LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Registration Number: 1150177

Trustees:
- Bernard Hancox: District Chairman
- Mark Blomfield: District Commissioner
- Pat Pankhurst: Secretary
- Ashley Pankhurst: Treasurer
- Jeff Williams: District Explorer Scout Commissioner (to July 2015)
- Christopher Harrison: District Explorer Scout Commissioner (from Sept, 2015)
- Alex Piercey: District Scout Network Commissioner (from Sept 2015)
- Shirley Dewar
- Mary Williams
- Madeleine Munn
- Charles Pritchard
- Elisa McCarthy
- Rosemary Worrall
- Helen Armfield
- Danielle Smith

Principal Address:
51 Carey Way
Olney
Milton Keynes
MK46 4DR
CONTENTS

Trustees' annual report 1 – 2
Independent examiner's report 3
Receipts and Payments summary 4
Receipts 5
Payments 6
Statement of Assets and Liabilities 7
TRUSTEES’ ANNUAL REPORT

Structure, Governance and Management
The district is a trust established under its rules which are common to all districts. The governing documents are those of the Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the bye laws of the Association and the policy, organisation and rules of the Scout Association.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the policy, organisation and rules of the Scout Association.

The Milton Keynes District Scout Council includes the following groups:
1. Milton Keynes District Explorer Scouts
2. Milton Keynes Scout Resource Centre
3. The Quarries Scout Camp Site
4. Milton Keynes Gang Show
5. Milton Keynes District Active Support
6. Milton Keynes Scout Network

The trustees have identified the major risks to which they believe the charity is exposed. They have established systems to mitigate these, hold regular liaison meetings and are continually monitoring the individual finances of each group.

Objectives and Activities
To promote and support successful scouting throughout the Milton Keynes District. In planning activities for the year the trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission with regard to public benefit. There are five different groups covering ages 6 to 25 and all young people are welcome to join regardless of personal background, faith or personal circumstances. Members benefit greatly in developing their self-confidence and social skills as well as learning new practical and life skills.

Achievements and performance
The charity continues to collect and administer subscriptions from the scout groups within its district. There have been several successful camps and group activities throughout the year.

Financial review
At the end of the year total funds amounted to £75,834.

Reserves policy
The District’s policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income fall short.

The District Executive Committee considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 10 months running costs, circa £74,000.

Investment policy
The District has adopted a low risk strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies or The Scout Association’s Short Term Investment Service.

Public benefit
The District meets the Charity Commission’s public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.
Plans for future periods
Milton Keynes Scout District intends to continue developing opportunities for young people to experience scouting. It also intends, by adopting the Scout Association's 'Vision Towards 2018', to promote the participation of young people in decision-making at all levels. It is intended that there will be additional support for Trustees of Scout Groups.

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Bernard Hancox
TRUSTEE

___________ (date)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2016, which are set out on pages 4-7.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of examiner's report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 Examiners statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

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

   have not been met, or

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

S J Gill FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountant
Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

Sovereign Court
230 Upper Fifth Street
Central Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK9 2HR
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT SUMMARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Funds £</th>
<th>Restricted Funds £</th>
<th>Total Funds £</th>
<th>2015 £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total receipts for the year</strong></td>
<td>149,492</td>
<td>16,973</td>
<td>166,465</td>
<td>174,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total payments for the year</strong></td>
<td>149,894</td>
<td>17,934</td>
<td>167,828</td>
<td>181,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(402)</td>
<td>(961)</td>
<td>(1,363)</td>
<td>(6,888)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash, bank and funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Fwd</td>
<td>56,553</td>
<td>20,644</td>
<td>77,197</td>
<td>84,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/Fwd</td>
<td>56,151</td>
<td>19,683</td>
<td>75,834</td>
<td>77,197</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General funds are those which the Trustees are free to spend in accordance with the constitution.

Restricted funds are those where the Trustees are bound by conditions which have been imposed by the donor or by the terms of an appeal and therefore can only be spent on specific areas.

