



SPEN VALLEY DISTRICT SCOUTS

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Charity Number: 524812



CONTENTS

1	Trustees Report	3
2	Achievements and performance	5
3	Annual Accounts	20

1 TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees of the Spen Valley District Scouts (“the District”) present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The District's 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.

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

The District is managed by the District Trustee Board, the members of which are the Charity Trustees of the Scout District 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.

The Committee consists of the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the District Commissioner.

The principal office holders are:

- District Commissioner: David Sowden
- Chair: David Kelly
- Treasurer: Richard Terry
- Secretary: Sarah Sowden

The District Trustee Board exists to support the District Commissioner 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; and
- Appointing District Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

The District Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed, these have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate against them.

The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District and the Trustees wish to express their thanks and gratitude to all volunteers and supporters who have assisted in ensuring the efficient running of the District during the past twelve months.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

THE PURPOSE OF SCOUTING

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

THE VALUES OF SCOUTING

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.

THE SCOUT 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.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

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.

RESERVES POLICY

The District policy on reserves is to hold sufficient reserves to enable it to improve the development of scouting and the facilities within the District and broaden the range of scouting activities available within Spen Valley.

2 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

DISTRICT LEAD VOLUNTEER

Once again it has been an interesting and demanding year in a number of ways!

The main achievements are highlighted out in the various reports set out below. These show the strength of Spen Valley and the dedication of all of the volunteers, in what ever role they do. I am extremely grateful for all the support you all provide to me and to Scouting in general.

As you are aware Scouting is entering a transformation phase. This is intended to bring the organisation up to date and ensure that we are fully compliant with the requirements of the Charities Act, as well as ensuring that we are all following the rules and regulations of the Scout Association. I would encourage you all to embrace these changes in a positive spirit and help shape the future of Scouting in Spen Valley for future generations.

The main changes you will notice will be in respect of role titles. The work we all do will no doubt remain pretty much the same, albeit with an ever-increasing regard to safety, safeguarding and the positive provision of Scouting not only to our young people, but also for all of our adult volunteers.

Going forward there will be new teams' structures which the Spen Valley District Trustee Board are currently developing alongside myself. Much of this is also guided by County.

So, to use the new terminology, in their reports, the "team leaders" set out the full programme, which is on offer across Spen Valley. All of the team leader work extremely hard to support me and the District, and to provide support to you all – so please do support them when they arrange District events.

As part of the on-going approach to developing Scouting in Spen Valley, the District team are starting to engage with you all to devise our revised five-year plan. Recent developments have highlighted the shortage of adult volunteers which is putting strain on certain groups and sections. Increasingly groups are working collegiately and supporting each other. Joint events regularly take place which with out such support would mean certain groups lacked the critical mass or leadership team to deliver such events and camps. I fully applaud this and thank those who have taken this positive and inclusive approach. With this in mind, the development plan may start to look further ahead and think through what Scouting in Spena Valley may look like in ten years and beyond. What is clear is that we do have an urgent need for adult recruitment, and I would welcome any help anyone can provide to help us meet this challenge.

The development of Fanwoods continues. Much work has been undertaken during the year to consolidate the facilities we have and to look at sustainable future improvements. I would like to thank the FWAC, along with the support provided by the Service Team, for ensuring we offer such a highly valued camping facility which is enjoyed by many. Indeed, whilst as a District we need to help scouting in all groups, the excellent facility we have at Fanwoods is increasingly

used by many scout groups as well as the guides for their weekly meetings especially through the spring and summer months.

Finally, this is of course your District, and I could not do anything without the support and assistance of the District Trustee Board as well as all leaders and adult volunteers and all those who volunteer so freely with their time to provide scouting within Spen Valley for others to enjoy, both now and in the future. In particular, I would like to thank Sarah for all her support without which being DC would be so much more difficult (if not impossible).

So, to all of you I say, "Thank You!", for your continued support, patience, resourcefulness, and dedication to scouting in Spen Valley.

