Scouts

Royal Greenwich
District

Annual Report 2021/22

Aims and Objectives

Royal Greenwich District Scout Council is an unincorporated association (operating as Royal Greenwich Scouts and with a registered charity name of New Greenwich District Scouts number 1141023.) constituted in accordance with the rules of The Scout Association (registered no.13919). It exists to provide leadership, advice and support for Scout Groups (autonomous charities within the provisions of the same rules), in an area covered by The Royal Borough of Greenwich. And is supported under those rules by the Scout County of Greater London South, (Registered Charity no. 303883), covering the London Boroughs of Wandsworth, Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Royal Greenwich.

The Scout Association (Registered Charity No. 306101) incorporated by Royal Charter to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Charter of the Association provides for the making of bye-laws approved by Her Majesty in Council which, in turn, authorise the making of the rules referred to above (known as “Policy, Organization and Rules”). The District's Trustees are the District Executive Committee, who cannot act outside the Royal Charter, Bye-Laws and Rules of the Scout Association.

Our Purpose

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Our Values

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.
Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

Our Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by their Promise.

Our Vision

We are committed to the Aim and Method of the Scout Movement. Our long term vision is to continue to develop our Scout Groups so they...

- operate a programme that is relevant enjoyable, attractive and locally achievable,
- are equally available and accessible to all young people within the 6 to 25 age range in our area
- are effectively and appropriately supported by adult volunteers,
- have a positive image and identity,
- are growing,
- communicate effectively within Scouting and to the community.

Looking to the future, we can work together as a team, with a common purpose and with a clear direction. This will need a concerted effort from all our Commissioners, Leaders, Helpers, Administrators, Supporters, Groups and Units.

If we all play our part in delivering the best results for the future of Scouting in our District we can achieve a Scout District that:

- encourages the development of Scouting in our District so that all young people in Greenwich Borough have the opportunity to experience fun, friendship, everyday adventure, challenge and new experiences,
- supports all our adult volunteers so they feel recognised and valued and take pride in their Scouting,
- has an active and focused structure that will develop and maintain leader motivation through shared experiences; supported learning; strategic forward planning, clear governance and specific tailored support,
- provides a high quality, exciting programmes of activity at Group, District and District level delivered by reliable, experienced sectional teams who have abilities and skills appropriate for the role,
- provides training all adults whether leading, supporting or managing our Scout Groups which is appropriate, effective and innovative,
- Has a relevant, inspirational and supportive management structure with effective systems for communication.

Our District support structure delivers practical services that are accessible to all whatever their role. These include:

- support for the youth programme, including camping and adventurous activities,
- growth and development of the Movement in our District,
- coordination of our Scout Groups, Explorer Scout Units and our Local Scout Networks,
- ensuring that all our adult volunteers are vetted before they are authorised to undertake a role in the Movement,
- the formal appointment of adults,
- induction, training, motivation, review and development of adults in the District, including delivery of the Associations adult training programme in partnership with the County Training Team,
- the implementation of the policies and rules of the Association,
- relationships with other organisations and bodies,
- helping young people take part in decision making within our Groups, Districts
- and the District,
- support for our Scout Active Support Units,
- recommendations for decorations and awards,
- advice on financial and administrative matters, particularly relating to charity trusteeship,
- provide an effective chain of communication between our Scout Groups, Districts, County, Region and National Headquarters.

Registered Office:
Royal Greenwich District Scout Centre, 19 Waverly Crescent, London, SE18 7QT

President:

Trustees
The following served as Trustees of the Charity during the year 7th September 2021 to 24th July 2022

Ex-Officio
District Commissioner - John Sweeney
Chairman – Alf Philpott
Secretary – Samantha Midgeley
Treasurer –
District Explorer Scout Commissioner – Andrew Barber
District Scout Network Commissioner –
District Youth Commissioner – Joseph Shippam

DCs Nominations
Christopher Bishop - Chairman, Premises and Estates Sub-committee
Barry Matthews – Finance Sub-committee representative
Matthew Butterfield – Deputy District Commissioner
Lorraine Durrant
Mohammed Daibiri

Elected Members
James Vallely
Jenny Grant
Jo Graham
Stephen Ellis
Conway Tearle

Principal Bankers
LloydsTSB Bank Plc, Blackheath Village Branch

Custodian Trustee
The land and buildings vested in the District are held on its behalf by the Scout Association Trust Corporation Limited.