Approved by the Trustees on ________________ and signed on their behalf by:

Bernard Hancox

Trustee and District Chairman
## Receipts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Funds £</th>
<th>Restricted Funds £</th>
<th>Total Funds £</th>
<th>2015 £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership subscriptions</td>
<td>73,371</td>
<td></td>
<td>73,371</td>
<td>63,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site fees: The Quarries</td>
<td>22,849</td>
<td></td>
<td>22,849</td>
<td>21,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of clothing and badges</td>
<td>22,935</td>
<td>12,655</td>
<td>35,590</td>
<td>42,397</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camps and activities</td>
<td>16,787</td>
<td></td>
<td>16,787</td>
<td>18,330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>5,196</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>8,396</td>
<td>4,420</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other receipts</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>1,110</td>
<td>1,398</td>
<td>16,817</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>1,859</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,859</td>
<td>2,202</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Levies</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>1,638</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gang Show</td>
<td>3,798</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,798</td>
<td>1,799</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift Aid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total receipts for the year</strong></td>
<td><strong>149,492</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,973</strong></td>
<td><strong>166,465</strong></td>
<td><strong>174,507</strong></td>
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</table>
## Payments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>General Funds £</th>
<th>Restricted Funds £</th>
<th>Total Funds £</th>
<th>2015 £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership subscriptions paid to HQ</td>
<td>62,659</td>
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<td>62,659</td>
<td>61,805</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stock purchases</td>
<td>20,400</td>
<td>12,034</td>
<td>32,434</td>
<td>40,133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camps, activities and jamboree</td>
<td>11,033</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,033</td>
<td>15,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gang show production expenses</td>
<td>6,194</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,194</td>
<td>3,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of equipment</td>
<td>431</td>
<td></td>
<td>431</td>
<td>4,354</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>7,182</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,182</td>
<td>5,919</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>10,132</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,132</td>
<td>7,090</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration expenses</td>
<td>7,819</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,819</td>
<td>6,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of premises</td>
<td>2,388</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,388</td>
<td>3,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing and stationery</td>
<td>375</td>
<td></td>
<td>375</td>
<td>247</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>316</td>
<td></td>
<td>316</td>
<td>307</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundry expenses</td>
<td>1,233</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,233</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building maintenance</td>
<td>11,955</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,955</td>
<td>5,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site maintenance</td>
<td>6,231</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,231</td>
<td>8,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustee and leader expenses</td>
<td>1,546</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,516</td>
<td>1,927</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>1,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamboree</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,700</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total payments for the year</strong></td>
<td><strong>149,894</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,934</strong></td>
<td><strong>167,828</strong></td>
<td><strong>181,395</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Statement of Assets as at 31 March 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank current accounts</td>
<td>37,737</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>37,843</td>
<td>38,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank deposit accounts</td>
<td>18,857</td>
<td>19,577</td>
<td>38,434</td>
<td>35,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in hand</td>
<td>(443)</td>
<td>(443)</td>
<td>2,542</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cash Funds</strong></td>
<td>56,151</td>
<td>19,683</td>
<td>75,834</td>
<td>77,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other monetary assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance/Subs/Jamboree</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prepayment</td>
<td>15,320</td>
<td>15,320</td>
<td>5,103</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badge stock</td>
<td>4,689</td>
<td>4,689</td>
<td>4,196</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scout shop stock and fixtures</td>
<td>10,300</td>
<td>10,300</td>
<td>11,458</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarries tuck shop stock</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>1,035</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarries activity equipment</td>
<td>9,939</td>
<td>9,939</td>
<td>9,939</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarries land and buildings</td>
<td>420,000</td>
<td>420,000</td>
<td>420,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other monetary assets</strong></td>
<td>517,290</td>
<td>19,683</td>
<td>536,973</td>
<td>528,928</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Milton Keynes District Scout Council
21st September 2016

Cruck Barn,
Bradwell Abbey,
Milton Keynes.
Chairman’s Welcome

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting for 2016, a year in which Scouting in Milton Keynes has continued to flourish. This success could not be achieved without a considerable input from a large number of people. Not only is there the District Team but also the leaders and their assistants in the 23 Groups within the District who, week in week out, provide quality scouting for the young members. They are ably backed by Group Executive Committees who facilitate the work they do. Then there are the young members, the ambassadors for the Scouting movement exemplified by those from the District who formed part of the Bucks Contingent to the World Jamboree in July and August last year.

