

...EVERYDAY ADVENTURE



*Hemel Hempstead
District Scouts
Annual Report
2017*

BEAVERS  **cubs**  **scouts**  **EXPLORERS**  **network** 

Hemel Hempstead District Scouts

Registered Charity Number 302536



Welcome to another Annual Report: it gives us another year to reflect upon and another year to look forward to.

Over the last year there have been many notable achievements for the District as a whole, as well as the individual Groups within it. For full details you will need to visit the Hemel Scouts website but in summary suffice to say that the number of scouting activities is growing, the variety of scouting activities are growing, the challenge of scouting activities is growing, the time spent on scouting activities is growing, the money spent on providing scouting in the District is growing, the facilities and resources available for scouting are growing, the number of sections within Groups are growing and the number of young people involved in this adventure is still growing too.

To achieve continual growth and development is no mean feat and is undoubtedly a result of a tremendous amount of time, talent and effort by all the leaders and supporters working within the District. Whether they be uniformed or not, attend weekly section meetings or help on an occasional basis, their combined contributions result in something truly spectacular that can not be beaten by any other voluntary organisation nor for that matter any professional institution.

I congratulate each and every one of you on your achievement and thank you for your contribution to the team. You can all be proud of Scouting in Hemel Hempstead and should all know that your contribution is appreciated. The experiences, memories and enjoyment you have given to the young people will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Thank you

Keith Gower District Chairman

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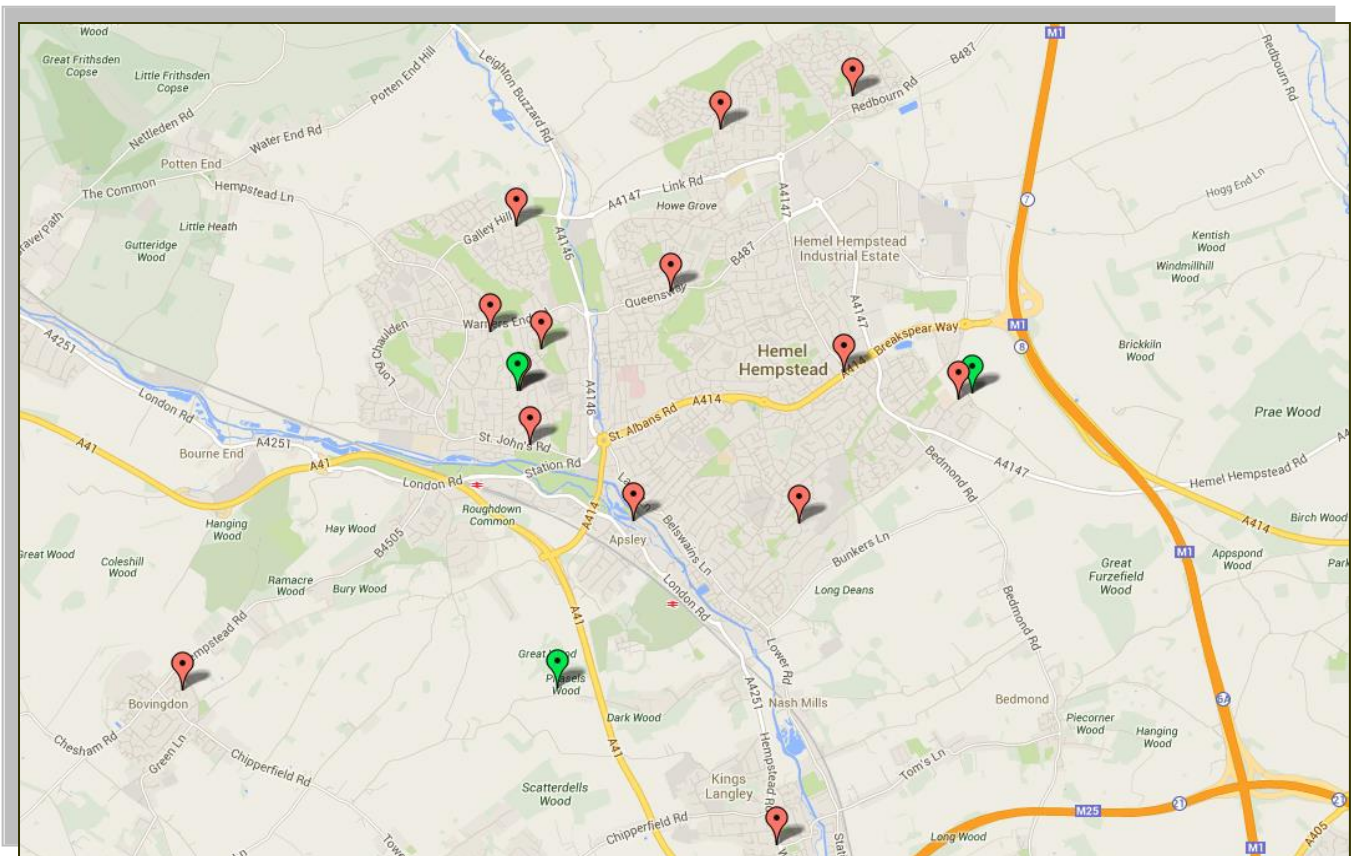
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Hemel Hempstead Scout District Video Report