David Sowden

District Lead Volunteer

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well, another year has passed as district chair, and I continue to enjoy the role – can't believe it's been a year though!

Changes in scouting nationally and POR have meant a transition to trustee boards from our executive committee with a focus more on governance and oversight. We will learn more about this and future changes at our forthcoming AGM. We continue to work well in partnership with our guiding colleagues in the management of Fanwood and hope this will continue and go from strength to strength.

Field day was I believe a huge success and I look forward to this year's event as I'm sure many of you do too. It was great to also see the massed parade of children at the St Georges day event and the fun service too – a credit to all who were involved.

I've been involved in traffic duties, spring cleaning of Fanwood's and on call for Fanwood's and this has helped me get more actively involved in Spen and I hope to do more so now I have retired fully from my job.

We continue to be in a healthy financial position though with the development of our 5 year plans more funds and grants will be needed to achieve what we hope for at Fanwood's, which is truly a jewel in Spen valley for the benefit of all. The extension, new activities being added and continued work of the team has Fanwood's looking in excellent shape.

I'd like to pay special thanks to the tireless work of our District Commissioner David Sowden and his team – but also to David Hirst and the service team including Billy Nelly and Chris for all the work that has been done and the many hours of voluntary work they put in. Without them and others scouting in Spen would not be the same.

Finally, a huge thank you also should also go to all our Leaders, committees' volunteers and children who have maintained a Scouting presence in all our Groups to keep the scouting spirit alive and thriving.

Best wishes to all

David Kelly

District Chair

DISTRICT TREASURER'S REPORT

Over the last 12 months to March 2024, Spen Valley as a District has continued to maintain a positive financial position.

In the last year, we have not invested in any new major projects, but we have incurred ongoing costs in maintaining and updating the existing facilities as part of the on-going improvements to the Fanwood facilities.

We have now installed additional CCTV cameras to the existing system around the camp site to help to improve security.

To maintain the Fanwood site and facilities we have carried out works including: up-date the fire alarm control system, added new controls to the bedroom heating system, installed finger protectors to doors, continued with tree maintenance and pruning, improvements to boundary fences, to mention just some of the works carried out by both the service team and external contractors.

Going forward into this year, we are currently looking to update / replace the old heating system in the FHTC and to include the bedrooms, this is currently being progressed with the plan being to carry out the works during the summer months.

With regards to the bookings of the facilities at Fanwood, these remain positive with both Scouting and Guiding, along with an increase in external organisations and school groups using the site and activities.

We now have a dedicated Booking Secretary on board to deal with the site bookings, and I'd like to thank Ellen for the support she is currently providing in this role.

Once again, we have had to increase our fees for the hire of the site and facilities, due to the increase in all costs, including utility prices, insurances and ongoing maintenance etc. We will be monitoring these, and a review of all costs and the impact on the fees will be carried out prior to September with any changes to the fees for 2025 will be notified in the autumn.

Going forward, we can start the next year with a healthy balance to continue to develop Scouting in the District and continue to maintain and improve the campsite and its facilities.

Richard Terry

District Treasurer

PROGRAMME DELIVERY TEAM

DISTRICT SQUIRRELS REPORT

Celebrating Milestones and Growth

This year marked a particularly special occasion – both our Squirrel Dreys turned one year old! It's been incredibly rewarding to see our young members blossom and develop their confidence within the supportive environment we provide. From learning basic Scouting skills to forging strong friendships, the Dreys have created a foundation for a lifelong love of Scouting.

A Year of Engaging Activities and Adventures

Throughout the year, our Squirrel Dreys have embarked on a fantastic journey filled with diverse activities designed to spark their creativity, ignite their sense of adventure, and foster a strong sense of community. Here are some highlights:

Theatrical Adventures: A trip to the pantomime provided a magical escape into a world of imagination and laughter. This shared experience not only nurtured teamwork but also allowed our Squirrels to express themselves creatively.

