

The Malverns Scout District

Registered Charity No: 1030019

Trustees Annual Report

1st April 2019 - 31st March 2020



District Secretary: Susan Revell, Berrows Bank, Hollybush, Ledbury, HR8 1SG

Website: www.malvernscouts.org.uk

- In accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association, the mission of The Malvern Scout District is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.
- The method of achieving this is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership
- The purpose of the Scout District is to provide leadership, advice and support to 11 Scout Groups (1st, 2nd & 7th Malvern, 1st Malvern Link, 1st Malvern Wells, 1st Leigh, 1st Ledbury, 1st Colwall, 1st Cradley, 1st Bosbury, and 1st Upton upon Severn) and 6 District Explorer Scout Units. Scout Network and Scout Active Support assist in this effort, especially (in the latter case) by managing the District Camp Site.
- Groups are autonomous and have exciting opportunities for Beaver Scouts (aged 6-8 Years), Cub Scouts (aged 8-10½), Scouts (aged 10½-14), through the progressive award schemes. Explorer Scouts (aged 14-18) and Scout Network (18-25 years) continue this development and award system. From 14 years of age, youth members can become Young Leaders in the younger age sections.

District President:

Derek Barnes

Trustees:

District Commissioner:

Maureen and Ryan Heath

District Chairman:

Pauline Richardson

District Treasurer:

David Cashmore

District Secretary:

Susan Revell

District Explorer Scout Commissioner:

Adrian Ward

District Camp Site Administrator:

Pete Ashcroft

County Representative:

Ken Lloyd

18-25 Representative:

Vacant

ADC (Adult Support & Training)

Vacant

Network:

Ben Johnstone

Appointments Chair:	Vacant
<u>Other Key Roles:</u>	
Assistant District Commissioner Scouts:	Paul Bennett
Assistant District Commissioner Cub Scouts:	Debbie Harrison
Assistant District Commissioner Beaver Scouts:	Maureen Heath
Appointments Secretary: appointment)	Derek Barnes (Temporary
Nights Away Adviser:	Tony Tyler
Wood Badge Secretary	Mike Wood
District Campsite Warden:	Dan Hughes

The Malverns District is just one part of the global Scout Movement which has a youth membership of over 31 million in 216 countries and territories.

- The Districts constitution is published in Chapter 4 of the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association, established by Royal Charter granted on 4 January 1912.
- The District is a trust and an educational charity, established under the Scout Associations rules that are common to all Scouts.
- The Trustees (the District Executive Committee) manage the District and meet roughly every two months. The District Executive Committee is responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities, including registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission and Scout Association as appropriate.

The District Executive Committee:

Exists to develop and support Scouting in the District and is responsible for:

- Helping Groups and Leaders in meeting their responsibilities
- The maintenance of District property
- The raising of funds and the administration of District finance
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment
- Appointing adult volunteers and assisting in recruitment and training
- Appointing any sub committees that may be required
- Appointing District Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected
- District Scouting activities and public occasions.

Risk & Internal Controls:

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 comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that reasonable risks are covered. The District conducts risk assessments for all activities and provides guidance to Groups and Units on how they should do similarly.

Valuable Contribution by Volunteers:

The District appreciates the generosity, time and effort of a team of talented and committed volunteers and the Baden Powell Guild, all of whom impact directly and indirectly on the District's activities. The District does not employ any paid workers.

Summary of the main achievements of the Charity during the year:

- Continued management and maintenance of Warren Oak District Campsite
- Assisted in recruiting adult volunteer leaders/ assistants
- Vetted with DBS checks, appointed & inducted new volunteers and reviewed and re-vetted some existing volunteers (on a 3 or 5 year system)
- Provided Initial and First Response training and support for volunteers and training for Trustees
- Organised District activities for young members in all five Sections
- Provided financial support for leader training courses

Challenges & Opportunities:

In order to satisfy the demand for Scouting in the District, continuing promotion, recruitment and support of adults as leaders, administrators, trustees, and supporters is needed. There exists the opportunity to open new Sections in existing Groups and to strengthen some Groups and existing Sections.

FINANCIAL REVIEW.

Reserves Policy:

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, and to hold funds to support individuals and Groups in times of urgent need. Trustees consider that the District should hold a sum of £4k (equivalent to 12 months running costs, excluding subscriptions payable to Headquarters and County) plus £15k to meet any immediate needs of members, Groups and Units within the District and the District's Campsite at Warren Oak. The District held total reserves of approximately £28k at the year end.