Sub-committees
The District has three sub-committees:
- Estates (Chair, Chris Bishop)
- Finance
- District Appointments Advisory Committee

Our Reports

… from the armchair

This year has seen a farewell to red/amber/yellow and a hearty welcome to GREEN! A word which is central in our district name has also been at the heart of our resurgent programme of activity and reunion. We've welcomed back things in the planning when lockdown struck and gone on to enjoy a fabulous district diary put together by our wonderful sectional teams – St George's Day, District Stroll (JOTT), Sports Day, Camps and Ready Steady Cook amongst it all. For me, part of the Scout Law feels reinvigorated – we are a FAMILY.

A personal highlight has been the huge effort to nudge aside the pasta mountain in our support of Greenwich Foodbank with help from 12 Groups and 2 Explorer Units along with some added GirlGuiding energy from Charlton. It took only four months to eradicate an issue which had caused concerns for ages. It has been a delight to award some Community Impact Activity badges along the way. A massive "well done" to so many of you and please pass this on to local schools and church groups which have pitched in as well.

As always, I've been supported by enthusiastic executive members and our dedicated estates team which has welcomed Harriet into its numbers at ExNet. I hope you've seen and appreciated developments around our sites. The exec responsibility of ensuring safe and good quality Scouting in Royal Greenwich is always made so easy by the imagination and hard work of you all.

There have been some sad goodbyes this year through the passing of admired colleagues including John Kingsmell, George Phipson and Angie Vamplew. We give thanks for their energy, enthusiasm and vision as well as sending our best wishes, sympathy and prayers to their families.

Lastly, thank you John for another year at the helm and for sharing your constant shadow, Harvey, with us all.

Best wishes, well done and thanks to all of you!
Alf *(District Chair)*

…Beaver Bit

The District Team would like to thank all the leaders for volunteering their time to support the Beaver Scouts. The commitment, hours of planning and executing a wealth of excellent programmes week in and week out throughout the year. Thus, helping them earn their badges and awards, and in doing so helping them grow in confidence and self- assurance that will help them journey through life. All these qualities make us, a very successful district.

Over the year, we have held several Beaver Scouts events: Drive-in Movie, Disability Awareness badge, Explore badge, St George`s Day celebration and Sports Day. Attendance to these events has increased and it has been great to see old and new groups joining in. This year, we have also welcomed Abya to the team, as our Deputy District Youth Commissioner for Beaver Scouts.

As I reflect upon the year, it has been lovely seeing Beaver Scouts across the District coming together and just enjoying themselves. We are very excited about next year's programme and looking forward to seeing everyone there.
Lorraine Durrant (*ADC Beaver Scouts****)***

…Cub Chat

Hooray, our first year of face to face district activities along with the addition of Joe to our district team. This year we have had a quiz, a scrapheap challenge to make a campsite of the future, dodgeball competition, DIY badge da,y a platinum Jubilee themed cub camp well organised by Hayley

and Joe with the help of all the leaders onsite and John's usual campfire and our last activity of the year was the cub taskmaster organised by Sean from the 9th RE.

As I come to the end of my report I would like to say a big thank you to Joe for helping me with the minutes of our sectional meetings, most importantly to Hayley who gives up lots of her time to help me organise and run the district activities, but a special thank you goes to all the leaders for their support this year with district activities but more importantly for their hard work and dedication in providing such an active, fun and rewarding programme for the cubs to enjoy. As we look forward to the first year of youth led programming my hope is that more cubs from more packs take part in the activities they helped to choose, so more cubs meet other cubs and get to earn more badges, but most importantly have lots of fun.

Please remember all activities are on the district diary for you to check.

I am feeling very positive about the future of the cub section and hope the leaders will be feeling it too.

Looking forward to an even better year.
Graham Openshaw (*ADC Cubs) and the District Cub Team*

...Scout Stuff

So another scouting year draws to a close and much like last year there were new challenges to meet and work with to ensure scouting at district level could continue.

The scout section met those challenges head on and stepped outside to enjoy some extreme weather, I don't know how we do it but it seems to be all or nothing weather wise when running scout section event, either beautiful sunshine or newly named storms.

