

**Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay
District Scout Council**

**Annual Report & Accounts
2014/2015**



**The Scout Association District Registration Number: 12702
Charity Commission Registered Number: 303360**

Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay District Scout Council

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Ross Wood District Campsite

Monday 6th July 2015

7.30 pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome – District Chairman
2. Approve Minutes of District AGM July 7th 2014
3. Trustees
4. District Treasurer's Report
5. District Development Plan
6. District Chairman's Report
7. District Commissioner's Report
8. Nomination of District Chairman
9. Election of District Treasurer and Secretary
10. The District Executive Committee
11. Appointment of Auditor
12. Presentation to the Encephalitis Society
13. County Representative
14. Sheriff of Canterbury
15. District Chairman

**Minutes of the District Annual General Meeting
Held on Monday 7th July 2014 at Ross Wood Campsite**

1 – Welcome by the District Chairman

Mary Bentley welcomed all those attending with a particular welcome to the Lord Mayor Ann Taylor, DCC Alan Noakes, the District Chaplain Reverend Elaine Richardson and Gordon Johnson from SNAAP.

Apologies came from Gina Dunk (6th Whitstable), Poppy Beerling, Brian Buggins (14th Canterbury), Peter Woolgar (3rd Whitstable), Tim Nye (District Executive), Ollie Garland DNL, and Jane Wallis (1st Reculver).

2 – Approval of Minutes

There being no errors in the minutes they were then proposed by Lawrence Wells and seconded by Russell Feast.

3 – Trustees' Annual Report

This was approved by the floor.

4 – Treasurer's Report

Carly-Jane Betts (District Treasurer) is resigning this year after moving house and continued work and exam commitments. Mary Bentley thanked Carly-Jane for all her hard work although she could not attend the meeting. No questions were asked about the accounts. These were proposed by Paul Waller and seconded by Jim Risby.

5 – District Development Plan

Russell Feast explained that providing support to the people in the District has been the focus of the Development plan this year. At the beginning of the year there were 78 points to achieve on the list; now there are only 45. This shows that significant progress has been made but there remains a long way to go. Target dates have been removed from the document as many were unrealistic. Russell drew particular attention to the improvements made by the team at Ross Wood and thanked them for their hard work. He concluded by urging everyone digest the plan and, where possible, to contribute to it. Copies are available electronically if required.

6 – District Chairman's Report

Mary Bentley thanked everyone for their support during her time as Chairman and explained that she would now vacate the position to take on the District Treasurer's role. Her last duty was to thank Paul Dimmock for his ten years in post and presented him with an engraved pewter tankard on behalf of the District. Russell Feast presented flowers to Barbara Dimmock and thanked her for supporting Paul over the past 10 years.

7 – District Commissioner's Report

Paul Dimmock begun by presenting a 10 year service award to Andrew White and a Medal of Merit to Doris Smith. Paul then thanked Mary Bentley for his present and extended his thanks to everyone, both present and absent. The census was up this year by 60 people and we are still the second largest District in the County. Most groups are nearly full due to the size of their headquarters or the number of leaders available so there will be some new strategies introduced soon to deal with this problem. ADCs and District leaders have done a great job this year getting to visit many sections in need of some support as well as running their own sections. Paul thanked Mary for her work in chairing and building the District Executive into a strong committee. He also thanked Tony Johnson and his team at Ross Wood, Russell Feast who continues to support District development through the Development Plan and Mick Hills who coordinates the Appointments Committee.

The DESC job has been shared by David Bentley, Sam Hughes, Tasha Clarke, Chris Mears and Pete Maley and they have done an excellent job. Ian Hoare and Adam Line have run fantastic young leader training days this year and a final personal thanks went to Paul Waller for his help and assistance all year.

HQ has a Vision up to 2018: 1) We should aim to increase our numbers by 15% annually. Our district is increasing by 12.5% currently so we are on the way to that target. 2) Each group should contain one of every section. 2nd Whitstable (Sea Scouts) are the only group that fall short here as their chosen direction is with Scouts and Explorer Scouts. 3) We are to try and open 3 new sections every year. This is a point Paul left hanging in the air for leaders to take away! 4) We should be encouraged to have at least 4 girls in every section. A 197% increase has been achieved so far in Canterbury so this is a great job.

The District Appointments Advisory Committee have seen to 45 new appointments this year for leaders in our District. In the same period, the census shows our uniformed adult numbers have dropped from 188 to 176. We need 48 new leaders to take up vacancies in our in District and Paul highlighted the fact that we have to learn new ways of retaining new leaders otherwise this figure will not change.

Paul concluded by saying that he has enjoyed his time as DC. It has been mostly fun but with some sad times too at the loss of some people and some groups. He has made many good and dear friends. Sam Trill is to be the new District Commissioner and Paul thanked her for agreeing to give it a go whilst observing that DCs are now getting smaller and smaller!!

8 – Deputy County Commissioner Alan Noake

Alan began by giving apologies for Harvey Kent (County Commissioner) as he has lots of AGMs to attend at this time of the year. Kent is split in to 3 clusters and Alan looks after the cluster including Canterbury District. Congratulations went Russell Feast for such an advanced plan for the District. Appreciation went to Paul Dimmock as his ten year commitment to being the DC was a testament to himself experiencing some real highs and some real lows. Final thanks went to Doris Smith for her medal of merit.

9 – Nomination of the District Chairman

Peter Reynolds has been nominated to fill the role for the coming year.

10 – Election of the District Treasurer and Secretary

Mary Bentley was proposed by Russell Feast and seconded by Wendy Dyer as District Treasurer.

Russell Feast was proposed by Jack Dale and seconded by Mary Bentley as District Secretary.

The President position is vacant.

Vice presidents are Audrey and Mike Gilham.

11 – The District Executive Committee 2014/15

The members are Jack Dale, Adam Line, Matt Anderson, Tim Nye, Geoff Court, Tony Johnson, Pete Woolgar, Wendy Dyer, Paul Waller and Andrew White.

David Bentley and Caroline Potts will be co-opted on to the committee.

The committee was approved by the floor.

12 – Appointment of the Auditor

The auditor was Sue Leitch from Baytree Bookkeeping and Accounting Company.

She was proposed by Mary Bentley and seconded by Paul Dimmock. All agreed.

13 – Presentation to SNAAP

Mr Gordon Johnson spoke about the work of SNAAP and what it does for disabled children. Mary Bentley thanks Mr Johnson for his talk and presented SNAAP with a cheque for £500. She also donated the proceeds from the raffle (~£80) to SNAAP.

14 – The Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor, Ann Taylor, was grateful for the invitation to say a few words and promoted the three chosen charities she wishes to support this year: Kent Air Ambulance, Porchlight and Catching Lives. She conveyed her best wishes to SNAAP for the future and commended all leaders in Scouting for the fantastic job they do and for the time they give up.

15 – Any Other Business

Jack Dale explained that the Beaver Scout report was missing from the booklet as a result of not being available in time. Also, he apologised for including last year's Network report. Both these reports will be included in these minutes when received.

