



Scouts

Hemel Hempstead

*Hemel Hempstead District Scouts
Annual Report 2021*

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.

I suspect that many Annual Report from all sorts of organisations will read in a very similar way this year. The year started normally, the coronavirus hit the world and the year stopped.

Whilst there may be an element of truth in such a report it would only be reporting on the negative side of the year that has passed. 2020 has also offered us the opportunity to look at new ways of organising and working and that opportunity has been grabbed with both hands by many.

I would like to congratulate and thank more than ever those who have taken to virtual and greatly restricted physical limitations on our activities yet still managed to provide Scouting and support young people throughout the District with 'Skills for Life'

As ever that commitment has been given in spite of personal losses and hardships and fun, humour and enjoyment have won through.

As the pandemic now starts to ease the work of rebuilding will start and I hope that we will all be able to support each other to ensure that all that is good in Scouting continues to reach the greatest number of people that it can.

2020 has not been the end but merely the start of a new and exciting chapter in the life of the District. Thank you to all that have helped and are helping to write that story.

Thank you

Keith Gower District Chairman

Hemel Hempstead District Scouts

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The District Commissioner's Year

What an unusual year!

It would be easy to define the year by regular events that haven't happened or what has had to be done differently but every year there events we run once-only and innovation comes – this year has simply accelerated that and I think we've seen some incredible examples of imagination and ingenuity throughout 2020.

However, it is also fair to say that many of us have missed the human-interaction that Scouting offers, the friendship and camaraderie, laughs, challenges and adventures. As we write this report those are slowly starting to re-appear and it's great to see things opening back up again and the sound of chatter and smell of wood smoke starting to fill the air again.

Many people have worked as hard as ever, if not more so in the last year and for the executive/organisational side of the district this has certainly been the case – our executive committee meetings have continued, dozens of Covid risk assessments have been reviewed and approved, our buildings have required more of our attention than in previous years and our finances have required more scrutiny than before because of events which haven't happened.

It would be remiss not to mention the financial support received from the government, via Dacorum Borough Council – at the last count we have received over £30,000 which has more than covered the shortfall in the pre-school income which was missing for some time, fundraising not completed and a lack of shop sales for the best part of 12 months.

As we come out of the lockdown and restrictions on social activities are eased, the executive will be looking at how to invest this in such a way as to best support the Scout Groups in our district – including ensuring families hit by Covid are able to participate in Scouting when they need in more than ever and that the cashflow of Scout Groups who have not charged full subscriptions does not interrupt the delivery of activities.

More so than any other year, I offer my thanks and gratitude to everyone involved in ensuring Scouting continues to provide fun, challenge, adventure and companionship to young people and adults alike – in a year when we've needed some of these things more than ever!

I look forward to next year's report being back to tales of activity and sharing with you what "the new normal" shapes up to be in Hemel Hempstead district.

Russ Dyble

District Commissioner

Hemel Hempstead Scout District

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.

