



Hatfield Forest District Scout Council

Registered Charity Number 1205838

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

**HATFIELD FOREST DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025**

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HATFIELD FOREST DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
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Annual Report of the Trustees

Legal Name	Hatfield Forest District Scout Council	
Registered Charity Number	1 2 0 5 8 3 8	
Charity's principle address	Birchanger Scout Hut, Birchanger, Bishops Stortford, CM23 5QL	
Trustees	Peter Lambert Jo Waters Roger Pettett Simon Moore Sarah Eley Jackie Martin Keith Hunt Alfie King	District Commissioner District Commissioner (resigned 18/7/24) District Commissioner Chairman Treasurer Co-opted member Elected member Elected member

Structure, governance and management

Structure and governance:

The District's governing documents are those of the 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.

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

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Management

The District is managed by the District Executive Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout Group which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

This District Executive Committee exists to support the Group Scout Leader's in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

The maintenance of District property;

The raising of funds and the administration of District finance;

The insurance of persons, property and equipment;

District public occasions;

Assisting in the recruitment of leaders and other adult support

Appointing any sub committees that may be required;

Appointing District Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

Financial Review

Reserves and Investment Policy

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the district should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Executive Committee considers that the group should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs, circa £35,000.

The Group held reserves of approximately £46,000 against this at year end. This is above the level/below required for operating expenses. However this can be explained by requiring to hold additional funds to support our Groups and to cover the self insurance required for Birchanger contents.

The District adopts a risk adverse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only main stream bank and building society accounts.

Finally, the Executive would like to offer their thanks to all those volunteers who give so much so freely for the benefit of the Scouts within the District remit. Like all Scouting the District is highly dependent on the fantastic work of all its adult volunteers undertake, always far beyond what is expected of them. On behalf of these Scouts who benefit - thank you.

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The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s):

Full name(s):

Roger Michael Petter
ROGER MICHAEL PETER

Simon Moore

Position:

DISTRICT LEADS VOLUNTEER

Chair Trustees
Hatfield Forest
District Scout

Date:

2025 -07 -17



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

HATFIELD FOREST DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

On accounts for the year
ended

2024/2025

Charity no
(if any)

1205838

Set out on pages

1 TO 12

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached..

Signed:

Date:

27/6/25

Name:

IAN KING

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

3 LUSHES MEAD
HARLOW
ESSEX CM18 6QA

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Statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Charitable activities	10,729	-	10,729	10,202
Other trading activities	-	-	-	2,380
Total	10,729	-	10,729	12,582
 Incoming resources from investment income:				
Bank interest	421	-	421	250
Total	421	-	421	250
 Total incoming resources:	 11,150	 -	 11,150	 12,832
 Resources expended				
Expenditure on:				
Cost of generating funds	11,395	-	11,395	7,429
Jamboree	500	-	500	-
Total expenditure	11,895	-	11,895	7,429
 Net income/(expenditure)	 -	 745	 - -	 745
 Net movement on funds	 -	 1,936	 - -	 1,936
SAS	-	1,936	-	435
Explorers	2,059	-	2,059	1,442
Badge Account	858	-	858	284
Net movement in funds	981	-	981	2,161
 Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	57,652	-	57,652	50,088
Total funds carried forward	57,888	-	57,888	57,652

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Balance Sheet

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
Non monetary assets				
Tangible assets	86,000	-	86,000	86,000
Badge Stock	3,312	-	3,312	3,648
Total non monetary assets	89,312	-	89,312	89,648
Current assets				
Debtors	6,922	-	6,922	-
Cash at bank and in hand	78,271	-	78,271	79,854
Total current assets	85,193	-	85,193	79,854
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year				
Deferred income	27,305	-	27,305	22,202
Total net assets or liabilities	57,888	-	57,888	57,652

Aproved and signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees on 18th July 2025:

Simon Moore

Simon Moore

Chair Trustee

H.B. Oak Scouts,

Roger Miller

Roger Miller

District Leader Volunteer

2025-07-17

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Notes to the accounts cont

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

The District is a registered charity in England with charity number 1205838. The charity's full title is Hatfield Forest District Scout Council and is operated in accordance with the Policy, organisation and Rules as set out by the Scout Association.