16 – District Chairman

Peter Reynolds assumed chair of the District Executive Committee and thanked everyone present for giving up their time to attend the meeting. He ended the meeting by explaining that he hopes to meet everyone during the course of the coming year.

Reports for the year 2014/2015

Trustees

DISTRICT PRESIDENT

VACANT

VICE PRESIDENTS

Audrey Gilham, Mike Gilham

TRUSTEES

EX OFFICIO

Chairman Peter Reynolds

Treasurer Mary Bentley

Secretary Russell Feast

District Commissioner Sam Trill

Deputy District Commissioner Paul Waller

District Explorer Scout Commissioner Natasha Clark

District Scout Network Leader Cuthbert Finch

ELECTED MEMBERS

Lawrence Wells, Wendy Dyer, Geoff Court,
Tim Nye and Andrew White

NOMINATED MEMBERS

Tony Johnson, Pete Woolgar, Matt Anderson,
Adam Line and Jack Dale

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank and National Westminster Bank

AUDITORS

Hilary Adams Chartered Accountants, Herne Bay

District Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2015

Statement of Accounts

The Statement of Accounts and Audit Certificate are detailed in the Annex to this report.

Overview

The 2015 accounts confirm a net deficit of £16,113. The District has maintained its capital investment position and continued to support the maintenance and development of the Ross Wood Campsite including a New Adventure Play Park and other Scouting activities upon request.

Investments and Reserves

The District retains its substantial level of reserves following the sale of the headquarters building in 2006/07. These reserves are substantially in excess of normal District funding and have not only allowed for improvement works at the Ross Wood camp site over the previous years, but also continue to allow for the creation of a development strategy into sustainable Scouting activities and benefits. The reserves continue to be invested safely, split across different banking umbrellas. The investments provided a minimum amount of interest, considering the challenging investment market and the restriction of compensation thresholds; this is regarded as being satisfactory.

Independent Examination

The Executive Committee decided this year to appoint Hilary Adams Chartered Accountant to conduct the required Independent Examination. The Executive Committee believe it is important to review the choice of examiner regularly to insure an unbiased examination is completed.

Public Benefit Statement

The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the Advancement of Education and Advancement of Citizenship or Community Development headings.

Mary Bentley – District Treasurer

District Development Plan 2015

I am pleased to report that the District Development Plan is getting thinner. The current plan reflects a number of areas where the aims have been achieved and a couple where entries have been merged and it is published showing these achievements. These will be deleted from the next issue which will therefore be even slimmer. However, it is a fluid document and we may need to add new challenges as time progresses. I encourage you all to read it as it reflects the priorities that have been set by the District Team and District Executive. Copies are available from me or through the District Executive.

Russell Feast - DDP Co-ordinator

District Chairman's Report

This has been my first year as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the District Scout Council and I have tried to ensure we have focussed on the more important matters. We have achieved this through

streamlining the Executive Committee Meetings and this has enabled us to spend more time on the key issues. Our main focus this year has been on the Ross Wood camp site and I am pleased to report good progress in making it an attractive place for our young people.

We have installed and opened an Adventure Playground which proved an instant success and we have made good progress with planning a new shower block. We have also spent quite a bit of time considering the purchase of additional land at the camp site, land which has been offered to us by the Wealden Trust. We have made a formal offer for the land but have not yet received a reply.

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the St George's Day service but I understand it was a great success, with Scouts from all over the District and even St George and a dragon attended, so well done to the organisers. We will hear more of Scouting matters from Sam Trill, our District Commissioner, but first I would like to congratulate her on her first year in post and from what I have seen this bodes well for the future.

Everyone on the District Executive has worked conscientiously and I thank them for their support during the past year, and for the successful outcomes for the District. You may know that I have moved house in the past few days but as soon as I am settled in I shall be looking forward to the coming year and the opportunities to meet leaders and supporters from across the District.

Peter Reynolds - District Chairman

District Commissioner's Report

As I write my first Annual report as DC I am in good spirit for the future of Scouting in Canterbury. My first few months were a steep learning curve but I had had great support from District Leaders, the County Team, fellow DC's and HQ. This support and encouragement has given me the confidence to hopefully support GSL's (my primary role) but also to develop the District across many aspects as we all strive to ensure that all our young members have challenges, excitement and fun (and a sprinkle of that for our Leaders too!).

It is difficult to reflect on numbers as we are all fully aware of the failings of the implemented and subsequent withdrawal of the national data base. We have seen a drop, along with the majority of other Districts. However, we can be encouraged that we have seen a good increase in girls and in particular the Explorer section where there has been over a 100% increase.

With regard to Leaders we will always have movement and we all have a responsibility to ensure all volunteers are properly supported and have the confidence and enjoyment that we hope will keep them involved. At the same time recruitment is critical and over the year we have seen an overall increase of six leaders.

Many leaders are now getting through their Wood Badge training schemes and we have seen a significant increase in Nights Away permits thanks to a review and programme that has been put in place.

We are now focused on developing Scouting across all Sections and I am delighted to announce we have a strong District Team with all the Sectional Assistant District Commissioners roles filled. The Explorer section has a "management team" in place this also covers our D of E and the Young Leader Section. We also have our Leader Training, Development and Permit opportunities all in place.

I have also had a good working relationship with our Board of Trustees and I would like to record a huge thank you for all their hard work, support and understanding as I found my feet. One area I took early action with was that of communication. There is a great deal of good work going on and some fantastic programmes being delivered and yet so little of it has been shouted about. Good ideas and Scouting-wide

information needs sharing and I believe we feel better when we see we are not isolated and part of a wider and progressive movement. With this in mind, we relaunched our web site. We also have Twitter account and I also try and push out as much relevant information as possible via emails. We are now seeing engagement from many Groups on the web site and there is plenty to see and feel good about.

St Georges Day proved a hit with many and the trial of a themed event has gained momentum and we are looking to develop this concept for future events. The Beaver section has enjoyed a busy year with a number of sleepovers. There was a conference for Leaders and several County opportunities attended. The Cub Section is progressing and the calendar of events includes Sixers Camp and awards presentations. There are a range of events and activities being worked through and whilst I am not specifically naming people in this report I would like to wish Chris Armstrong and Rachel Weaver all the best in their future Scouting lives as they become Mr & Mrs Armstrong in the next couple of months.

The Scout section has recently seen the appointment of a new ADC with a range of fantastic ideas that we will benefit from in the coming year. The Explorer Section remains very healthy. Whilst many Units work in Partnership with a Group, the District Unit, which meets once a month, continues to prove a hit. We also have a separate DofE Unit and there is focus on getting the Young Leader scheme better supported locally. The various Unit Leaders have carved up all the management jobs and this has proved to be a successful solution and ensures everyone works and collaborates together which helps to deliver a good consistent programme across the District. DofE has seen both Bronze and Silver awards attained by our members. At a special award evening our guests included County Commissioner Harvey Kennett and his Deputy Alan Noake.