So this year should have kicked off with a hike from Eleven Acres to Frylands Wood but after a fairly strong response groups had to drop out for various reasons until one group remained. After a few emails back and forth it was agreed we would postpone until later. November saw the first of our extreme weather fronts, after one of our district all section briefings it was agreed that we would run Korfball outside (enter storm Arwen). Once again after a good number of groups said they would attend numbers dropped and then the storm hit leaving just the very hardy (or foolish) in attendance. The afternoon went well with all of us learning as we went along and whilst the weather was wasn't in our favour we all left knowing a little more about Korfball. January saw the Covid restrictions relaxed a little so we went inside to exercise our minds with a little quiz. It was good to see a mix of regular attendees and new groups. The Leaders were once again disqualified, so no change there then. February saw the second of our extreme weather fronts with storm Eunice. Heading back outside for a spot of Geocaching the scout used waypoints to navigate and find a code that (if time was on our side) would have been decoded to read "Well done RG". March saw the Scouts cycling along the water front from Greenwich towards Tower Bridge and back. My thanks to Terry (8thRE) for leading on this event. Whilst May saw multiple groups descend on to the ExNet centre for a few games of tag rugby, once again my thanks to Terry (8thRE) for leading on this event as well as Mark (10thRE) for helping ref the games, Hailey and Graham for time keeping and scoring and Erin and Sally for the constant supply of drinks.

Our last event was our district camp, the weather was perfect with beautiful sunshine. Saturday morning was busy with group lead bases whilst after lunch the Scouts built large scale catapults using 6 foot stave, I think it is fair to say the 15min tinkering time was the down fall for most groups. Scouting this year has seen many changes, so my thanks to you all for working with the DSL's in making these events happen and we hope that next year will see even more groups in attendance.
Stephen Ellis & James Vallely (*District Scout Leaders)*

...Explorers Exploration

We have 9 Units in the District. Each year we like to give a taste of what one of our Units are upto. This year it's the turn of Astronomers:

We have had a successful year with explorers with 13 young people registered with us though numbers at meetings vary due to exams and other commitments. We are very glad to be out of the other side of covid restrictions and able to meet in person again.

Leadership

Alex Mansi and I have both been running explorers and would appreciate a third leader to give us flexibility if other commitments come up. I am starting a new job in August so am likely to be less available over the next year. We are sticking to fortnightly meetings to allow for our availability and other activities that the young people are involved in at this age.

Activities

We have had a varied programme again during the year including sessions on the Hollywood film era , global issues where we researched how to apply for asylum in the UK and how to live on a budget of four pounds a day and one on Aids activism planned by Alex which were fascinating and engaging for the explorers. We met at the war memorial on Remembrance Day with a traditional last minute scramble to find scouts willing to read war poems. They did so well an observer who had been a south London scout himself donated £500 to the group. At Christmas we finally managed our Christmas Carol singing at the DLR station after two years of restrictions though Paul had succumbed to covid just before, raising money for the 999 club in Deptford. We have continued to include a lot of active outdoors sessions where possible. We have had a couple of climbing sessions at the reach and a few of the explorers are now confident and competent climbers. We ran a session on leadership skills which the explorers then applied to running games and activities for the scouts, the important learning skill being how to get anyone to listen to instructions! We had a live yoga session having had some on line during the restrictions and learnt postures to correct the hunched over position from too much texting and staring at phones! Our next session will be swimming at the lido and we will invest the explorers at the conclusion of our programme this year with a BBQ outside in the garden. We join up with scouts for sessions intermittently and had a great bonfire night at a local scout centre. We completed planning for an expedition last autumn which had to be cancelled right at the last minute as three in the group went down with covid much to everyones disappointment. We will make it to summer camp this year for the first time in three years for a shorter camp at 11 Acres with the scouts.

Objectives for next year

We will aim to actually complete an expedition in the autumn so to dodge all the summer exams
We would like to make use of growing plants and vegetables in the garden dramatically transformed by Cathy and Mike with support from other parents and use the space for bbq and outdoor events
We will take a new cohort of explorers from scouts again this year and programme plan with those involved.

It has been great to see each other in person again after all this time and to have the enthusiasm of the explorers back on track.