The District principally operates in Hatfield Forest area of Essex, which encompasses Stebbing, Dunmow, Hatfield Broad Oak, Hallingbury, Takeley, Stansted, Henham and Elsenham.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102; and the Charities Act 2011

Going Concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have reasonable expectations that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Incoming resources

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources;
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Membership Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions are reported net of any amount collected on behalf of and payable to other parts of the Scout movement. The District's share of membership subscriptions received are recognised as income in the period to which the subscription is attributable. Subscriptions are typically collected immediately before the balance sheet date in respect of the subsequent accounting period - in this case the subscriptions are deferred to the later reporting period.

The District activities also include those of the Explorers, SAS and the badge shop. Separate bank accounts and management figures are maintained. Consequently, no income or expenditure requires general apportionment in the District statement of financial activities but the Explorers accounts are detailed in note 8 for gift aid .

Non Monetary Assets

The Birchanger Scout Hut was transferred to the District when the Birchanger Scout Group Closed in 2016. The Scout Association have a 49yr lease with Saffron Walden Council for the land that the Scout Hut was built on. The Scout hut is held in the accounts at the value it is insured for £70,000.

The minibus was given to the District by the Fellowship, now known as SAS, for all their Scout Groups to use in 2019. This has been revalued last year and is held in the accounts at its market value of £16,000.

Stocks of badges held for resale are recognised at cost

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Notes to the accounts cont

Note 3 Analysis of Income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
Analysis				
Voluntary income	District Capitation	26,399	-	26,399
	Capitation paid to Essex County Scouts	-20,090	-	-20,090
	Net District Capitation retained	6,309	-	6,309
	Other	1,650	-	1,650
Total		7,959	-	10,202
Activities for generating funds	District activity	2,770	-	2,770
	Sale of boats	-	-	2,380
	Total		2,770	2,380
TOTAL INCOME		10,729	-	12,582

Note 4 Analysis of expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Last year Total funds
Analysis						
Expenditure on Charitable Activities			£			£
Training	150	-	150	340	-	340
Materials and equipment	362	-	362	2,023	-	2,023
Utilities	2,486	-	2,486	1,026	-	1,026
Insurance	2,036	-	2,036	1,811	-	1,811
HQ	438	-	438	889	-	889
Internet	324	-	324	403	-	403
AGM	99	-	99	172	-	172
Other trading activities	5,500	-	5,500	765	-	765
Total expenditure on charitable activities	11,395	-	11,395	7,429	-	7,429
Separate material item of expense						
Jamborees	500	-	500	-	-	-
Stebbing drainage	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	500	-	500	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	11,895	-	11,895	7,429	-	7,429

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Notes to the accounts cont

Note 5 Debtors and prepayments

	This year £	Last year £
Subscriptions	6,922	-
Total	<u>6,922</u>	<u>-</u>

Note 6 Cash at bank and in hand

	This year £	Last year £
District current account	37,190	40,174
District deposit account	21,248	20,937
NS&I	6,281	6,171
Badge shop account	2,920	2,062
SAS account	3,978	5,914
Explorers account	6,654	4,595
Total	<u>78,271</u>	<u>79,854</u>

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Notes to the accounts cont

Note 7 Creditors and accruals

	Amounts falling due within one	
	This year £	Last year £
Accruals and deferred income	27,305	22,202
Total	27,305	22,202

Deferred income

Balance at the start of the reporting period	22,202
Amounts added in current period	27,305
Amounts released to income from previous periods	- 22,202
Balance at the end of the reporting period	27,305

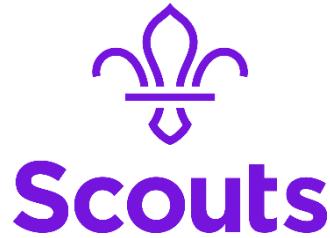
The capitation income is received at the end of the financial year for the next accounting period.