Our Networkers have had a busy year and are doing something most weeks. Being active and providing labour to projects such as the Ross Wood Adventure Play Park and with many members in Leadership Roles, their efforts have been recognised at County level with the Unit gaining Kent Scouts Unit of the Year Award. This was presented to them by Assistant County Commissioner Dave Norris.

The opening of the new Adventure Play Park by Hugo Fenwick, was a highlight for our camp site this year. A huge thank you to all the adults and young people who came along on the two working party days to complete the park by laying bark and then getting stuck into the annual ditch clearing exercise.

Sam Trill - DC

ADC Beavers' Report

It is safe to say we have a fun packed year, with our new friends Iggy and Bolt joining the District Beaver Team. The emphasis this year has been to provide activities to supplement colony programmes and for the team to get involved with other colonies as much as possible.

As set out in the development plan, growth remains one of our key challenges within the Beaver section. The central colonies remain in high demand, with the village colonies also staying near capacity throughout the year, with most colonies running joining lists (those of Beaver age) and waiting lists. We continue to strive to find a solution to the demand that we find in the towns, predominately Canterbury and Herne Bay, but also in Sturry.

This year we have repeated our success with Youth Involvement and have had a fantastic time at District events. After last year's success, with the Council planning a Star Wars sleepover, the Log Chew's focus turned to organising a Birthday Party for Founders Day. The council, which is open to 4 beavers from each colony, were given the opportunity to tell us what they like about birthday parties (Cake and a bouncy

castle being very important – of course!) but also what Scouting means to them and what elements of that should also be at our party to represent traditional Scouting. The outcome was a fun packed bouncy day with activities from edible knotting to cross bows, finished with a mega disco! Thank you to all the Beavers that took part in the council, and I'm sure all the attending beavers and leaders agree that we had an awesome day!

Another target from the Development plan was to encourage more groups to attend District events and for more groups to have access to Nights Away permits. To do this, we found that colony leaders need to experience a sleepover before they feel comfortable to run their own. So rather than having a two year gap between District Sleepovers, it was decided to have one annually. At a Beaver Leader meeting it was decided that the date for the next Sleepover would be the same weekend as St Georges Day; we certainly like a challenge! This presented us with a perfect theme which would lead into the parade and so leaders set about organising a Knight & Medieval Sleepover for 80 beavers to enjoy.

On the Saturday the beavers had the opportunity to train their Jester skills with a Gymnastic and Circus Workshop, and to practice their Archery and Jousting skills. They held a variety of birds of prey before witnessing a fabulous display by the birds, including having an owl swoop just inches above them as they laid in the arena, and watching Fox being chased by a Hawk! We had a much more chilled day on Sunday (Unless your name's Keeo and you ironed 100+ scarves ready for the parade!) The beavers made their knight outfits, prepared their colony flags and donned their armour, in preparation for the parade. It was a brilliant event and certainly gave the beavers some life long memories and we hope to repeat this success next year, although we are yet to decide what costume we will be turning our pillowcases into! Thank you very much to the amazing team of leaders that gave up their time to make the event possible and we look forward to coming to lots of colony sleepovers over the coming year as more leaders journey towards achieving their permit. We would like to congratulate Brigid, from Reculver, who has been awarded her permit this year.

In July 2014 we also had our second combined Beaver and Cub Chief Scout Award day, this time at Howletts Zoo. We had 67 young people attend this special day, with them all being presented a special certificate by the then ACC (6-10 Support) Beth Peel. We will be repeating the event this year on the 11th July, and we are expecting 100 Beavers and Cubs to attend this fantastic opportunity to celebrate the young people's achievements. We are very grateful to the District for supporting this event.

The district team, with the addition of Iggy and Bolt, would like to thank the colony leadership teams in providing amazing opportunities for their young people over this last year. Your support towards district events has been fantastic, and we would like to remind you that we are here to support you too, whether you need extra support for an event or even a colony night, or need advice. We are here for you. Iggy and Bolt are always looking for colonies to visit too.

Sarah Pegg- ADC (BS) and Katie Potts - District BSL

ADC Cubs' Report

The Pack Leaders and District have continued to provide an excellent level of Scouting this last year. Many activities and events have been run all of which have been well attended and enjoyed by the Cubs themselves.

Over the last year we have organised and run our annual Sixer, Secondar and Leavers Camp at which the Cubs learnt about fire lighting, rope making and used air Rifles. Our first District Howl in which the Cubs

where able to have their say in the organising and running of district events was held and we have so far used the information they gave us to run a Film night and plan activities for the next sixer, seconder and leavers camp. The Chief Scouts Award day was held at Howletts wild animal park where we meet up with the Beavers to be presented with their Chief Scout Silver and Bronze awards. The Swimming Gala in November had a good turn out with 16th Canterbury coming top. Our Badge day had over 90 Cubs attend and they all came away with both the new for 2014 Pioneer and Backwoods cooking activity badges.

We are looking forward to a fun packed year of adventure and will continue to provide Cub Scouting across the whole district.

Chris Armstrong - ADC(CS)

ADC Scouts' Report

I know Scouts have been busy and much has happened over the past year, but as I have taken over as ADC(S) only recently, it is not appropriate for me to try and report events that happened before my time. In future, I intend to report on things that happen district-wide and district-wise. Also, that for most of you, you'll already know about them as you will have been at, and enjoyed, the events I will be reporting on

However, I really hope that I can change that for next year. I hope that I'll be able to give you a report on things that have happened district-wide and district-wise. I also hope that for many (most) of you, it will be a report that you'll know about before you read it as you and your Scouts will have been at and enjoyed, the events I report on.

I'm intending to come and see you all (yes, really!) over the next few weeks and properly introduce myself to you and your Scouts and I'm available anytime if you want to get in touch with me for help (always!), advice (if I know it! – if I don't, I can find a man/woman who does) and support (as much as I possibly can!). Don't hesitate to ask – it can't hurt and a trouble shared is a trouble halved, as the saying goes.

I'm really looking forward to the coming year. Hopefully it'll be full of pleasant things and great events. If there's anything you'd like me to set up/arrange or you have any ideas for anything that concerns Scouts and our District, then let me know.

Paul Haines – ADC(S)

District Explorer Scout Report

Explorer accounts are detailed in the Annex to this report.

As well as individual Unit based activities, a District Explorer meeting is held on the first Friday of each month. This allows Explorers to socialise and to undertake activities beyond their normal Unit.

In the last year we have held the following activities: Incident Hike around Clowes Wood, Disco Roller Skating in Herne Bay, Bowling at Whitstable, Climbing at Lower Grange Farm, Trangia Masterchef in Canterbury, Laser Rush in Whitstable, Archery & Shooting at Herne Bay, Rounders & BBQ and a Monopoly Run around Whitstable.

