

The Malverns Scout District
Registered Charity No: 1030019



Trustees Annual Report
1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021

District Secretary: Susan Revell, Berrow 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 Years), Scouts (aged 10½ - 14 Years), through the progressive award schemes. Explorer Scouts (aged 14-18 Years) 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
<u>Trustees:</u>	
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:	Ben Johnstone
18-25 Representative:	Vacant
ADC (Adult Support & Training)	Vacant
Network:	Ben Johnstone

Appointments Chair:	Vacant
<u>Other Key Roles:</u>	
Assistant District Commissioner Scouts:	Vacant
Assistant District Commissioner Cub Scouts:	Debbie Harrison
Assistant District Commissioner Beaver Scouts:	Maureen Heath
Appointments Secretary:	Derek Barnes (Temporary appointment)
Nights Away Adviser:	Dick Brocklehurst
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 generally meet 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 £4000 (equivalent to 12 months running costs, excluding subscriptions payable to Headquarters and County) plus £15000 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 £28000 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

Firstly, we would like to start with a big **Thank You** to all the leaders and helpers in The Malvern's for everything that they have all done for the Young People in our District during a very difficult time for everyone and we appreciate all of the new and inventive ways that they have adapted the scouting programme to virtual weekly meetings whilst ensuring that all necessary requirements set out by the scout association were met. We have heard many comments from grateful parents for all the challenges that were set or virtual meetings that were held which gave a 'very slight' normality to the weekly scouting evenings for many of our young people.

Quite a few Groups also took advantage of the county set challenges such as Shirehike which allowed the young people to earn hiking badges under their own steam, whilst staying in their local area. It has been great to see the collaboration between different sections within groups to help ensure that scouting was still taking place. The district has continued to issue a number of badges including top awards to the young people during this time.

Slowly The Malverns is starting to get back to a bit of normality with Groups starting to meet face to face once again and although initially the risk assessments that were needed were a little daunting, with the help of Derek Barnes, Groups were able to ensure that all covid risk areas were noted and mitigations put in place. So once again our sincere thanks go out to Derek for his help and support.

Numbers within the district have taken a significant fall of around 21%, during the past 12 months, however recent data on online scout manager is showing a steep climb since face to face scouting restarted and enquiries to join are coming in daily. We hope that we will be able to report a significant increase at next year's AGM.

Leader training has slowed during this period although the County training team have been running certain modules virtually which a few leaders have taken advantage of. Mandatory training requirements including safety and safeguarding has become a requirement for all leaders prior to starting back face to face. The number of adults within the district that are not up to date with their mandatory training has reduced but there is still some work to do to get everyone compliant and we would like to ask everyone to check their compass records to ensure that their training is up to date.

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



MALVERN DISTRICT BEAVER SCOUTS 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

It has been a very strange time for all members of Scouting in The Malvern's over the last year and I would like to take this opportunity to officially thank all the Beaver Leaders, helpers and Young Leaders for everything that they have done to promote scouting over the last year.

There have been many stories of challenges being set for the Beavers during lockdown which have been taken up very enthusiastically. Many Beaver colonies ran virtual meetings, this was not always easy but again those that joined, together with their parents had nothing but praise for the efforts that the leaders put in.

All colonies have again started to meet face to face, some with the support of Cub packs in the district where we have lost a few leaders. We hope to start recruiting for new leaders in all sections in the coming year and if you know of anyone who would be interested please ask them to get in touch. The numbers of Beaver Scout members have remained fairly steady through the Covid pandemic and we have started to see a big increase in member enquires through the headquarters website with colonies reporting again that they are almost full which is great and waiting lists again starting to grow.

I am sure that it will take a few months for everything to hopefully get back to normal and we can once again start to think of new events for the District Beaver programme. If you have any ideas please let me know.

Maureen Heath
ADC Beavers
The Malverns

CUB SCOUTS

2020/2021 has seen continued disruption due to COVID restrictions and lockdowns. Each Pack did their best in unprecedented circumstances and despite the difficulties posed, leaders maintained contact with their Cubs to ensure they did not feel forgotten and by the summer term all are back meeting face-to-face with their young people.

There were no District events planned, but there was a district contribution to the County led Great Egg Hunt. Many groups and individuals also took part in the County Shirehike challenge and earned the national 'Love the Great Indoors' challenge badges.

