have chosen not to continue. Unfortunately, this has meant that we are no longer operating Scouting at 109<sup>th</sup> Bartley Green or 321<sup>st</sup> in Ladywood. But we have also recruited many new leaders in Groups across the District and are pleased to see our youth membership numbers rising back towards pre-pandemic levels. With an additional 161 young people joining Scouting in Rea Valley during the year we now have over 1000 youth members once again.

121 young people earned one of the top awards in 2021 – a phenomenal achievement for each young person, particularly given the restrictions on face-to-face activity during the pandemic:

- 28 Chief Scout Bronze Awards
- 33 Chief Scout Silver Awards
- 24 Chief Scout Gold Awards
- 17 Chief Scout Platinum Awards
- 4 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- 13 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- 2 Explorer Belt Awards

The District is also delighted to have 8 young people from across Rea Valley selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in 2023.

## Section E – Financial Review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Quantify and explain any designations

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Executive Committee considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, circa £2,000.

The District held reserves of approximately £50,000 against this at year end. This is above the level required for operating expenses. The Trustees will consider whether any of the reserves can be released in support of the charity objectives during the coming year.

Further financial review details (optional information)

### Investment Policy

The District's Income and Expenditure is very small and as a consequence does not have sufficient funds to invest in longer-term investments such as stocks and shares. The District has therefore adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association's Short Term Investment Service.

The District Executive regularly monitors the levels of bank balances and the interest rates received to ensure the group obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn, before doing so the District Executive considers the cash flow requirements.

## Section F – Other Optional Information

Plans for future periods (details of any significant activities planned to achieve them)

Since the end of the reporting period for this report, we have been delighted to open a new Scout Group within Selly Oak Trust School. 332<sup>nd</sup> Birmingham (Selly Oak Trust School) Scout Troop meets within school time and provides Scouting activities to young people within the special educational needs setting.

## Section G – Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full Name(s)

Position (eg Secretary, Chair)

Date