Sam Jackman - DESL

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Report

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme is for young people aged 14 to 24 and has three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each level consists of 4 sections, Volunteering, Skills, Physical and an Expedition which are worked towards for 3 to 6 months each. The District DofE Unit meets monthly to deliver training and prepare the Explorers for their Expeditions and to support them in the Award as a whole.

We held a training camp in March at Shepherds Park Campsite near Faversham. The Explorers then undertake a practice expedition in Spring/Summer and an assessed expedition in the Autumn.

12 Bronze Awards have been gained by Explorer Scouts from the District in the last year, along with 10 Silver Awards. The awards were presented at a Presentation Evening in May by Harvey Kennett, County Commissioner, Alan Noake, Deputy County Commissioner and Sam Trill, District Commissioner.

Sam Jackman – District DofE Co-ordinator

District Network Leader's Report

Network accounts are detailed in the Annex to this report.

The Canterbury 'Magpies' District Network group had an increase of eight new members from both CCCU and the University of Kent. We have had some changes to the group, i.e. new name, change in scarf colour and membership fees of £20 for those members during term time and £5 - £10 for those who can only take part during University holidays. We have had weekly meetings, which include camping at Ross Wood in January and then helping out with the laying of the wood chippings in the new play area, a Monopoly run in London followed by investiture of 2 new members at BP house, environmental work at Rippledawn environmental education centre and a hike down to Chartham Hatch and back. It is also with great delight that two members managed to achieve their Chief Scout Diamond award (Willow Allison and Jamie Bentley). As of the beginning of June, myself (Cuthbert Finch) stepped down as leader of the group and Matthew Woolley was voted to take over the leadership. Lastly, the group received from the County Network Commissioner (David Norris) the commissioner's commendation award for best group in the county.

Cuthbert Finch - DSNL

Local Training Manager's Report

Training has been slightly hindered this year by the attempted introduction of the new HQ information system, Compass. Despite the challenges that this has posed, and continues to pose, we have still managed to achieve quite a lot around the District this year. Over 120 modules of learning have been completed, in a wide range of modules. Most of this training has been completed when our leaders have attended both cluster and county training events. Many have taken advantage of the ever improving on line facilities, and quite a few have been helped by experienced leaders within their own groups. Locally we have run our usual mix of Getting Started and First response courses. This year we have seen an increase in Getting

Started being delivered via the on-line resource, 'topped up' by a follow up evening. This gives leaders the chance to ask questions about what they have seen, plus gain information of a more local nature.

A substantial number of modules have been validated, and 7 wood badges have been completed during the year. Nights Away courses, run by County, generally have a good representation from our District and a good percentage of these leaders have then gone on to gain the necessary experience to convert the learning into Nights Away permits.

As always, thanks to the GSL's and leaders who have supported training within their own groups around the District, by mentoring, acting as TA's and running 'one-to one' sessions. Without their input and efforts, there would be a lot less progress with our training.

Paul Waller - LTM

District Appointment Advisory Committee (DAAC)

Following Peter's appointment as Chairman last year, Tom Witney agreed to take over chair of the Appointment Committee. Their meetings have been severely delayed by the issues with the Compass programme at HQ, but it is hoped that appointment interviews will be back on track very soon.

Michael Hills – Chair, DAAC

District Scout Shop Report

District Scout Shop accounts are detailed in the Annex to this report.

District Badge Secretary's Report

District Badge Secretary's accounts are detailed in the Annex to this report.

Ross Wood District Campsite Report

Ross Wood accounts are detailed in the Annex to this report.

This has been a year of great change and exciting development at Ross Wood Campsite. The Ross Wood team spent most of the autumn and winter clearing the copse area next to the Hall in preparation for the building of our new play area. Once again, the tireless work of Tony and his team has to be recognised, clearing this area, preparing new fencing and seating areas took many weekends and evenings of back breaking work. The delivery and installation of the equipment ran almost to time and led to the team delivering the project in time for the start of the main 2015 camping season. It has been really encouraging to see so many district scouters answering the call for help to finish the project, moving wood chip and inserting retaining curbs. Feedback from the district's scouters has been unanimously positive and it has been wonderful to see (and hear) young people from our district and from further afield, enjoying the park and our wonderful woodland.

Other projects such as the village learning area and automated drainage for the area around the Wally May Centre have been completed this year and many more developmental plans are being looked at to continue to develop Ross Wood into a leading activity site for this part of Kent. The Team is very excited

about some of the proposals that are currently under discussion and as soon as they can, the team will share these with the rest of the district.

Throughout the year, Ross Wood has been host to a variety of leader training courses (NRSA shooting qualifications, Nights Away training to mention just two), and this type of use for Ross Wood, alongside its external bookings from schools and other organisations, is definitely something that the Ross Wood team will be looking to develop in the coming year and this generates good income for the site which is used to benefit our district's scouts. It has been hugely encouraging to the Ross Wood team to see so many local groups coming back to Ross Wood, supporting the site and enabling their young people to get out for their everyday adventures. We look forward to seeing you and your young people really soon.

Tony Johnson

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
CANTERBURY, WHITSTABLE AND HERNE BAY SCOUT
COUNCIL**

We report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 March 2015, which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Hilary Adams Ltd
Chartered Accountants
158 High Street
Herne Bay
Kent
CT6 5NP



Date:3.7.15.....

Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2015
Receipts and Payments Summary

	31st March 2015	31st March 2014
receipts	67,065	78,879
Payments	83,178	66,996
Net Movement	- 16,113	11,883
Opening Cash and Bank Balances	299,997	288,114
Closing Cash and Bank Balances	283,884	299,997

Receipts Breakdown

	31st March 2015	31st March 2014
Membership Subscriptions	50799	69131
less paid to County	37670	35408
Net Memberships Subscriptions	13129	33723
Investment Income		
Interest Received	2193	3130
Donations, Grants and Loans		
Jamboree	9600	0
Other Donations	1661	0
Activities		
Cubs Badge Day	222	0
District Swimming Gala	71	562
Sixer/District Cub Camp	516	1892
District Beaver Sleepover	198	1926
Cub Fun Swin	438	0
Cub Film Day	22	0
Beavers Founders Day	240	0
Other Scouting Income		
Scout Shop Sales	8304	8819
Badge Sales	5691	4668
Ross Wood Income	23182	23500
Other Income		
Cathedral Collections	883	0
raffles	0	116
other	0	543
5th Whitstable Closure	395	0
From Reserves	0	0
refund deposit Tyler hill	200 ✓	0
From Reserves Play park	0	0
re-direct post	120	0
Total Receipts	67065	78879