As a District we are fortunate to have the Quarries Campsite. This has improved immeasurably over the past few years and can now offer activities including shooting, archery, climbing and caving. The Scout Shop continues to do good trade and following a successful Gang Show last year there will be another this October and I know the Show Management Team are continually striving to improve.

Scouting cannot function without volunteers and I would like to thank all those who have so freely given their time to achieve our success and I must at this point include the District Secretary, the District Treasurer and the District Executive Committee members. Particular thanks must also go to Mark Blomfield who is standing down as District Commissioner after five years at the helm. It cannot have been an easy task to unite two Districts to achieve one which now runs smoothly. Hopefully the protracted selection process to appoint his successor can be completed speedily and I encourage everybody to give their full support to whoever is appointed.

Bernard Hancox
District Chairman
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on the 23rd July 2015 at Christ the Vine Community Church, Coffee Hall at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: There were 49 persons present – list available on request

<p>| | |</p>
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</table>
| 1. | Welcome and Opening remarks  
   | Bernard Hancox welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending. |
| 2. | Apologies for absence  
| 3. | Presentation of Annual Report  
   | a) Minutes of the AGM held on the 18th September 2014. Approved by Rosie Worrall and seconded by Harry Hooper  
   | b) Financial Report – Ashley Pankhurst reported that the accounts had been accepted by the District Executive Committee. Those presented were consolidated accounts, made up of the main District account, Scout Resource Centre, Quarries, Explorer Scouts and the Gang Show and shows all the income and expenses and cross charges. The District is in a sound financial position but is slightly less than at the 31st March last year as there were some outstanding invoices still to be paid at the end of the financial year.  
   | c) District Commissioner’s Report – Mark Blomfield reported that the annual report contained reports from his ADCs. It gave a heartfelt thanks to leaders and supporters who have helped to run the sections over the year. Thanks to the District Executive, the District cannot function without them supporting the District team. New group at Langland School on Netherfield making it the 23 groups in the District. There are 76 meetings across the city, 1300 young people and 300 plus leaders.  
   |   | Cub Scout centenary coming up and it is hoped that everyone will get involved as much as possible. It is hoped that it will not be just the current cub scouts but everyone that has been a cub scout will get involved.  
   |   | 8 Explorer Scouts from the District are flying out to the Jamboree in Japan in the next few days and we wish them a safe journey. |
| 4. | Approval of District Commissioner’s nomination for District Chairman  
   | Mark Blomfield nominated Bernard Hancox to stand again |
| 5. | Election of District Secretary  
   | There was one nomination Pat Pankhurst. Proposed by Rosie Worrall and seconded by Richard Blackwell. Agreed by all present. |
| 6. | Election of District Treasurer  
   | Nomination received for Ashley Pankhurst who is willing to continue as Treasurer. Proposed by Mick Nimmo and seconded by Jason Raggett. Agreed by all present |
| 7. | Election of members to the District Executive Committee  
<p>| Nominations – Elisa McCarthy, Mary Williams and Rosie Worrall. Proposed by Pat Pankhurst and seconded by Madeleine Munn. Agreed by all. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8. | Approval of District Commissioner's nominations for members to the District Executive Committee  
Mark Blomfield's nominations were Charlie Pritchard, Shirley Dewar and Helen Armfield. |
| 9. | Election of representatives to the Quarries Executive Committee  
Madeleine Munn as Chair of the Quarries proposed Graham Boyer and seconded by Mick Nimmo. |
| 10. | Election of Under 25 representative to the Quarries Management Committee  
Madeleine Munn as Chair of the Quarries proposed Charlie Pritchard and seconded by Pat Pullinger |
| 11. | Election of District representative to Bucks Scout Council  
This to be deferred to the first District Executive Meeting |
| 12. | Appointment of Auditors  
Ashley Pankhurst stated that he would like to express a huge thanks to Simon Gill of Kay Shay Keens for all that he does for the District. It takes hours to consolidate all the District accounts.  
Ashley Pankhurst asked that the appointment of Keen Shay Keens again as auditors subject to the District Executive approving this later on. |
| 13. | Address from County Representative  
Rex Stephens, Assistant County Commissioner (Inclusion & Diversity) stated that Milton Keynes is the biggest District in the County and it is also a vibrant and successful one.  
Rex Stephens mentioned other initiatives The Caldecotte Experience and Longrigg which is run by Action for Youth. |
| 14. | Guest Speakers –  
Mayor of Milton Keynes, Cllr Keith McLean stated that he was impressed by the way the meeting was run.  
He had attended the Beavere at PACCAR campsite and had met several groups from Milton Keynes.  
Scouts are there for a number of reasons, helping others, gaining confidence in the youngsters and making friends for life and also to have fun.  
You teach young people new skills and obviously you deliver what you promise.  
Michael McKay – Cotswold Outdoors stated that Scouting was the only way he could get into the outdoor world and in the end it gave him his job. Cotswold gives more to the community than they promote – charity talks, talks on OS, they promote organisations to use their premises by way of having a stand in the entrance, past stands have included RSPB and the National Trust. They hold kit talks in the store or in the hut, how to pack a rucksack and much more.  
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They hold kit talks in the store or in the hut, how to pack a rucksack and much more. |
| 15. | Awards and Presentations  
30 year service award to Ashley Pankhurst  
40 year service award to Adrian French  
Investiture of 3 Explorer Scouts |
| 16. | Refreshments |