We appreciate all the work Paul has put into scouts and the programme and the support he gives to us to run the section

Lucy Hickey (Explorer Leader, Astronomers)

...Youth Yomp

This year has seen further progression with making Royal Greenwich Scouts even more YouShape! It was great to see how well Royal Greenwich adapted and changed to fit the difficulties and the challenges of the pandemic, however since returning to face-to-face scouting it has been great to get back out there and speak to young people to make a difference in their scouting experience.

Last October we launched the YouShape award, with four badges to be achieved to develop young people's ability to plan, lead and represent in their scouting programme. Having spent over 2 years working with Youth Commissioners around the country it was great to see it launch, and it has been fantastic to see so many on the arms of young people around the district.

I was also lucky enough to attend the young leader training weekend where I got to speak about youth shaped scouting and the new awards. I also started a youth team through volunteers from this weekend. It has been great to see Abya, Alfred, Aine and Dylan become part of the team, you have probably seen them around the district popping up at different events.

The team did not hang about and were quickly involved in the planning of our district youth forums that were held in April; it was fantastic to see all the sections coming together to discuss what they wanted to see included in the district diary for next year. We also got some of the cubs to teach Alf what was considered cool in 2022!

As a result of the youth forum all the ideas were combined and as a district team we sat down and worked through the ideas and incorporated as many into our programme for next year. It will be great to see all our district events full of young people next year and sharing their ideas to make Royal Greenwich scouts even more Youth Shaped.

***Joseph Shippam** (District Youth Commissioner)*

…the DC speaks ('cos Harvey can't)…….

I really hope this is the last time I say "What a different type of year."

A year that started with some restrictions in place and Groups balancing these restrictions with getting back to their normal programmes. I know that some have found it difficult to get back to normality. It has proven more challenging than many thought. Then, all of a sudden, bang, everything clicked and, this glorious District has begun to get back to the high we were on before the world changed so dramatically in March 2020. Zoom still plays a part in our programme but, more as a side dish, rather than the main course.

There have been changes in the District Team. Jenny left the Beaver Dam after over 10 years at the helm. Lorraine took on the reigns and has helped the Beaver section go from strength to strength. I'm sure we will have over 100 Beavers at an event very, very soon. We also welcome Joseph, who took on the Youth Commissioner role just before lockdown started but has been able to get things going this year by forming a District Youth Team and help collate this year's Diary with ideas collected from this year's very successful Youth Forums. Welcome to the Team Aine, Abya, Alfred and Dylan.

Sadly, we lost three District legends. John, George and Angie supported me when I became DC at a very difficult time and were always there to give words of advice, when needed. We'll miss you all.

I said to the ADCs that, perhaps, we should start slowly with activities but, no, from our first activity with 30 Young Leaders attending a training weekend to the last, over 50 Cubs attending a fantastic Taskmaster competition, it has been one heck of a year. I'll leave it to the ADCs to talk about their activities. However, I will mention two. Our St George's Day couldn't have gone any better and highlighted what this District is all about, from car park duty to activity supervision, everyone just rolls their sleeves up and gets on with it. My highlight, however, was easily the District Stroll. Two years in the making, my thanks go to James, Stephen and Terry who entertained and supported my crazy idea of walking the District by joining me in training walks every Sunday. Then they joined me on the day (a flipping hot day at that), with Dylan, walking over 26 miles from Group to Group. No-one could have imagined what a day it would be. We were joined by young people every step of the way (except Blackheath Hill, don't know why?!) and to have over 500 young people join us was totally overwhelming. Let's not forget the refreshment suppliers (just loved the bananas), those that opened halls for our loo breaks, the parents that walked and those that waited around at the end to supply much needed alcoholic celebrations. An absolutely brilliant day. Next year's District Stroll is already in the planning!

I think the Estates Team should take a mahoosive bow. Each of our Centres has gone from strength to strength this year with our Camp Sites booked every weekend. They are all looking magnificent but there's still work to be done. Why not offer a weekend's work at one of our Sites? We need that Bouldering Wall finished, the Target Sports area completed and our Camp Fire circles refurbished. Go on, one weekend for us!

We have a new Group. Welcome 7th Royal Greenwich. It's great that the District can now offer Land, Air and Sea Scouts. Our numbers are nearly back to our 2020 levels and I'm sure we will be there and more at our next census. I seem to be giving out Wood Badges at every AGM I attend. It's amazing.