Payments Breakdown

	31st March 2015	31st March 2014
Activity Costs		
District Swimming Gala	472	963
St Georges Day	0	0
Sixer/District Cub Camp	516	1850
Cubs Badge Day	150	57
District Beaver Sleepover	2111	178
Jamboree	8800	5200
Wingham Wildlife Challenge Day	0	670
Cub Fun Swim	362	0
Beavers Founders Day	130	0
Beavers Log Chews x 2	78	0
Beaver and Cub Day	640	0
Deposit for Log Chews	100	0
Other Scouting costs		
Ross Woods Costs	27998	22215
Ross Wood District Paid Expenses *	27090	21530
Scout Shop Purchases	6605	8182
Badge Purchases	5658	4066
Chief Scout	0	104
Network Costs	0	90
Dof E Equipment	0	190
New Group Bodsham Set up	0	0
Administration Costs		
Independent Examination Fee	255	235
AGM Expenses and Presentations	173	43
Meeting Costs and DC Hub	173	66
Scout Shop Admin	0	58
Website Payments	100	100
District Sundry and Admin	158	701
District Training	60	0
District Projector	239	0
Outgoing DC Expenses	674	0
Young Leaders badges	16	0
re-direct post	120	0
Other Expenditure		
Charitable Donations	500	500
Capitation to County		
Total Payments	83178	66998

Deposit Accounts Summary

	31st March 2014	Interest	Transfers	31st March 2015
Lloyds	50904.93			50904.93
Barclays	51901.15	699.76		52600.91
Virgin	61336.96	647.67	33898.49	28086.14
Santander	84539.95	845.50		85385.35
		2192.93		216977.33

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

31st March 2015

31st March 2014

Monetary Assets

Cash, Bank and Similar Funds

Lloyds 1 year Deposit	50904.93	50905.00
Lloyds Bank Scout Network Account	125.58	127.00
Lloyds Bank Current Account	57358.36	40001.00
Lloyds Bank Scout Shop	5594.45	3896.00
Natwest Ross Wood Account	2710.16	6205.00
Natwest Badge Account	1117.37	1084.00
Santander Deposit Account	85385.35	84540.00
Barclays Premium Account	52600.91	51901.00
Virgin Charity Deposit Account	28086.14	61337.00

Total Monetary Assets

283883.25

299996.00

Other Monetary Assets

Membership Fees due to District	0.00	7912.00
Levy Rebate	0.00	641.00
District Sleepover	0.00	298.00

Total Other Monetary Assets

0.00

8851.00

Non Monetary Assets

Badges Held by Badge Secretary	625.34	103.00
Scout Shop Stock	2566.73	2796.00
Specialist Equipment- Ross Wood	13129.00	8628.00
Land and Buildings-Ross Wood(insured Value)	541528.00	436445.00

Total Other Non Monetary Assets

557849.07

447972.00

Liabilities (Due within 1 Year)

Ross Woods Costs	0.00	3636.00
District Sleepover	0.00	1170.00
Membership due to County	34914.00	37671.00
Bodsham Expenses	138.00	0.00

Total Liabilities

35052.00

42477.00

Net Assets

806680.32

714342.00

Notes to the Accounts

	31st March 2015	31st March 2014
1 Ross Wood Income		
Wally May Centre	7444.50	7768.00
Camping	13070.50	11647.00
Visitors	928.00	1617.00
Badges	605.00	1150.00
Climbing Tower	0.00	0.00
Shooting	780.00	419.00
Deposits	354.00	647.00
Legal Refund	0.00	252.00
Total Income	23182.00	23500.00
2 Ross Wood Expenses		
Maintenance	8846.19	5890.00
Development	5967.28	4584.00
Quad Bike	147.50	1020.00
Badges	0.00	0.00
Insurance	4149.29	3287.00
Printing and Stationary	0.00	583.00
Health, Safety and Cleaning	1644.55	1212.00
Advertising and Legal	190.80	100.00
Shooting	1058.13	34.00
Climbing Tower	0.00	0.00
Waste Disposal	1802.39	1911.00
Water, Light and Heat	2870.99	3594.00
Total Expenses	26677.12	22215.00
Net Ross Wood Surplus/(Deficit)	-3495.12	1285.00
Ross Wood Op. Bal.	6205.28	4920.00
Net Annual Surplus/(Deficit)	3495.12	1285.00
Ross Wood Cl. Bal.	<u><u>2710.16</u></u>	<u><u>6205.00</u></u>
3 Ross Wood District Paid Expenses		
SH Plant (Concrete etc.)		1920.00
Containers		5400.00
Compass (Guttering etc.)		5430.00
Bates		2789.00
UK Power Network		5991.00
land Valuation	915.00	
Playpark	23898.00	
OCG	2276.00	
Total Expenses	27089.00	21530.00

Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable District Badge Shop
Report and accounts for period September to Financial Yr end 31st March 2015

	£	£
Opening Balance		1084.41
Income	(2014)	(2015)
Group payments	4663.10	5690.74
Sale of badges outside district	4.64	0.00
	<hr/>	5690.74
		<hr/> 6775.15
Expenditure		
Scout Shop	3915.54	4967.49
County / District Badges	150.00	673.56
Postage and stationary		16.73
	<hr/>	5657.78
		<hr/> 1117.37
		<hr/> <hr/>
Represented by Bank balance as at 31st March 2015		£1,117.37

Stock held

Stock	31-Mar-14	31-Mar-15
World /Shop	39.04	65.34
District	33.17	
County Joint	30.40	560.00
	<hr/> 102.61	<hr/> 625.34
Petty Cash held	Nil	Nil

County and district badges need to be held in stock to meet immediate demand.
 Orders are taken and fulfilled within 7/10 days often shorter.

We ordered 1000 new joint district / county badges which arrived at the end of March

The district has a number of obsolete badges which I would like to sell
 through AGMs fetes etc to benefit the blankets of our own district members

David Bentley District Badge Secretary
 (01227)451100 dpbentley@talk21.com

Please phone or email for order forms, prices, ideas, and information.

**Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable District Scout Shop
Report and Accounts for Period 01/04/14 to 31/03/15**

	£	£
Opening Balance		↗ 3896.12
<u>Income</u>		
Group payments received	↘ 8303.82	12199.94
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Scout Shop Invoices	↘ 6605.49	<u>5594.45</u>
Represented by Bank Balance as at 31 st March 2015		↗ 5594.45

	31/03/14	31/03/15
Stock held	£2796.40	£2566.73
Annual Profit on Stock	£716.93	£1698.33
Old stock now written off		
Record Cards	£42.00	

Report

The District Scout Shop is well supported and supplies various items to most of our local Scout Groups, but not all sections within the groups. Please encourage everyone to use the District Scout Shop, Leaders, Helpers and parents can all save money and at the same time help to raise money for our District!

The new publications have arrived and most items are kept in stock, the new badge books, log books, certificates, posters and the new adult Be Prepared book. The new uniform branding is being filtered in according to stock levels therefore it will be a gradual process of stocking all sizes with the new logo, as it's only the logo that has changed the old and new sweatshirts will blend together easily.

Caroline Potts
District Scout Shop

carolinepotts89@gmail.com
01227 453562
07815 582440

Explorer Unit Accounts

The District runs 8 explorer units which work closely with the local Scout Groups and share many facilities with them.