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Notes to the accounts cont

Note 8 Explorers statement of financial activities

	Total funds	Prior year funds
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Subscriptions	4,831	5,680
Other trading activities	2,038	2,457
Other Scouting activities	338	4,953
Other	-	300
Total	7,207	13,390
 Resources expended		
Charitable payments	5,148	11,949
Total	5,148	11,949
 Net movement in funds	 2,059	 1,441
Total funds brought forward	 4,595	 3,154
Total funds carried forward	6,654	4,595



Hatfield Forest Scout Council

71st Annual General Meeting

Date: 17th July 2025, 7:30pm

Venue: Birchanger HQ

Minutes

Item 1 – Welcome by the District Chairperson, Simon Moore

Simon Moore opened the meeting at 7:40 to allow for late arrivals – Welcomed everyone to the meeting, we were expecting perhaps a few more, but parking may be cause for delay.

It's been a fairly changeable year this year, we've had some challenges which have been across the board not just with staffing but also finance and gathering finance information from sections. Sadly we have lost people who are no longer with us who have been part of our Scouting family, and our thoughts are with their families.

Two of us are departing from this board and hope that there will be some willing volunteers to fill those roles.

I think that is about all from me, so we will move on to the next agenda point.

Item 2 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from:

Niek van Veggel – 1st Stebbing
Keith Hunt – SAS
John Salmon - SAS
Mark Gerber – 1st Stansted
Bob Bye – Essex County Member

Andrew Arnold - SAS
Peter Lambert (Joint DLV)
Jill Hunt - SAS
Kim Flack 1st Stansted (late arrival)
Lindsey Bolus 1st Stansted

Item 3 – Governance topics

a) Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held 18th July 2024

SM – Asked if all had received the minutes as part of the invitation pack, some responded that they had not received the invite – NS advised that it was shared by email to those addresses held, with the request to forward on as necessary. If anybody would like to check/update the email address held please do so at the end of the meeting.

b) Re-adopt the model constitution from POR – shared as part of AGM pack

NS - this is the constitution as taken from POR with no deviations. SM proposed that we readopt the constitution. All approved.

c) Note the District's financial year

SE – The financial year being reported ran from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

d) Approve appointed and community members of the District Scout Council

Discussion around the definition of the DSC, understand this to be all members including parents, leaders and other volunteers. No additional members to approve at this time.

e) Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board

At the last AGM we agreed 8 members may be appointed to the Trustee Board. SE proposed, Jude Brand seconded.

MC asked whether there are specific roles desired within the trustee board? It may help with recruitment if individuals have a specific role to fill, for example programme lead, or recruitment etc. SM responded that not having the relevant knowledge or experience has been a contributing factor in his decision to stand down. Feels that the role would be better served by someone with Scouting experience. In addition, SM feels that there should be a separation of roles if someone holding a group role also wished to join the trustee board.

The question of role specific trustees will be explored at the next trustee meeting and the outcome shared with the wider district with a view to appointing trustees.

f) Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM) – currently 15

Discussion around the legal requirement to be quorate at future AGMs and whether we should look to reduce the number. Some felt that the number should be reduced to ensure compliance, others countered that reducing the quorum could in turn reduce the expectation and lead to further reductions in attendees. Ultimately it was agreed that compliance of meetings was more important to avoid having to rerun meetings where the quorum was not met.

Last year the quorum was agreed at 15, **all agreed to lower this number to 12**, while acknowledging that we should be encouraging more members of the district scout council to attend future meetings.

Item 4 – Review of the previous year

a) Joint Lead District Volunteers' (District Commissioners') report and presentations

RP – see appendix report at the end of these minutes.

SM – thank you Roger, a reminder of the reasons why we are all here and the great opportunities afforded to the young people of Hatfield Forest District.

b) Presentations from Sections on International Camps this year.

Alfie King – Explorer Scout Leader and Trustee.

- This year we have awarded 2 diamond and 2 platinum awards.
- 6 Network members and 9 explorers went to Bulgaria.
- Youth membership is healthy, but it is more difficult to recruit leaders and this is ongoing.
- Also continuing to sort and log the equipment stored at Birchanger.