As usual, the Groups and Units have run an incredibly wide range of activities and so following great feedback from last year's video showing the highlights, we've produced another one for 2016 – please take a look:

www.hemel-scouts.co.uk/2016.



Hemel Hempstead District Scouts

DC : Russ Dyble, 110 Poynders Hill, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4PN

Mob: 07790 296378 **Email:** dc@hemel-scouts.co.uk **Web:** www.hemel-scouts.co.uk
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The District Commissioner's Year

2016 was another great year for our District with even more young people enjoying all the adventures provided by our superb and committed volunteer leaders. Nearly every group increased their membership with young people and adults getting involved thanks to the quality of activities, some active recruitment and improved joining processes.

A special mention goes to the new parents leaders joining us at 4th Hemel Hempstead's new Beaver Scout colony and the continued growth and new sections at 1st Gadebridge. Whilst Scouting relies on teamwork, it also requires leadership - both these projects have been ably supported by Simon Fancourt so I'd like to put my thanks on record to him for all the work he's done to develop Scouting across the district.

Across the district last year we spent 4,199 nights away - down slightly from previous years because there was no international expedition but still no mean feat. This includes all the group/unit weekend sleepovers, camps and expeditions plus the hugely popular "Come to Tolmers", led by Jan Maddern in the summer.

I am grateful as always to the District Team and Executive for their efforts to support local Scouting to flourish - over the last 12 months we have invested quite a significant sum of money into facilities, buildings and equipment. Using the district's funds at both district and group level ensures we are using the finances we have to help provide the best Scouting for young people, and support adults where possible to make volunteering more efficient and enjoyable. By way of interest-free loans to Scout Groups we are maximising this even further by being able to use the money more than once. The district executive plan to extend this during 2017.

As always, my final thanks go to the leaders in each colony, pack, troop and unit, without whom Scouting just wouldn't happen.

Russ Dyble

District Commissioner Hemel Hempstead Scout District

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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, opening a new Group, and extending the range of Activities provided within the District.

In 2014 we achieved our target of 1000 young members, and at the start of 2015 our youth membership was the highest ever at 1013. During 2015 this grew again to 1052, and during 2016 to 1125.

During 2017 we will continue to stabilise and strengthen existing provision, while continuing to grow Scouting in Hemel Hempstead District.

Scout Groups and Units in Hemel Hempstead District

Group Name	Adults	Youth		
	January 2017	January 2017		
		Male	Female	Total
1st Apsley	51	174	76	250
1st Bennetts End	16	35	9	44
1st Bovington	10	48	7	55
3rd Boxmoor	20	60	0	60
4th Boxmoor	7	32	11	43
1st Gadebridge	12	63	19	82
1st Hemel Hempstead (Queensway)	14	48	5	53
2nd Hemel Hempstead (Grovehill)	16	49	14	63
4th Hemel Hempstead (Woodhall Farm)	8	26	9	35
5th Hemel Hempstead (Adeyfield Free Church)	7	39	3	42
7th Hemel Hempstead (Lockers Park)	4	51	0	51
1st Kings Langley	23	75	26	101
1st Leverstock Green	24	87	18	105
1st Woodfield	3	3	3	6
District Explorer Scouts and Young Leaders	13	81	30	111
District Scout Network	0	16	8	24
Active Support	21			
*Note 1: District Team	13			
TOTALS	262	887	238	1125

*1. Team total excludes those counted elsewhere

District Grand Total 1387