A summary of the income and expenditure of Explorer units is set out below

	1st Sturry	1st Herne Bay	2nd Whitstable	3rd Whitstable Tombstones	2nd Herne Bay Neptune	14th Canterbury Salamanders	16th Canterbury T.O.F.S	1st Littlebourne	6th Whitstable
Income									
Camp		2490.00		3425.00			385.00		
Other activities	73.00			235.00			365.00		
Subscriptions	1055.00	1179.00	1225.00	1038.01	1369.00	1743.00		924.00	
Gift Aid				508.74					
Fundraising					498.91				
Uniform				0.00					
Other				1000.00			90.00		
Donations		250.00		130.00			100.00		
SVW/Dof E							285.00		
Total Income	1128.00	3919.00	1225.00	6336.75	1867.91	2968.00		924.00	
Payments									
Camp		2829.04		3058.81			405.17		
Badges/uniform/books			64.00	21.07	38.36				
Equipment		275.66		198.40	3.80	345.76		125.00	
Meeting expenses	164.00		200.00	124.36		100.00			
Activity expenses	625.44	161.98	22.91	337.00	295.79	466.02			
Fundraising to Group									
Membership Fee	396.00	540.00	468.00	468.00	576.00	1430.00		504.00	
other		134.00		1420.57	67.00				
SVW/Dof E							346.81		
Total Payments	1185.44	3940.68	754.91	5628.21	980.95	3093.76		629.00	
Surplus/deficit	107.44	21.68	470.09	708.54	886.96	125.76		295.00	
Balance 1st April 2014	346.12	2208.55	0.00	1745.53	0.00	401.88		786.00	
Balance 31st March 2015	238.68	2186.87	470.09	2454.07	886.96	276.12		1081.00	

Network Accounts 2014/2015

Amount Bought Forward as of 01/04/2014 £127.50

Income

Subs £220.00
Hoodies £140.00
camps £100.00

Expenditure

Scarves £71.10
Name Tags £10.50
Certs £7.49
Badges £12.50
Ross Woods £15.00
Equipment £16.93
Hoodies £321.22
AGM £7.18

Total £460.00

Total £461.92

End Amount

£125.58

Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay District Development Plan - 2015

#	TOPIC	CURRENT SITUATION	GOAL	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	ACTION	RESOURCES	#	PaG	Progress
ADULT RECRUITMENT									
1	Adult recruitment	Up to 40 vacancies in the District	Fill gaps where required	District Exec and Team	Plan and conduct specific recruitment campaigns	All leaders	1	A	Dist Team to meet and discuss needs and ideas. Invite HQ rep to advise
COMMUNICATIONS									
2	District Website	New website now in operation: www.canterburyscouts.org.uk	Keep it informative and attractive	DC; DESC	Encourage Groups' use and participation. Keep it active.	Network or younger leaders	2	G	Done. Sam and Andy Trill have set up the new site which is actively being used and is being updated weekly. Most Groups are actively involved.
3	District Newsletter	Non-existent but probably to be overtaken by the new web site.	Keep people informed	DC	Reassess need once web site has settled down		3	G	Pending
4	Group Websites	Not all Groups have web sites; some may not want them. Primary communication through e-mail and Facebook. Also web site.	All Groups to assess need and establish web pages as appropriate. Link to District web site.	Dist team; Dist web site mgr	Encourage all leaders to consider need for Group web site and link to (or have pages on) district web site. Monitor and review need	All leaders	4	G	Encouraging participation in District web site; may reduce emphasis on Group web sites. To be monitored and reviewed
5	Email Communications	Facebook widely viewed as main form of communication together with e-mail.	GSL co-operation in keeping contact/distribution lists up-to-date	GSLs	Monitor	NA	5	G	Effectively complete
6	PRO and promotion of Scouting locally	No PRO; Youth Commissioner (YC) to be appointed and PR is in job spec	Active promotion of Scouting	YC	Identify and appoint a Youth Commissioner to include PR role	NA	6	G	YC about to be appointed
7	Trustee training	Trustees not fully aware of their role and responsibilities	Provide training and support for trustees	LTM	Establish a focal point for all trustees to provide training and support in the role	LTM	7	A	LTM to identify or arrange courses and encourage trustees to attend
8	District Calendar	Calendar included on web site	Monthly refresh	Website mgr	Update at least monthly	NA	8	G	Done. Calendar available on web site
TRAINING									
9	Training Advisors	Adequate numbers of TAs at present but more desired	Establish a TA in every group	LTM	All GSLs to have attended M25	GSLs	9	A	Some GSLs requiring training or reminding of their TA role and responsibilities.
10	Management Training	GSLs and Commissioners require training modules	Complete training	LTM	Plan for GSLs and commissioners to attend required modules	GSLs; Cmmrs	10	A	Ongoing. PW to progress asap
11	NA Permits	Most Groups and Units have at least one person with a permit	At least one permit per Group	GSL's	Identify and encourage potential willing leaders in relevant Groups	GSLs/Leaders /LTM	11	A	Action required to increase number of permits and assessors.
12	Explorer NA Permit	Combined with serial 11 above					12		
THE DISTRICT CENTRE									
13	Ross Wood facilities	Good campsite and training facility. Much work has been carried out by the Warden and his team.	Continue to improve accessibility and range of challenge activities. Improve educational uses for scouts and those outside Scouting. Increase use of Wally May centre	Ross Wood Mgmt Cttee; LTM	Increase use by LTM, DoFE and non-Scouting training. Establish storage facility for training.	Dist Team, ADCs, GSLs, Section Leaders and young people	13	G	Building standard under constant review to keep it functional and attractive.
14	Training facility	Combined with serial 13 above					14		
ACTIVITY FACILITIES									
15	List of equipment	Need an inventory of available activity equipment	Accessible list of all available activity equipment	Dist Team; activity leaders	Produce list of what is available. Produce lists of equipment that is a) essential and b) desirable	Activity leaders	15	A	Ongoing. The site now has a reasonable range of equipment; there remains a need to publicise a list of available equipment.
16	Qualified Instructors	Lack of qualified instructors for some activities. Lack of knowledge of currency for those with qualifications.	Pool of instructors covering all desired activities, with up-to-date currency	ADC Activities	Identify activity instructors where needed. Establish currency of existing instructors (T Johnson has started this). Establish administrative process for qualifications and currency	All leaders	16	G	Ongoing. Some Archery and Air Rifle Shooting instructors now available.
17	Budget	Budget each year is submitted to the District Executive	Annual maintenance and equipment budgets to be provided to the District Executive well in advance of the start of	ADCs; Ross Wood Mgmt Cttee	Produce and maintain an annual budget for maintenance and equipment	NA	17	G	Completed Routine established
18	District Activity Team	Adequate help for events	Maintain	Dist Team	Identify personnel able to support district activities	All	18	G	Completed. Events adequately staffed
DISTRICT MANAGEMENT									
19	Waiting List Policy	Run by groups	Central waiting list	Dist Team			19	G	Waiting List run by Groups is functioning satisfactorily.
20	Health & Safety	H & S checks for Group HQs and meeting places have been carried out, with notices displayed.	Mandatory policy notices to be displayed	Dist Exec	Identify mandatory policy and other notices. Display as necessary.	GSLs	20	G	All GSLs have been notified of the need for routine checks and proper display of notices.
21	District Team	All appointments filled	Full Team with full District Leader support	DC; Dist Team	Identify and appoint suitable leaders to fulfil necessary posts. Maintain a full Dist Team.	All leaders	21	G	Complete. All appointments currently filled.
PROGRAMME SUPPORT									
22	Minimum standards	All sections meet required standards	Achieve minimum standards	ADCs + LTM	Assess needs, plan and take appropriate action if required	GSLs; section leaders	22	G	Complete.
23	Support for District Section Meetings	Poor support and attendance	Improve attendance	ADCs	Encourage through personal contact, e-mail and telephone support	Section leaders	23	A	Ongoing. Leader attendance and support improving
24	District events	Section events planned	Run bi-annual all-section district event	District Team	Plan and run a suitable event every second year	All leaders	24	G	Attendance at events in district is improving.
BEAVER SCOUT SECTION DEVELOPMENT									
25	Growth	Most colonies with waiting lists of 6/7 year olds	To increase places available. This may result in the need for increased CS places.	ADC BS; GSLs	Increase colonies to 24 (if hall space allows); Consider satellite or 2nd colonies running parallel programmes	Section leaders and GSLs	25	R	Ongoing. Really struggling for places for Beavers in some Groups. Urgent need for leaders in 2 colonies, with most others needing additional support.
26	District events	Participation improving.	Increase participation	ADC BS	Encourage section leaders to participate	NA	26	A	Ongoing.
27	Section reviews	Annual review needed to inform on planning	Undertake annual review and report back to Groups	ADC BS	Full review required every December	NA	27	A	Ongoing.