Francis Pettett – Network Member

- Myself and 2 other Network members joined Kent Scouts for Peru25 Network for a trip to Peru. The trip started in Lima to acclimatise and experience city life in Peru. The trip also coincided with Holy Week which meant we were able to experience the festivals and processions.
- After Lima we travelled to Cusco and observed the Corn Festival. This is a significant part of the culture as corn is viewed as a gift from the Gods. We were immersed in the Cusco culture and tried local dishes made from guinea pig and alpaca – having Alpaca

- pizza after the Inca trail was a food highlight!
- The Inca trail was a 4-day hike covering about 90km overall, this was definitely the most challenging part of the trip, physically demanding in high temperatures, getting up at 4:30am to be on the trail by 5:30am at the latest.
- These early starts were rewarded with the most perfect weather and glorious views on the day that we reached Machu Pichu.
- We were also lucky enough to see Paddington Bear in the wild!
- For our visit to the Rainbow Mountains the weather wasn't quite so great, and being 536m above sea level the altitude was challenging, but again we were rewarded with spectacular views.
- Later we travelled south to the jungle for 5 nights and spent time with a tribe who welcome tourists to generate income for their community. This income means that they can send their children to school.
- While with the tribe we undertook traditional activities such as fishing, canopy walking and nocturnal animal observations.
- My favourite part of the trip was the wildlife; seeing Caiman while piranha fishing, tarantulas, rare moths and macaw birds; the whole trip was incredible and one of the most amazing experiences. *Photo presentation included at the end of this document.*

Matt Morland – 1st Henham and Elsenham

This is a very condensed version of the presentation given, for more details please visit the Facebook Page – [Robert and Matt's Australian Jamboree](#)

- Australia Jamboree 2025 – 26 days away, 4000 photos! This presentation has been given to the group, section by section and to the numerous companies and organisations who have supported with fundraising for the trip.
- Group of 54 Essex Scouts, 18 Leader volunteers, 20+ Scouts from Solihull plus one Scout from Cork who took the initiative to identify and join a group to be able to take part. H&E was ideal as the Scout was able to fly into Stansted to join the training weekend.
- The Essex Scout group was made up of individuals from all over Essex, with Robert (Matt's son) being the only one from HF district.
- Comprehensive preparation which included fundraising, remote training and collaboration via teams, in person camp covering topics such as health and wellbeing, health and safety, cultural awareness, kit prep etc.
- Fundraising efforts included growing vegetables, Easy Fundraising, SAS, Parish Council, local company donations, much of which was publicised via the Facebook page.
- Trip began on 26 December flying into Kuala Lumpur where activities included a cable car into the mountains, visiting the Batu Caves and the Hindu Temple within, and feeding the resident monkeys!
- After this we spent time in Cairns for New Year, visiting Hartley's Crocodile Park which was a highlight along with a cuddle with a Koala! Final stop before the Jamboree was the Great Barrier Reef for swimming and snorkelling.
- Travelled by train to the Jamboree to arrive at a massive site housing 10,000 camping scouts. In addition to this there were a further 5000 'Joeys' who attended for a day visit.
- The range of activities undertaken at the Jamboree was not hindered by the three days of torrential rain which was very quickly forgotten once it stopped raining and the intense heat dried out the campsite quagmire within a few hours!
- It's been brilliant to be able to bring home a variety of activities and ideas to share.
- At the end of the Jamboree we travelled to Sydney and after a quick change of campsite due to a lightning strike we were ready to explore. We took a cable car over the blue mountains, did some shopping and had a jet boat tour around Sydney harbour.
- The final journey home was very smooth and considering the amount of travelling and different methods of transport it was only on the last flight that one bag went missing!
- AJ2025; Awesome
- Thoroughly recommend international trips and thank everyone who helped to make it happen. Really hope to increase international participation to all members, and especially cubs. These trips develop great skills and independence and it was a joy to observe this development in the youth members on our trip.