We aren't completely there yet. I still need to reinvigorate our Awards Evening, but you guys are making it harder and harder for me as every week sees more and more Chief Scouts Awards being presented. Between us all, we need to look at nominating adults for Awards and we need to have a big push with the Appointments Panel. There are some changes, challenges and refreshes ahead of us in the next year and we need to ensure that RG is ready and raring to go.

I can't finish without mentioning the DC's Challenge. I don't think Jamie or I ever thought we would achieve what we have, when he casually mentioned his idea to me at a meeting. The Pasta Mountain has gone. This District never ceases to amaze me. You really do make me proud to say I am the District Commissioner of Royal Greenwich. THANK YOU each and every one of you!!
John (The bloke that has to come along when you invite Harvey to an activity. I know my place!)

Our Wood Badges

Glenn Hall	1st Royal Greenwich
Sophie Sweeney	2nd Royal Eltham
Maria Alfaradhi	3rd Royal Greenwich
Marion Hardy	4th Royal Eltham
Paige Wiggins	8th Royal Eltham
Hannah Tilney	8th/15th Woolwich
Andy Hemment	9th Royal Eltham
Maria Wade	9th Royal Eltham
Ruby Shand	10th Royal Eltham
Anthony Ellis	36th Woolwich
Karen Dibben	38th Woolwich
Elizabeth Nash	46th Greenwich
Joe Shippam	46th Greenwich
Ali Edney	51st Royal Greenwich SS
Laura Wingrove	51st Royal Greenwich SS
Lucy Hickey	Astronomers

Our Length of Service Awards

5 years

Natalie Chisnell	2nd Royal Eltham
Ali Omar	3rd Royal Greenwich
Khadija Dabiri	3rd Royal Greenwich
Dean Oxlade	4th Royal Greenwich
Justin Walters	4th Royal Greenwich
Destiny Pincott	8th Royal Greenwich
Dolores Mansell	9th Royal Eltham
Anita Barlow	9th Royal Eltham
Pat Guard	27th Woolwich
Kirstie-Jane De Boick	51st Royal Greenwich SS
Ian Broughton	Gang Show SAS
Lin Bain	Gang Show SAS
Monique Lott	Target Sports SAS
Amy Lott	Target Sports SAS

10 years

Aaron Dunster	1st Royal Eltham
Andy Smith	3rd Royal Eltham
Diane Pincott	8th Royal Greenwich

Hannah Tilney	8th/15th Woolwich
Catriona Welch	13th Woolwich
Helen Snape	13th Woolwich
Lisa Cook	13th Woolwich
Samantha Gregory	40th Greenwich
Paul Woodgate	49th Greenwich
Suzanne Meredith	49th Greenwich
Irene Olaleye	51st Royal Greenwich SS
Julie Passanha	Gang Show SAS

15 years

Bev Jordan	4th Royal Greenwich
Win Cox	4th Royal Greenwich
Ann French	8th Royal Eltham
Ann Cunnigham	13th Woolwich
James Vallely	27th Woolwich
Hayley Openshaw	54th Greenwich

20 years

Paul Howard	54th Greenwich
Andy Barber	DESC
Karen Crook	Gang Show SAS

25 years

Jenny Grant	District Shop Manager

30 years

Andrew Crompton	Severndroog ESU
Alan Lyons	SAS
Pat Rauch	SAS
Joy Hayes	SAS

40 years

Bernie Kettle	4th Royal Eltham

50 years

Norman Woodard	SAS

District Commissioner Commendations

Joseph (Beaver, 7th Royal Greenwich)

Joseph decided to shave all his hair off to raise money for Brian Tumour Support after his little cousin was struck down with a tumour. A brave thing for a six year old to do and his efforts helped raise £501 for his cause.

Ben (Beaver, 49th Greenwich), Oisin (Cub, 36th Woolwich)

Ben and Oisin were amongst a group of young people who went along to Tesco in Woolwich to support the Greenwich Foodbank. A daunting task for anyone of any age. The seven and eight year old came along as two very shy young people but soon took charge and were such a great advert for Scouting. Ben guided people to the aisles where the food we wanted was. Oisin used his “cuteness” to persuade people to buy much needed food for the cause.

All day long shoppers who had been persuaded to part with goods, were telling me what a great pair they were and how proud we should all be to have such polite young people in our movement.