Fanwood Exploration: We ventured out to explore the wonders of Fanwood, a local green space teeming with life. Through various outdoor activities, our Squirrels learned about nature, discovered the joy of exploration, and built lasting friendships with their fellow Dreys.

Unforgettable Sleepovers: Squirrel Dreys hosted exciting sleepovers filled with games, laughter, and camaraderie. These overnight adventures fostered a sense of independence and created cherished memories that will stay with them for years to come.

Celebrating Achievements: Chief Scout Acorn Awards

We are incredibly proud of our Squirrels who have successfully achieved their Chief Scout Acorn Awards! These awards recognize their dedication to Scouting principles like teamwork, exploring new things, and helping others. Their commitment and perseverance serve as an inspiration to all!

Fingers crossed that 2024 = 2025 is another fantastic year for our youngest section here in Spen Valley. A massive thanks to all the adult volunteers/helpers who have made all of this possible.

Michael Holroyd

Squirrel Team Lead Spen Valley

DISTRICT BEAVER REPORT

The district Beavers have been in full force once again this year and have been enjoying lots of different activities.

We have a good number of Beavers in the district overall although some groups are struggling for numbers both for adults and children.

We have also had the start of a joint Beaver group, Spen Valley West by the 14th and the 3rd. This is going well, and they are taking part in different activities and events.

Beavers in the district have enjoyed a variety of activities including completing lots of challenge and activity badges as well as going on sleepovers and camps.

We have had a few district beaver leader meetings where we have talked about what each group has been doing and it sounds like each group is running fun filled activities for the young people.

Groups have enjoyed having sleepovers and have been making use of Fanwood both for sleepovers in the centre and for using the outdoors to run their activities and doing what we enjoy through scouting.

We have enjoyed our Beaver skills day back in June where we had over 60 Beavers attending and nearly every group attended. The Beavers went round in groups and took part in the different activities, they enjoyed crafts, sandwich making, Crown making, spaghetti and marshmallow towers and also a big king Charles jigsaw.

We also had our district quiz on the 1st March where we had beavers from 4 groups attending. The children went round in their groups taking part in different bases and doing activities and answering questions to earn points. The winners for this year were a joint team from the 4th and the 16th.

We have again enjoyed St Georges Day and it was lovely to see everyone together and seeing all the Beavers in district renewing their promise.

As we head into the next 12 months, we are looking forward to having a Beaver fun day this year and another Beaver quiz in March 2025

Rebecca Holroyd

Beaver Team Lead Spen Valley

DISTRICT CUBS REPORT

How things have changed since I became ADC Cubs in 2000.

Some for the better, some make it harder for us all. Risk assessments, safety, safeguarding. Ensuring all our young people and Leaders are safe.

I still enjoy going round the groups, Presenting awards. This year I was honoured to present a special award at 7th in memory of Cub leader Cath who sadly passed away.

A busy year all round. Section numbers are good. There is so much for young people to do these days. We give safe fun and exciting programmes, to keep them interested. It a shame

leader shortage is causing groups to close. Packs are joining together, for meetings, activities, camps. Cub leaders are helping each other.

County Cub camp was a fabulous weekend all Cubs enjoyed it. 74 Cubs, 17 Leaders and 4 YL attended. They took part in so many activities. Weather was good. We had lots of compliments on how well our district Cubs mix and help each other. Our leaders also received compliments on how well we work as a team together. They said best burgers and hot dogs ever. Big thanks to all that helped out.

Field Day Saturday was enjoyed by everyone. It was lovely hearing the excited young people. Trying things they haven't done before.

Great St Georges day once again it is lovely to see the parade marching down the road. Service was good. In a changing world to see all our young people coming together is great.

We held Archery competition winners were 14th. Lego competition 50 young people took part, winners were 5th.

Packs are joining in some of the county run events. It is great they are getting a wide scouting experience. Camps, Badge days, Pedal car event, Water days.

Again, a big thank you to all who support the Cub section. Especially those who help me get to meetings and events.

Here is to the next year of fun and adventure.