SM – thank you all for such great presentations.

c) The County Lead Volunteer's remarks

n/a not in attendance

d) Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of Accounts

- Sarah Eley – The accounts are presented on a deferred basis bringing in proper accounting methods. Because of the capitation system income and expenditure needs to be represented in the same year.
- District opted to absorb the county fee increase, it increased for these accounts, it also increased significantly for 2025-26. Groups have been charged £54.50 for the last 3 years.
- Total net district capitation reduces as cost is absorbed, how long this can continue is questionable and to be decided.
- In this accounting year we again benefited from a SAS contribution of £1500 for the minibus, this is the last year that this is promised.
- District Activity Day – Skreens Park day cost was high, funded by consolidating the section bank accounts – recorded under 'other trading activities'.
- Total income £10759 against £12k in the previous year.
- Key movement in costs – materials and income equipment. Total is less than previous year (where we had significant spend on rifles) and should have been lower, but utilities costs dramatically increased as we had to pay for water to be reconnected.
- I believed that the DD was in place when it was not, the water company sent a letter advising that the water is going to be cut off (no warnings were received) so we had no choice but to pay the reconnection fee. Administrative error on my part which led to the escalation by the company. DD is now set up and shouldn't happen again.
- Hut and Minibus insurance is going up, tried shopping around but for the minibus Unity was the only option, same for Birchanger – Unity only option.
- HQ costs went down – internet costs were reduced; but now set to increase again.
- AGM costs are down on previous year.
- We contributed £500 to Matt and Robert's jamboree fundraising – comparable to what we had funded for WSJ2023.
- Referencing the balance sheet – this lists current assets and debtors, there were some invoices not paid at year end, now just 1 remains outstanding.
- Deferred income – this is capitation. In March the groups are billed for the next financial year.
- Query from MM about entry for Stebbing drainage – this was a legacy payment that is not set to be repeated.
- Explorer accounts – note to accounts. Explorers are included in the district accounts, the whole reason being that we could reclaim GA for Explorer fees. 3 years have already been claimed.
- Explorers bank account and day to day recording has been taken over by Chris Hakim – ESL. They have moved onto the OSM finance platform for the administration of this – huge thanks to Matt Morland for the help and support to enable them to do this. Strongly recommend that all groups consider using this functionality within OSM as the Explorer financial management is working well.
- I am standing down because I am not here enough as I am away a lot and cannot attend the meetings or make the payments as required. So this will be the last time I will present the treasurer's report.

SM – thank you for presenting those, and for helping me in my role as chair. Thank you also for what is something of a burden.

Accounts are to be considered, but no requirement to accept – copy signed by SM and RP.

Item 5 – Making Appointments to the Trustee Board

- a. Appoint the District Chair:

SM resigned from role, and said that appointing to this role is essential.

RP – Peter Lambert has advised that Keith Hunt has offered to take on the role for 1 year only while

a permanent replacement is found. SM asked if there are any other nominations – there were none so SM nominated KH and Dane Morriseau seconded.

- b. Appoint the District Treasurer, SE resigned and confirmed that all utilities are now on DD and so the main treasurer role is now simplified, and the main task is regular monitoring and making payments. SE has also agreed to continue to assist with putting the end of year accounts together in the current format for submission to the charity commission.

NS - In the absence of any other nominations I will be happy to take this on in a caretaker role, but not as a trustee. I already have bank access so would seem the logical solution. MM asked if the role profile could be shared within the district to put out to parents etc – NS to share.

ROLE REMAINS VACANT FOR THE TIMEBEING

- c. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board – no appointments to be made, but to look at the specific roles as discussed in point 3e.
- d. Appoint the Independent Examiner
SE – propose to appoint Ian King – experience in accountancy and has examined for the past 2 years – no objections.
- e. Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council - no nominations at this time, but request to share more information about the roles.

Item 6 – Closing Remarks

SM – it has been 2 years as Chair for me, and I have really enjoyed the role. The time and experiences offered to young people in HF district is amazing, It's been an eye opener and I would personally like to thank you all for what you do for these young people in our community.

RP – we close the meeting with some Thank You's and an award.

Presented 5-year service award to Sarah Eley – it is a shame to have come on your last day on the Trustee Board, but thank you for your time and commitment.

Gifts were then presented to Sarah and Simon with thanks for their time and efforts during their trusteeships, we also thank Sally Bentley who has retired after many years in the district – this gift will be passed on.

Finally, after many many years of service we thank Jackie Martin who has retired from her role as GLV at 1st Dunmow, we are pleased that you will remain on the Trustee board.