Investment Policy:

The District does not have sufficient funds to invest in long term investments. The District has therefore adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream Banks or Building Societies.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REPORT

The year began with a fantastic county camp here at the Three Counties Showground in Malvern. Feedback from this event from young people, parents and leaders has been very positive and every group is looking forward to the next Shirejam camp which is planned for 8th -10th July 2022 and which will again be held at the Three Counties Showground. In March face to face scouting came to an abrupt halt due to the Covid pandemic but many leaders did not let this deter them and it was fantastic to see that weekly meetings continued via virtual meetings using zoom and virtual huts. Some groups set weekly challenges to engage with the young people and many badges were earned throughout this period. Leaders were able to take advantage of many resources offered from county and those published online via 1st Scouting facebook page. When you think of putting on a virtual meeting and not having to worry about planning a face to face meeting you would initially think that this would be an easier option. In fact, it is quite the opposite our thanks go out to all the leaders for all their efforts during this time, it is not easy and can be very stressful and disheartening at times. Thank You! Now that certain restrictions have started to be lifted, sections are being given the opportunity to begin face to face meetings, as long as they have an approved risk assessment and show that they are Covid safe. This is not mandatory and so far only a handful of sections have started to meet. Others are not comfortable for various reasons to start back face to face and will continue to provide scouting in other forms as far as possible.

The numbers of young people in The Malverns District has increased for another year to 733, numbers of Beavers, Cubs and Explorers have decreased slightly but an increase in the Scout section helped to increase numbers overall.

Over the next year we hope to start working with the Scout and Explorer sections to help improve links between these sections and propose link events to help with this process. We will also continue to support groups and leaders as they start to return back to face to face scouting. Talking to parents in the District shows that the number of young people wanting to return to scouting is still high and our main focus will remain helping groups to recruit more leaders to help within the groups.

Unfortunately, after a lot of effort by 1st Colwall we had to cancel this years St. George's Day parade but hope to continue to hold the event next year with Colwall leading.

We would like to thank Derek Barnes who has spent a fair amount of time this year on the new and improved District Website, which we plan to continue to develop over the coming year. Derek has also kindly offered to take on the role of appointments secretary on a temporary basis to push through an extending list of new appointments.

Training within the District is also something that has not been able to continue face to face, however there are a number of online course which leaders have accessed during this period to progress their training and we would urge all leaders to check their Compass records to ensure their training is updated before we return to face to face scouting.

We would like to reiterate our thanks to all the leaders and helpers in the district for all the scouting they have provided over the last year. We would also like to thank all the parents who have encouraged and supported their child(ren). Lastly we would also like to thank all of the District team for all their help in continuing to support all scouting in The Malverns

Yours in Scouting

Maureen and Ryan

BEAVER SCOUTS

The 2019/2020 year started very well in July Shirejam with most Beaver Colonies attending the camp at the Three Counties Showground with approx. 2000 young people attending from all over Hereford and Worcester County. This was a really amazing weekend with so many activities to join in with from Caving to Archery, Lighting fires to Crafting. I know that everyone who attended really had a great time and we look forward to the next one!

In October we held our now annual District Hogwarts Sleepover which once again proved very popular. Colonies from around the District came together to put on their hats, cloaks and gather their wands for another magical weekend from shopping in Diagon Alley to riding the 'Hogwarts Express' (local train from Hereford to Birmingham) much to the delight of our fellow travellers. Once we arrived at Hogwarts (Known to muggles as 2nd Malvern Scout Hut) the beavers were sorted by the hat into their houses for the weekend. After a feast in the great hall the students were escorted by their prefects (District young leaders) for the weekend to their lessons which included Herbology, Transfiguration, Quidditch, Potions, Muggle Studies, Defence Against the Dark Arts and Divination. It was great to see so many smiling faces – and not just from the students! A truly exhausting but magical weekend for everyone involved.

Our next District event was Mini O's in March. This year we held the BlinC day for older Beavers and younger Cubs at Dyson Perrins which was very well attended. This is an opportunity for the older Beavers to mix with their counterparts in Cubs by working together in teams to gain points in activities like shooting (getting peas into a milk bottle!) Discus, Landmark Quiz to name a few. Another fun filled afternoon.

The Beavers had planned to hold a Water Activities day but along with St Georges Day these events had to be put on hold due to the pandemic. This has been a very strange and difficult time for everyone and I would like to thank all the leaders for everything that they have done for Scouting this year, some colonies have managed to continue scouting through virtual methods by creating challenges or holding zoom meetings and although the take up for these has been less than a face to face colony meeting it has been great to keep that contact with the young people.

Maureen Heath
ADC Beavers
The Malverns

CUB SCOUTS

We had a great start to the year with a great attendance at the SHIREJAM county camp. As expected with any large event, especially one which has not been held for decades, somethings did not quite go to plan but, as ever our leaders helped each other out, adapted to unexpected circumstances and our Young people still had a memorable and fabulous time. A big thank you to all the leaders and their adult helpers for all the time spent in preparations and being so flexible and adaptable on the weekend itself to make it such a success. Having been part of the organisational team i can honestly say the Malverns district did more than pull its weight :-).

Having said that - it was exhausting and as such the district's cub leaders agreed that for this year we would not be planning a district camp or special day event, especially as some groups had special anniversaries to celebrate and already had lots of events in the pipeline.