The meeting closed at 8.10 p
District Commissioner’s Report

As you will be aware this AGM is my final one as District Commissioner. I thought that I would reflect on some of the highlights of my term of office.

There have been many wonderful events which we have experienced together. We have sent 13 Explorers and Scouts to 2 World Scout Jamborees, one in Sweden and one in Japan. We have hosted Bear Gryllis at the Quarries with the Cubs from across Buckinghamshire, an event he described as one of the best he had attended. I have been to several Beaver events and am always amazed their enthusiasm. I am pleased to say that we have opened two new groups and grown the district year on year. We have seen the 25th anniversary of the Gang Show and the opening of both the climbing wall and the caving complex. In particular I am pleased that we now have more leaders than ever. I have seen youngsters of all ages push themselves to try things they have never done before and have seen many adults do the same. We have had District camps, County camps and some memorable St Georges Parades, I will take the sight of the whole district crossing the bridge into Campbell Park as one of my favourite visions. Over the last few years we have also seen more and more attendances at Remembrance events.

I want to say a really heartfelt thank you to all for all of your hard work this year. To the leaders who run the sections I really appreciate the planning and organising, the time that you put in is so valuable to all of the young people. I know how much work it takes to keep up with your section.

I would like to thank all of those who have served on the executive committee over the year and those who have agreed to serve for the next year. Without you the district could not function, especially the executive officers who not only take on a role but also responsibility for the good management of the district.

Scouting in Milton Keynes as with the rest of the country is run by volunteers. We don't just need leaders in uniform, we need supporters in a variety of roles. Scouting is as popular as ever, evident by 573,000 involved in Scouting Nationally and our youth membership increasing year on year since the formation of our current District 5 years ago. According to our records we have in excess of 200 children wanting to join across the City, who could join tomorrow if we had the support. Every new leader takes a potential 6 off that list.

We have local events planned this year to celebrate the centenary of the Cub Scout Section, I urge everyone to be involved as much as possible. We had a very successful County Cub celebration camp at which a number of our local Cub sections attended.

This year is also the 30th birthday for Beaver Scouts and they too have been celebrating with their own events.