#	TOPIC	CURRENT SITUATION	GOAL	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	ACTION	RESOURCES	#	PaG	Progress
CLUB SCOUT SECTION DEVELOPMENT									
28	Growth	Numbers static; scope for growth	Grow the section	ADC CS; D Team; GSLS; CSLS	Retain and Recruit Programme; Improve communication with BS section; Help Packs plan and run attractive and fun programmes	DCSLs; GSLS; All section leaders	28	A	Ongoing.
29	Numbers	Numbers low in some Packs.	Need to increase numbers	GSLS; CSLS	Recruit YP	All Group leaders	29	A	Ongoing.
30	Minimum Standards	Combined with serial 22 above							
31	Improve Section Support	ADC CS appointed; Section review in hand	Increase support for leaders in the District	ADC CS & DCSL	Chris Armstrong (CA) appointed as ADC CS.	ADC CS & DCSL; all section leaders	31	G	Completed
32	YP Involvement	Pack forums held	Regular meetings	ADC(CS) and CSLS	Encourage cubs to participate	Section leaders	32	G	Completed
33	Challenges/Awards	Adequate					33	G	Completed
34	Moving On to Scouts	Losing numbers at change over	Retain into Scout Section	ADC CS; ADC S	CSLS & SLs	CSLS; SLs; GSLS	34	A	Ongoing; Pending outcome of reviews
SCOUT SECTION DEVELOPMENT									
35	Growth	Scout Section continues to maintain a reasonably stable take up	To grow the uptake of scouting and the delivery of high quality provision from outside of the organisation not just from natural uptake from Cub section.	ADC Scouts, DC, GSLS and Section Leaders	Identify best practice from successful groups and share this at Section Meetings. Identify weaker groups and their needs and seek to support them either through new appointments, mergers or closures. Widen the reach of our PR reach and increase the visibility of Scouting in the District's press and other forms of local media.	All leaders, DC, ADC Scouts, District PR director. Newsletter and website improvements	35	A	Ongoing. PH appointed as ADC(S); section review pending.
36	Improve Section Support	New ADC(S) conducting section review	Appoint a second person to support this role and establish a district scout team to improve contact with groups.	DC, ADC Scouts	DC and ADC Scouts to identify and approach candidates drawing in particular from the younger leaders coming up through the system.	Time Cost	36	A	A number of Young Leaders are progressing through training and should help alleviate any pressure on ADC(S)
37	Section events	Some events planned each year.	To increase this provision	ADC, GSLS and Section Leaders	To use the currently "engaged" groups to deliver a high quality event which shows to other groups not joining in at planning stages, that the district is active. To develop this core group into a smaller "District Scout Team"	Dist Exec (for financial support)	37	A	Ongoing.
38	Section reviews	Combined with serial 27 above							
39	YP Involvement	Currently YP wishes and thoughts are fed back through Section leaders to ADC Scouts	Establish a YP's committee which feeds directly back to the District Team, the activities, training or program ideas that they want to see implemented.	ADC Scouts in conjunction with Section Leaders	Invite PLs and APLs to meet to discuss their requirements, wishes etc. Need to implement a programme	Place to meet	39	A	Needs to be revitalised
EXPLORER SCOUT									
40	Inter-Unit activities	Joint activities currently driven by Unit Leaders	Units sharing programmes	ESU Team	Encourage Units to extend programme to other Units and track / feedback where it works or needs improvement		40	A	District holds monthly meetings with a good programme which is well attended by some units.
41	YL District programme	Young Leaders currently being trained	To have min 3 YL belts issues a year	ESU team	Put in place YL coordinator to track progress and with ESU team and YL Leader promote / support / implement training programmes either in District or County	Leaders	41	G	Cuthbert Finch appointed as YL co-ordinator
42	Duke of Edinburgh Award	District DofE Unit functioning well.	Have ten awards a year	ESU team & Units Leaders	Develop the DofE Unit with balanced programme agreed and supported by District Unit Leaders - develop annual programme set to have teams ready for practice or actual assessments	ESU team and Unit Leaders	42	G	Completed. Process good. Awards being made; some approaching Gold Award. One approaching Explorer Belt. Well supported.
NETWORK DEVELOPMENT									
43	Moving On	Poor transition rate from Explorer Scouts	Improve links and transition	DESL; DSNL; ESU team	Liaison; improve links and joint activities	DESL; DSNL; ESU team	43	A	Ongoing. To be discussed by Dist Team.
44	DoE, Challenges & Awards	Combined with serial 42 above					44		

**Minutes of the District Annual General Meeting
Held on Monday 6th July 2015 at Ross Wood Campsite**

1 – Welcome by the District Chairman

Peter Reynolds welcomed everyone and thanked them for making the effort to attend this Annual General Meeting of the District Scout Council. He extended a special welcome to the Sheriff of Canterbury Councillor Robert Jones and Mrs Jones. Also to the Vice Presidents Mike and Audrey Gilham, to Poppy Beerling, and to the County Representative Alan Noake, the Deputy County Commissioner for the East Kent Cluster of Districts.