The Autumn term is usually quiet in terms of district events, as we all adjust to new members, have our own local commemorations for Remembrance day and our own Christmas Events, but in Spring we started off with a Leaders Curry in Malvern Link - great night, great company and great food. We then had the annual BLINC event which the beavers were hosting this year and that was well attended by Beavers and cubs. Shortly afterwards the cubs had their annual Quiz and Chips - again it was well attended and a good time had by all. I need to say a special thank you to Meg of 1st Malvern for hosting it, as i'd double booked myself - as ever Malvern Leaders step in to help each other out :-). We would have all been looking to see each other at the St. George's Day parade but COVID19 altered the world and as such we have not met up since. Some Groups have managed to keep meetings running using virtual meetings, others have set challenges online and others have managed to start meeting face to face - albeit in smaller groups. Whatever each group has managed to do, our young people have still been engaged and earning their badges and showing that scouting stops for nobody or anything!

Having recently taken a step back in my own cub pack, I hope to be able to spend more time addressing issues with district Cubs and, once social distancing restrictions allow, get around to visiting the district packs as they adjust to the new normal!

SCOUTS

Awaiting report

EXPLORERS

Awaiting report

SCOUT NETWORK

The Scout Network has had a boost this year thanks to Zak Page and Ben Johnstone. Plans to engage with all the explorers turning 18 as well as existing young leaders, were well underway prior to lockdown and the plan is to restart this once we are able to meet again in larger groups.

WARREN OAK

Warren Oak District Camp Site – Report 2019/20

This year's camping season was quite poor to start with and then got worse with camping numbers of 1600 nights camped. It left the crew feeling deflated! After last years excellent numbers we had a very quiet 2019 summer with plenty of camps but small numbers. The schools DofE keeping the figures up to a break-even point.

We were looking forward to a very busy spring / summer 2020 with many long a large camps booked even by February then the world changed and the site has not been used for the remainder of the report period.

The site hosted the usual mix of scouting and non-scouting parties these included:-

3 County Events
1 District Camp
18 Scout groups (some visiting more than once)
3 Explorer Units
7 D of E camps
3 Guide groups

Once again we harvested the willow from our wastewater treatment plant from winter into spring. We thank the band of helpers who gave of their time to help us and greatly speeded the process. If anyone knows of people who may want willow please get in touch.

The grass cutting is calming down now after a strong growing season, Ken Stanley is doing a sterling job when regulations allow even with the site shut the grass still needs cutting. Ken Trahearn has again carried out the hedge cutting this year which helps us out no end.

We set out this winter to renovate the toilet block in the off season! Little did we know how long that off season would last? We had just started to paint when the ceiling in the Pack Holiday centre collapsed because a plumbing fitting had failed. Two inches of water throughout to be mopped out and the floor dried with industrial dehumidifiers then we were ready to put a new ceiling up and redecorate. Fixing machinery, fence repairs, and tree & shrub pruning filled the rest of our spare time.

The crew hope you are able to come and enjoy your site at some point during the season and look forward to seeing you there. If anyone feels they could offer any time to help please get in touch.

Pete, Dan, Nige & Tony

Contact Pete Ashcroft on pete.ashcroft@talk21.com



Baden-Powell Guild of Great Britain

Malvern Branch
Report to the AGM March 2020

Report on the year's activities and events



Fund Raising: a Coffee Morning; Manning the Lost Person Point at the Three Counties Show Ground; occasional raffles & donations raised over **£2000** during the year, a significant increase on the previous year.

Service to Scouting, Guiding & the Community: Pensioners Tea; Riding for the Disabled donation, Chernobyl Children's Lifeline, donation for transport. Scout District

help with St Georges Day Parade & Service. Refreshments for District & County Training Days. Running a café at Shirejam 2019, the Hereford & Worcester Scout County Camp. Hire of 1st Malvern Link Scout HQ for meetings and donations towards attendance at the World Scout Jamboree and the European Jamboree. Equipment for Scout & Explorer Scout Units. Additional racking and storage boxes for 5th Malvern Link Guide Unit. These totalled just over **£1500.00**. This included further support for the 7 Scouts from this District who attended the World Scout Jamboree and the County contingent who will be attending the European Jamboree in 2020. The presentation of the Lew Nash Trophy was made to Thomas Lane Cassell at a meeting of 7th Malvern Beavers where he is a leader.

International: Money raised for the Nepal Educational Support Trust. Guild neckerchiefs worn on World Scout Scarf Day. Attendance of 2 members at the ISGF Europe Region Conference in Bremen, Germany.

Branch events: Monthly branch meetings were enlivened by quizzes, poems & prose, and skittles, and talks from the County Scout party that went to Kenya and the Malvern Mayor. We enjoyed many group mid-week lunches and a special Christmas meal. There was a good turnout of members for the 41st National AGM, held at Poulton Hall, Bebington. Members enjoyed a fish & chip cruise on the River Severn from Upton.

We have also ‘lost’ several members due to their no longer being able to attend meetings and several friends in the last year and we remember them with great affection. We have recruited 8 new members and welcome them into the fun and friendship of belonging to our branch.

We are already well into our programme for 2020 and our main focus this year will be, fundraising in order to continue to support Scouting & Guiding in the Malverns District and also in the wider Herefordshire & Worcestershire Scout County, with a particular emphasis on environmental projects.