Meeting closed for refreshments at 21:20pm. Thank you to SAS for organising the food and drinks, always very well received and much appreciated.

Attendees

Simon Moore: District Chair	Sarah Eley: Outgoing District Treasurer	Nicola Sladden: District Secretary
Roger Pettett (Joint DLV)	John Brand: SAS Chair, 1 st Stansted Treasurer	Andy Bunting (SAS)
Alfie King: ESL	Matt Morland, 1 st Henham & Elsenham	Francis Pettett – Network
Dot Parker (SAS)	Jackie Martin: Dunmow GSL, Trustee	Charlotte Graham, 1 st Stansted
Jerry O'Connor, 1 st Stansted	Martin Callingham (GLV 1 st Dunmow)	Jude Brand: SAS, 1 st Stansted
Kim Flack, 1 st Stansted	Peter Graves: Retired Scout Council Member	Dane Morriseau 1st Stansted
	Dot Salmon: District Badge Sec, SAS	



District Lead Volunteer's Report 24-25

Hatfield Forest District AGM 2025

Digital Transformation

I had the dubious pleasure of starting in this DLV role just as the new digital system was turned on, without having seen any of the training materials, and without a district transformation lead. Thankfully I build systems like this myself, though my version one releases usually work. With a bit of trial and error, and a lot of brute force, use of the new processes is mostly now understood for learning, new members, permit applications and role changes.

All training is now managed and tracked through the membership system so it's critical for members to understand and review their obligations to avoid automatic suspension.

At the same time we've been gradually rolling out some new comms and engagement tools, starting with drawing together the various group-level Whatsapp groups into a district community, attempting to foster improved cross-group and cross-functional communication.

This was followed with early adopters of our Google Workspace for Nonprofits which gives us a useful collection of enterprise tools and features, not just email and calendar, for free. There's also a new @hfdistrictscouts instagram account - the explorers one has proved reasonably successful for outreach and engagement.

Please contact digital@hatfieldforestdistrictscouts.org.uk if you'd like to be involved, or if you have administrative rights on the district facebook page.

Groups

The numbers from last year's census generally show stability for our young people but like many districts across the country we have a significant, ongoing struggle for leaders at district and group level. This, coupled with in some cases low numbers of young people, has led to closing a handful of unsustainable sections and unfortunately, 1st Hallingburys group.

District Events

The district calendar for the last few years has been rather bare and it is my strong desire to reinvigorate a district programme team and gradually rebuild the richness of the district event calendar. This can't happen overnight, but would benefit massively from your input. Please contact programme@hatfieldforestdistrictscouts.org.uk or join the District Events Whatsapp if you have ideas, want to see an old activity back, or would like to be involved in any way.



Crank Up

The annual Saffron Walden Crank Up steam fair in April is one of the district's biggest fundraisers, entirely supporting the running of the district minibus and regularly contributing towards the costs for international expeditions and jamborees, and many other aspects of the running of the district.

After many years of catering at the event, the SAS Support Team is standing down, which means the district must drum up enough support to pick up running the event, or face increasing funding pressure.

I would firstly like to pass my sincerest thanks to all the members of the support team and helpers who have contributed their significant time and effort in the past, and secondly urge all members to communicate, particularly with their section parents, the importance and necessity of giving time and energy to this event for the sustainability of district services.

Upcoming Events

I would like to draw your attention to a selection of upcoming events over the next year and beyond, all listed on the district website <https://hatfieldforestdistrictscouts.org.uk/>

26-28 Sep 2025	Explorers/Network/Leaders	County Marathon, South Downs
5 Oct 2025		District Activity Day, Skreens Park
10-12 Oct 2025	Leaders	Skills Weekend, Thriftwood
17-19 Oct 2025		JOTA/JOTI
27-29 May 2026	Cubs	De Efteling Expedition
1-15 Aug 2026	Scouts/Explorers/Network	Mountain Team Dolomites Expedition
25-30 Oct 2026	Cubs	Rieneck Castle Expedition
	2027	World Jamboree, Poland
	2027	Essex Expeditions, Various
TBC	Network	SoWA Discovery (regional)

County Events

As a district, we've had some attendance at County-run events in the past year, but it would be very nice to have more. In the recent past we've attended the Archery Team's David Clare memorial shoot but that was unfortunately cancelled this year. Also we didn't enter any teams in last year's County Marathon, or attend any of the Mountain Team's excellent adventurous activity weekends.