Whilst lockdowns meant meeting face to face was not always possible, many made use of Zoom and ran virtual meetings, meanwhile others set online challenges, and many packs made use of the county Shirehike and the National 'Great Indoors' challenges. Cubs in the Malverns have continued to gain new skills (cooking at home, learning new crafts, creating indoor dens, camping in their gardens, creating bug hotels, helping others by shopping for neighbours and generating videos of

themselves to provide Christmas entertainment for residents of local care homes, etc) and earned their silver awards!

We have seen several Groups pull together to help all sections return to face-to-face meetings. The format of these meetings has differed for each pack due to the challenges of getting risk assessments authorised and ensuring adequate adult support is available to run COVID safe activities, but all are up and running now and some have even been able to camp out too.

For many packs the challenge will be to address the ever increasing waiting lists!

ADC(cubs) Malverns
Debs Harrison

SCOUTS

No Report

EXPLORER SCOUTS

Leigh ESU

April 2020 we were hoping to go on Summer Camp to Josselin in Brittany with 9 Explorers from Leigh and 9 Explorers from Western. Unfortunately this was cancelled in the hope of reinstating the camp in 2021, but this has also been abandoned. Summer Term 2020 saw us trying various challenges and zoom meetings which started out well but then tapered off. After this time we lost most of our 16 and 17 year old members. In September 2020 with reduced numbers we ran a varied outdoor and socially distanced programme including Canoe building until the next Lockdown in November 2020 stopped everything. After Easter 2021 we were down to 2 Explorers so we have decided to try to re-launch this September.

Stuart Diplock ESL

Beacon ESU

Numbers plummeted as older members left however we are now 9 having had a new intake with another three ready to be invested, so we're back on track. No camps have been managed this year, no progression on badges but the last terms programme was fun. We had an excellent day dinghy sailing and Aqua park play with some Tigger members joining us. We have a weekend planned at Kinver and Scuba diving in the process of being organised as well as plenty of practice team building for Camp Cockerel in the hope it will go ahead this year.

*John, Nick and Callum
Beacon ESLs*

Western ESU

Meetings have restarted this last term, with 6-7 explorer scouts, albeit only outside. We have two Leaders who are being supported by parents and other Group leaders. There is a planning meeting this week to which I have said I will go and offer encouragement. So in essence Western ESU is functioning but, as I am sure elsewhere, it will be some time before anything like normal service is resumed.

Doc Scholefield ESL

Phoenix ESU

There are currently 16 Explorers and 4 Leaders.

We restarted when outdoor meetings were permitted and have focused on hikes, wide games and preparing for expeditions. Highlights included walking to Upton for Fish and Chips, Orienteering with coloured cones on the Old Hills and a refugee themed incident hike on Peachfield common. We have a platinum expedition planned, along the hills and staying at Eastnor.

Jeremy Baxter ESL

Tigger ESU

The last year has been extremely difficult for us due to changes in the circumstances of the Unit Leader caused directly by the pandemic and no meetings were held from April 2020 right through to June 2021. We are now up and running but numbers are down from 13 to 9 as we lost 7 older members however, some scouts have moved up. Our 2020 summer camp had to be cancelled and although no plans for 2021 we will have for 2022. An overnight bivouac hike is planned this Autumn.

Adrian Ward DESC

Young Leaders

Although the Young Leaders have been supporting the Scout Groups, there has been little coordinated support in the District due to difficulties in the leadership team. We are in the process of rebuilding the team and look forward to implementing a District support network before the end of 2021.

Adrian Ward DESC

Summary

It has been a difficult year for the Explorer age group with many of the activities associated with the units not being able to take place due to the restrictions. Also many members of the leadership teams were key workers throughout the pandemic and could not afford the time needed for the enormous amount of work necessary to plan meetings etc. With restrictions now beginning to ease we are able to look again at implementing a more normal programme and are actively looking for Explorer Leaders to replace those who have been lost and to add to the current leadership teams.

I would like to thank all of our Explorer Leaders and helpers for the efforts they have put in during this difficult period.

Adrian Ward DESC

SCOUT NETWORK

No Report

WARREN OAK

This year's camping season was the worst in the 30 plus years of the site. It left the crew feeling very deflated! We have had 3 camps in the reporting period with a total of 275 nights camped. We have had several evening visits from local groups which helped keep our spirits up.