Scouting has faced many challenges throughout its history, we have risen to meet them all and have shown we are an important part of society. We face a number of challenges now; we are unable to provide places for all those who want to join, we face increased costs from accommodation, loss of grants, (Wider use being the most significant for many groups) and other funds and we need you all to raise these issues whenever you talk to your colleagues, friends and local politicians. We need to make people aware that Scouts make good citizens, recent evidence has shown that youngsters who spend just six months as a scout have 22% more leadership skills than their peers (TES). This makes it even more important to grow scouting and shows that losing a group can have a detrimental effect on a community. We will adapt to the challenges we face, we are a movement, we will move to face the future as we have always done.

Once again thanks out to everyone for your support over the last 5 years in my role as DC in Milton Keynes District, and will ensure that all will be informed when my replacement has been appointed. I can also assure you that both Carol and I will still be involved locally in Scouting.

Mark Blomfield
District Commissioner
Beaver Scouts

From Camp to camp and the familiar request of can we do it next weekend.

If only they knew what it involves and how grateful I’m to the leaders who give up their time to make it all work.

It’s great that the leaders chose what their Beavers want for each camp. In summer 2015 groups needed to cover parts of the old Global challenge and the new Internal badge. So bases around these tasks were created. We also had a visit from another district that enjoyed it so much their district held a Funday this year and copied all our ideas!

Over 219 turned up for the 2015 sleepover/Funday. Then this year we topped that to 230 taking part. Our skills and challenges were the bases this year and celebrating the Beavers 30th Birthday year.

Many of the groups have been doing the 30-year challenge, taking part in events and activities of 30. One of which was a speed date of meeting 30 scouts old, new young, local and not. As I told some of the Beavers, I first became a leader when Beavers celebrated their 10th Birthday. In those 20 years I have seen new uniform and two changes of Badges. I’ve seen groups close and move and new ones too. Although I won’t be around to see the Beavers turn a 100, I have seen the scouts turn a 100 and this year the Cubs turned 100 too. I must say the Cubs county 100 camp was very good even if the MK site was a little squeezed.

The other main event for beavers is the annual hike, from Wolverton along the cannel to the campsite. Again very well attended with over a 100 taking part on a bright but chilly afternoon.

Looking forward to another night in the museum.

What a camp again!

Tracy Emerson
ADC (Beaver Scouts)
Scouts

In October 2015 a third of the District took part in the Night Hike, this event was won by Two Mile Ash.

In February 2016, 9 teams took part in the District Scout Quiz which was held at Two Mile Ash. The joint winners were Olney and High Ash.

From March until June 2016 the District ran a fishing event, 6 scouts started but only one scout carried on until the end, fishing on the canal and he caught a lot of fish.

In June 2016 we had the final of the Ready Steady Cook competition, this event was held at the 3rd Newport Pagnell Scout HQs. 5 teams representing the District cooked some wonderful meals with the 5th Newport Pagnell winning the event.

Michael Nimmo
District Scout Leader

Explorer Scouts

Explorers in the district have had a fabulous year doing lots of diverse activities. The Explorer Scout Units (ESU) are giving great experiences to the young people.

Viper and Excalibur ESU's have offered International experiences through a UK international Jamboree, BrumJam. Some of Viper Explorers were part of the U.K. Contingent of Roverway 2016 in France this summer, they organised the trip themselves taking part in cultural and environmental activities with Explorers and Rangers from across Europe.

It has been a time of change for Codebreakers ESU, who have been successfully hosted by Newton Longville Scout Leaders with 10/12 young people regularly attending. The Unit is now in a stable position and starting to offer D of E Award this year. Enigma ESU now have two leaders and are planning to take part in D of E Award also.

Excalibur ESU opened another night on Sunday evening, enabling 30 more young people to access Scouting.

The Units have worked on local environmental projects at Bradwell Abbey, Linford Lakes environmental centre, together with site maintenance at The Quarries.

They have taken part in camps and worked with Groups and Sections as part of the Young Leader scheme. The Young Leaders training scheme has seen more than 60 Explorers and D of E volunteers trained in various modules from planning, risk, accessibility and leadership skills. This is helping to increase their knowledge and skills and help them to become the leaders of the future. The Young Leader Training Camp had 21 attendees and worked through the modules from the skills point of view.