This past year has seen groups attending Beavers in Tents, Mega Camp for Cubs, and County Backpack for Scouts. All enormously positively received. These are great opportunities to join together with other sections from district and county, to develop friendships, share the work, overcome challenges of organisation and to pick up new ideas and skills.



Expeditions & International

EIJ, Summer 2024

A group from Hatfield Forest (Stansted) attended blisteringly hot EIJ last summer, as well as a handful of explorers, some as participants and others helping with IST. Some leaders from the district also attended in various IST roles, and on the popular Ham Radio activity in the tech sector.



Bulgaria Explorer Belt, Summer 2024 - with Slough District

A team of fifteen Explorers and Network joined Slough District for ten-day, self-organised Explorer Belt expeditions across Bulgaria this summer. Notably, the members of our own Centurion ESU represented a quarter of the whole Slough contingent.

Starting and finishing in the capital Sofia, teams planned their own routes and activities around the Explorer Belt aims and project requirements.

The Explorer Belt is a top award in scouting and represents a unique opportunity to meet people in foreign countries, overcome language and cultural barriers and discover the destination. These are understood to have been the first Explorer Belt expeditions ever in the district, and also rarely achieved across the county. They are able to contribute towards a key component of the King's Scout Award.

Australia Jamboree, New Year 2024/25 - with Essex Contingent

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558887075632>

Matt and Robert attended AJ2025 over New Year, travelling over considerable distance and time but having an amazing variety of unforgettable experiences which you can read about on their Facebook page.



<https://hatfieldforestdistrictscouts.org.uk/>

@hfdistrictscouts



Peru, Easter 2025 - with Kent Network



Michael, Francis and Will joined Kent Network and Will and Francis' Korea World Jamboree unit leader on an amazing trip to Peru last Easter where they hiked the Inca trail up to Machu Picchu, visited Rainbow Mountain, canoed up the Amazon, fished for Piranha, built rafts with the indigenous tribes, learnt about their food and customs and had an utterly brilliant time.

Finally, Thanks

As ever our thanks go out to all of the leaders, supporters and helpers who have contributed countless hours, skills, energy and enthusiasm over the past year(s).

Particular mentions this year go to Simon for his steering of the district exec, to Sarah for her finance expertise and specifically nailing down the charity status for Explorers, to Jackie who is retiring as 1st Dunmow GLV and to Sally for all her years of service and support at 1st Hallingburys and in the district.

The overall engagement and excitement of the young people in the district consistently speaks volumes reflecting the time and effort we all put in. Thank you all for everything you continue to do to support scouting in Hatfield Forest District.

Peter Lambert

Peter Lambert

Roger Pettett

Roger Pettett

District Lead Volunteers, Hatfield Forest District

City Life and Culture



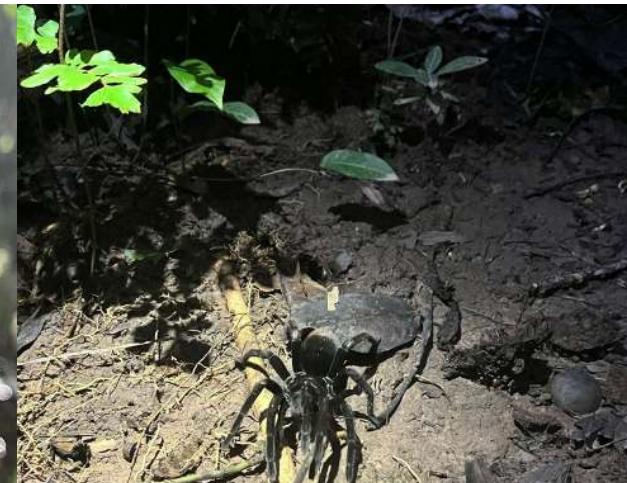
The Inca Trail



The Rainbow Mountains



Jungle Life



Activities in the Jungle