Approximately 40 members attended the meeting. Apologies were received from: George and Pearl Aldridge, Shaun Gage, James Oakley, Don Clark, Brian Buggins, Wendy Dyer, Sarah Pegg, Jamie Bentley, Nicola Bentley, Richard Maxted, Stef Cook, Peter Maley, Vicki Pout, Bob Slater and Geoff Court.

2 – Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the 2014 AGM had been circulated and were also included in the 2015 report which had been made available to everyone. No errors or omissions were reported. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Lawrence Wells and seconded by Sylvia Carter. Carried.

3 – Trustees

Peter Reynolds detailed the current list of trustees as printed in the report.

4 – Treasurer's Report

Mary Bentley thanked all Groups for getting their capitation returns in on time and thanked Paul Waller and Tim Nye for their help with the end of year accounts which are presented in the published Annual Report, made available before the meeting. The only question asked was concerning the large deficit for the District Beaver Sleepover. Mary explained that the income for the previous year was accounted for in the previous year's accounts but the debits were not processed until this year. *(Secretary's note: a wrong figure was spotted in the Overview; the correct figure is included in the copy of the Annual Report sent to all Groups after the meeting)*

5 – District Development Plan

Russell Feast reported that the DDP had started with some 78 entries but that this had since been reduced to 44 and that the next version would have even fewer entries. Some entries had been overtaken by events, some had been merged, but mainly this was down to the hard work of the District Executive and the District Team. He said that whilst no Groups had contributed to the document this year, it is a fluid document and Groups are encouraged to make representation if they felt something should be added.

6 – District Chairman's Report

Peter Reynolds spoke of his first year as Chairman and that he had tried to streamline Executive meetings to spend more time on the key issues. The main focus this year had been the Ross Wood camp site and he was pleased with the good progress in making it an attractive place for our young people. The District has installed and opened an Adventure Playground which proved an instant

success and made good progress with planning a new shower block. Quite a bit of time was spent in considering the purchase of additional land at the camp site, offered for sale by the Wealden Trust. A formal offer for the land was made, but no reply had been received.

Pater said that whilst he had not been able to attend the St George's Day service, he understood it had been a great success with Scouts from all over the District and even St George and a dragon turning up; he congratulated the organisers. He also congratulated Sam Trill, our District Commissioner, on successfully completing her first year in post. Peter went on to say that everyone on the District Executive had worked conscientiously and thanked them for their support during the past year and for the successful outcomes for the District.

Finally, he mentioned that he had moved house in the past few days, but as soon as he is settled in, he will be looking forward to the coming year and the opportunities to meet leaders and supporters from across the District.

7 – District Commissioner's Report

Sam Trill thanked everyone for the excellent Scouting provided for the young people of our District and said that their adventures and experiences help make them good, positive and well-rounded young people. She drew attention to the section reports which cover the many highlights and positive Scouting events which have occurred throughout the year. *(Section reports are to be found in the Annual Report.)* She went on to say that many exciting adventures are planned for the coming year and emphasised the importance of doing things as a District; we are well spread and could easily lose touch with one and other.

Sam informed the meeting that there would be two new roles in the District: a Network Commissioner and a District Youth Commissioner. She said that this second role is in line with the current vision in Scouting to encourage and develop our young leaders to actively participate in how Scouting is delivered.

Sam reminded everyone that the World Scout Jamboree starts in Japan in 22 days' time. We have four people who have had a busy year attending camps and fund raising for it, so we wish them well in their "Spirit of Unity".

She wished those about to embark on a summer camp to have a wonderful time but reminded them to complete the Nights Away form.

Finally, she thanked the Executive, her District Team and her family for the support they have given over the past year and wished everyone a successful year ahead.

8 – Nomination of District Chairman

Peter Reynolds was nominated by Sam Trill to continue in the role of District Chairman.

9 - Election of District Treasurer and Secretary.

Peter Reynolds explained that Mary Bentley had agreed to stand again as District Treasurer and Russell Feast had agreed to stand again as District Secretary. He asked whether there were any more nominations. There being none, the two were duly voted in as proposed by Lawrence Wells and seconded by David Carter.

10 - The District Executive Committee.

Membership of the District Executive Committee currently stands at:

ELECTED MEMBERS

Lawrence Wells, Wendy Dyer, Geoff Court,
Tim Nye and Andrew White

NOMINATED MEMBERS

Tony Johnson, Pete Woolgar, Matt Anderson,
Adam Line and Jack Dale

There were no other nominations. Proposed by Russell Feast and seconded by Mary Bentley, the proposal was voted and carried for the named people to serve another term.

11 - Appointment of Auditor

Mary Bentley indicated that she had received good service from Hilary Adams and proposed that the company be used for the coming year. Seconded by Paul Waller, the proposal was voted and carried.

12 – Presentation to the Encephalitis Society

Russell Feast explained that the collection from this year's St George's Day Service was £500 and that it had been decided to give this to the Encephalitis Society. We have one person in the District who suffers with this disease and it was felt appropriate to select a charity with a cause close to our young people. The HQ of the charity is too far for them to send a representative, but we had received a short video of thanks together with a certificate.

13 - Deputy County Commissioner Alan Noake

Following a confusion about the differences between an Assistant County Commissioner (ACC) and a Deputy County Commissioner (DCC), Alan explained that as DCC for the East Kent Cluster, he stood in for the CC and had similar powers, including financial authority.

He said that the focus at the moment was on diversity and that the June Conference of TSA had been youth-orientated. The intention is that more young people should be involved in planning their Scouting and the imminent appointment of a County Youth Commissioner was part of this initiative. Districts would soon follow suit and each would appoint their own District Youth Commissioner.

Alan asked how many people present at the meeting had camped out during the Big Sleepover, when more than 10,000 Scouts of all ages camped out for the night. Several hands went up and Alan encouraged them to go on-line and claim their badge. He went on to mention the World Scout Jamboree in Japan and looking forward to hearing all about it when the participants come back. Alan congratulated Sam Trill on a successful first year in post and then presented Peter Reynolds with a 20-year service certificate.

14 – The Sheriff of Canterbury

Councillor Jones was invited to say a few words and started by light-heartedly reporting that his role sounded a bit like that of the DCC, only without the authority to sign any cheques! He thanked the meeting for the invitation to attend the evening and said that he felt honoured to meet everyone. The role of Sheriff has been one of support to the community since the year 1461, but in today's climate he was not allowed to arrest or shoot people!

He spoke about Scouting being as strong as ever and that it was important to emphasise the fun and challenge elements of a programme for young people. He alluded to BP's vision being just as relevant in the 21st Century, and the relationship between young people, the environment in which they live, and the impact they have upon it.

Finally, he thanked everyone for the support they give to Scouting and for helping these young people to fulfil their place in society.

15 – Any Other Business

There was no other business.

16 – District Chairman

Peter Reynolds thanked Sam Trill, Mary Bentley and Russell Feast for the support they had given him personally and everyone for their tremendous effort and support to Scouting in the District. The meeting ended with refreshments, social chit chat and a raffle.