



# Scouts

Hemel Hempstead

## *Hemel Hempstead District Scouts Annual Report 2022*

**Squirrels** **BEAVERS** **cubs** **SCOUTS** EXPLORERS **network**

## Hemel Hempstead District Scouts

Registered Charity Number 302536

I'm pleased to introduce this year's annual report for the Hemel Hempstead Scout District.

Such is the nature of Annual Reports that I doubt it will cause much of a stir in any circle. It is of course a document required by the rules of the Charity Commission and the Scout Association. We have reduced its contents to the bare minimum to make it more easily readable though it will still not be on many people's priority list against all that is happening and worrying in the lives of individuals, the country and the whole world at this moment in time.

However, this Report does represent yet another outstanding year of work, effort and dedication by many people in our local community serving the youth of Hemel Hempstead and providing them with new opportunities and experiences that truly give them 'Skills for Life'. Skills that these young people will shape and develop as they grow, giving them the resilience they will need whatever the future may throw at them.

For our newest members, the four year old Squirrels, more than half of their lives have been spent in the pandemic amidst lockdowns and restrictions. More than ever our young people need Scouting and all it does to open their eyes to the world they live in and help them understand it.

It is good to see that scouting is still flourishing and I want to thank everyone that supports us for helping in that success. Your continuing support is appreciated and valued and the young people in our District are benefitting from your efforts.

**Thank you**

*Keith Gower* District Chairman

Hemel Hempstead District Scouts

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**Registered Charity Number** 302536

## The District Commissioner's Year

Who would believe it? A 22.5% annual increase in members! In reality this is the Covid "bounce back" but still testament to the hard work of so many volunteer leaders, committee members and parents to meet the demand from young people and their families to get back to normal.

I wrote last year about looking forward to seeing what the "new normal" would look like and I'm pleased to say that many firm favourite events and routines remain. Our calendar was packed full, again with a schedule of badge days, trips and outings. My thanks, as always, to those make these happen and it's been great to see and hear about the activities groups are doing jointly too.

All the pictures from these events are shared on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/hemel.scouts](http://www.facebook.com/hemel.scouts)) and a video review of the year can be found at <https://www.hemel-scouts.co.uk/downloads-new/annual-report/>

In October, 28 young people put themselves forward for selection to participate in the 2023 World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. I'm pleased to say that Warrick, Emily, Natalie, Isabelle, Bonnie and William were selected and are excitedly looking forward to their participation in the as are the numerous adults heading out as part of the volunteer service crew and UK contingent support team.

With the world opening back up and travel restrictions lifting, we're putting plans in place for our next round of Summer expeditions:

- 2023 – Haarlem Jamborette
- 2024 – Kandersteg, Switzerland
- 2025 – Lochearnhead, Scotland

Our partnership with the Woodlands Pre-school who meet daily at the HQ in Warners End continues to provide a stable income, added to which the income from our Scotu Shop, surpluses made on various district events and the Covid grants have put us in an enviable financial position with funds available to loan to Scout Groups if required to help develop facilities or invest in new equipment/resources.

Thanks to research and work by two members of the district executive, we have invested over £50,000 of this into a well-established investment funds to benefit from a better interest rate and expect to receive up to £1,000 in interest over the year.

This combination of effort, expertise and enthusiasm from both uniformed leaders and members of the district executive and various sub-committees leave me I no doubt that the future of the district looks very promising indeed.

I would like to end my report with a heartfelt thanks for all the effort by volunteers across the district, especially due to the extra effort required to get Scouting re-established post-pandemic.

*Russ Dyble*

District Commissioner

## Policies and Targets

The District Executive Committee has been working hard to keep up with the continually evolving guidance provided by The Scout Association and the Charity Commission. During the past few years, guided by our Chairman and District Commissioner, we have implemented a number of Procedural and Financial policies within the District, and set ourselves targets for coming years. We expect these initiatives to continue.

### Financial Policy and Reserves

The District maintains the following Reserves for development and unexpected expenditure:

- General District Reserve
- International Activities and Jamboree reserve
- District Scout Shop development reserve
- District Headquarters reserve

The following Policy was adopted in 2013:

*“Where possible we do not want to increase Reserves or Subscriptions”  
(In fact for 2014 the District Subscription was reduced, and it remained unchanged for 2015.  
For 2016 there was a slight increase following the change to the HQ subscription model.)*

### Other Policies

This District works to the Scout Association policies on Safety and Safeguarding

The following District policies are in place:

- Policy on Financial Reserves
- Policy on Expense Claims
- Policy on Budgeting for District Events
- Policy on District Support in cases of Hardship
- Policy on the use of personal data in compliance with Data Protection

These Policies are stated on the District Website.

### Targets

The District's main target is to widen the provision of Scouting and increase membership locally. This is being achieved by supporting Groups to expand and extending the range of activities provided within the District.