Even after the restrictions were eased many got in touch with the promise of booking only to decide later that they did not wish to come. This led to a lot of frustration

The site hosted the following scouting parties :-

3 Scout groups

We struggled to grapple with the rules over whether we were allowed to meet to harvest the willow from our wastewater treatment plant and in the end the moment had passed with only a small amount of the total cut. This will leave a large job for the next year's harvest with much now being too large to cut with loppers and will need to be sawn.

The grass has had 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 have through the quite time completed the decoration of the toilet block and carried out any repairs required on the buildings, other than that we have kept motivated cutting hedges, strimming and clearing areas we haven't seen in a while.

The crew hope you are able to come and enjoy your site at some point during next 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 & Paul

Contact Pete Ashcroft on pete.ashcroft@talk21.com



BADEN POWELL GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN MALVERN BRANCH REPORT to the AGM February 2021

Report on the year's activities and events

The year started well, Stuart Diplock reported on the environment project being carried out by Leigh Explorer Unit. It was agreed to support this project with the purchase of saplings and hedging plants. A donation of £150 towards new flags was agreed for Bewdley Scout Group.

Following the meeting the Mayor of Malvern gave a most interesting talk and a donation was made to his fundraising.

Many forthcoming events were planned and looked forward to. The branch held its AGM in February and the annual report highlighted many events from a busy 2019.

Members attended the National AGM held as part of a social gathering at The Somerset Hotel, Llandudno and despite the rising number of people suffering from the new Covid-19 virus a branch meeting was held on 14th March, with a very interesting talk from a member of Malvern Community Forest.

Money had also been donated for Tigger ESU to plant trees at Warren Oak and a donation was agreed for a local Scout who was going on the County trip to Norway. However, it was decided not to go ahead with the planned 1st April lunch and events and meetings for the rest of the year were left for decisions to be made later.

Events were then taken out of our hands by the Government announcing an almost total 'lock down'. Events planned for March/April & May, were cancelled. The branch executive managed a meeting in June where decisions were made to cancel or postpone events and meetings planned for June/July/Aug. It was hoped to make a start back to meeting and events in September, meanwhile a weekly Newsletter for Malvern Branch was produced to keep members up to date and in touch. At a branch executive meeting in August, events (outdoor) were planned for Sept & October. In September members visited Hellens, at Much Marcle after a tour of the house we were able to enjoy tea in the gardens. October saw us on a 'Walking Quiz' finishing at the tearoom on Gt. Malvern Station. With virus infection rates rising, the branch held its first 'online' meeting in November, taking part in a Bonfire Night Quiz. December saw us walking (individually) again answering questions set by Iris & Peter on the Christmas Shop Windows in Gt. Malvern.

Many members supported the branch and Allan Page by purchasing his wooden planters and Christmas trees, he was able to make a donation to the branch of £200 – thank you Allan.

Already many physical events planned for 2021 have been cancelled, however many of us have newly found technical skills which enable us to meet online, including our AGM!!

Sue Page
Branch Secretary
Feb 2021

Badge Account Summary
Malvern Hills District
Financial Year 01/04/20 to 31/03/2021
Status at 11/07/2021

1. Value of stock at cost at start of FY =	£2606
2. Cost of Purchases made during the year =	<u>£881</u>
	£3487
3. Value of stock at cost at end of FY =	<u>£2708</u>
	£779
4. Value of Sales (invoiced) during FY =	<u>£889</u>
5. Profit from sales made within the FY =	<u>£110</u>

Figures rounded to nearest pound.

NB: the profit will not be realised until all invoices have been paid by Groups.

The profit margin on the sale price of badges is 10%.

Received from Groups against invoices raised in FY20-21, at this issue is **£336**.

This figure includes payments (cheques and cash) received by the Badge Secretary and paid into the District account and payments made by Groups directly into the District accounts via BACS, as advised by the District treasurer.

Outstanding from Groups against invoices raised in FY20-21 = £540

Outstanding from Groups against invoices raised in FY19-20 = £1175

Outstanding from Groups against invoices raised in FY18-19 = £748

Michael Wood

District Badge Secretary

10/06/2021

Updated 11/07/2021