The YL scheme has also been very successful in bring Explorers together from different Units together and the Explorer Scouts themselves are now looking at doing many more activities across the 4 Units.

The Explorer Scout Leader team are working to offer more to the young people in a “clever” way by sharing the load to ensure we can offer a fantastic programme and support each other in the future.

I am thrilled to have been asked to help work with this fantastic scouting section temporarily whilst a new DC is found. I am passionate about growing this older section through a great team of leaders and learning more together to plant seeds for the future of Explorer Scouting in Milton Keynes.

Bev Delaney
District Explorer Scout Commissioner (Acting)
Scout Network

This year has been a year of change for the Network section in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. When the year started the section was county based, however by the time the year ended the section was district based. 2015 saw the introduction of the highly anticipated Network Reboot by HQ. This came about as a response to the difficulty in maintaining members and keeping the section organised over the length and breadth of many counties. It is pleasing to report that Buckinghamshire has always had a good strong network presence and that the structure the team in Bucks put into place was actually the blueprint for the reboot across the country. The biggest change was to bring the Network section under the umbrella of the District leadership teams in order to have more local provision for network and to also improve the links through all the sections within the districts.

Since my time leading Network in Bucks I have had the pleasure of working with a few different areas within the county, but my most successful position to date has been leading the Network in Milton Keynes. At the time of census Milton Keynes has the strongest Network presence in the county, and has shown significant growth over the past 3 years, it is always a pleasure to share what works well in Milton Keynes with the other districts in order to share best practice across the Network sections.

The Network in MK meet twice a month usually on a Sunday Night and do this regularly throughout the year, the Network does not take a summer break as this is a time when we get several members back from University and so we look to actively include them when we can on their return. Members of the district network play very active roles within the district supporting scouting at various different levels and in many different ways. A significant proportion of the network membership are active leaders and we have representation in all sectional age groups. Alongside this the team support district events and activities such as the Milton Keynes Scout and Guide Gang Show.

Throughout the year the Network has attended several events, back in October we entered a team into the Braidwood Regatta event and the team actually won the bottomless boat race (for which we are proud of the trophy we won). In February several members also attended the national network camp "Fun in Beds" which is a camp in Bedfordshire, run by the Bedford network. We have forged some good links with other networks both in and out of the county enjoying a good relationship with the rest of the Bucks teams and also the team from Northampton.

The Network is looking forward to its first full year in the District and continuing to support the district as best as can.

Alex Piercey
District Scout Network Commissioner

Scout Active Support

Although we are not the biggest or most active of Units, we continue to provide support where we are asked and are able.

We held a very successful skills day last September. Many thanks to those who attended as instructors for the day and those who attended. Feedback was very good, and we hope to arrange another for Spring 2017.

By the time you read this, members of the team will have supported the activities and BBQ at the Cubs100 event at Willen Mini – Bowl. Hopefully all will go well and have decent weather!

There are a number of members who, in addition to their Active Support appointment, continue to support Scouting within the District and Groups, perhaps acting as quartermaster, assisting with the shooting club and in many other ways.
I am personally very keen to look at the social aspect of the Unit. Hopefully, we can work on this during the forthcoming year. We have our own facebook page now. MILTON KEYNES SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT Please ask to join.

The District Executive team recently discussed how to support and increase the Unit’s membership. Accordingly, it is hoped to migrate District Occasional Helpers across to the Unit in the month or so. This will not only increase the membership but give them more support and a greater sense of belonging to Scouting in Milton Keynes.

Moving forward, we also aim to:

1. To be more visible at district events.
2. Provide a skills list for leaders to access re working on a specific badge. Hobbies / skills etc such as linguist / mechanic / artist.
3. To provide cover if possible for groups who have a leader down for the odd session. Enough notice must be given though.
4. Volunteers to take on teaching training courses.
5. To support new groups starting up with both leadership and Exec teams.

If there is anything that we can do to support you, please talk to us – we will help if we can.

Rosie Worrall
Scout Active Support Manager