Lesley Austin

Cub Team Lead Volunteer Spen Valley

SCOUT SECTION REPORT

The scouting section in Spen Valley is thriving with a multitude of activities, events and camps ongoing throughout the district. Since taking over the role in June last year, I have been fortunate enough to meet a number of young people across the groups at district events.

We have successfully held the following events in the year which were greatly received and enjoyed by all:

- Shooting Competition – Individual winner from the 14th Spen Valley
- Archery Competition – Won by the 11th Spen Valley
- Football Competition – Won by the 4th Spen Valley
- Cooking Competition – Joint win by the 3rd & 4th Spen Valley

In addition to these, we are hoping to hold the annual Scout Quiz later in the year to coincide with the indoor autumn programme.

As with all sections, some groups do struggle for adult volunteers, and it has been refreshing to see many groups participating in joint meetings across the year and planning these into the next year. If your scout troop is able to host a joint meeting, please do reach out and we can place you in contact with another troop in the district, or alternatively contact them directly.

I want to thank the adult leadership team who have welcomed me into the role this year and for the support and guidance and look forward to the challenges that the following year brings.

Josh Newlands

Scout Team Lead Volunteer Spen Valley

DISTRICT EXPLORERS REPORTS

We have 5 sections across the District.

Phoenix (19) /Vanguard (8)/ Dreadnought (10)/YL only (4) /DofE 9 active total 41 explorers

In last 12 month;

1 Platinum award

6 Diamond award

1 Bronze DofE

8 Silver D of E

11 have completed full YL training

As expected, the explorers across the district have a wide variety of activities and opportunities to choose from. Some opting to just take a role of young leader others embracing the sectional meetings, a young leader role and working towards D of E awards. In the last year 5 members of the District also attended to the World Scout Jamboree in S Korea.

As every year exam season is a quiet attendance time and programmes here tend to be fun activities to take mind of stress of college. We will happily visit a scout section if there are 13+ scouts ready to move on.

YL section- currently there are approximately 24 young leaders across the district, 13 of who are still in training although we do encourage all to re visit the YL modules after 2 years especially if they are using this as volunteering for DofE. YL module training takes place the second Tuesday of the month September-April. In the summer we ask young leaders to collect evidence for their missions.

Many groups do not have any young leaders -it is not for want of asking the explorers- please let us know and we will try again in September to encourage more to join the scheme.

DofE group- we currently have 4 working towards bronze, 2 silver and 3 gold.

There have been many changes nationally with the scheme and currently we are working with the wider West Yorkshire County to facilitate D of E expeditions across all levels.

We are glad to Welcome Lisa Ellis as a D of E assessor for West Yorkshire.

The many leaders, certainly parents and young people are not aware of the man hours put into getting children through the awards. The amount of training sessions run this year was unbelievable simply because the young people lead such busy lives they couldn't attend on the same nights. This is unsustainable with the current leader input; additional help or a different approach is required to continue offering D of E.

Vicky Caine / Gillian Caine: Phoenix/YL/DofE

Beth Midgely: YL

Sarah Sowden / David Sowden / Megan Kilburn: Vanguard

Linds Holroyd / Phil Holroyd / Luke Brennand / Danny Kirkpatrick / Lee Tootill: Dreadnought

DISTRICT NETWORK REPORT

Unfortunately, we do not have a District Network and this section has ceased to operate. It is hoped that the section can be reformed as part of the development of the explorer section when sufficient numbers of young people reach the age of 18.

David Sowden

District Lead Volunteer

FWAC REPORT

The past year has seen continued use of Fanwood by many different groups of people as well as Scouting and Guiding sections. Our residential facilities, site activities and woodland site are managed by volunteers, some regular, like our Service Team and Friends of Fanwood as well as occasional volunteers from corporate groups to those attending organised events. Our thanks go out to all those people, without whose volunteered time we would not have the fantastic facility that we currently have.

Our site Activities provide wonderful experience opportunities for young people, to facilitate this we have provided Activity Instructor Training to almost 400 leaders, providing them with five year permits, enabling them to instruct their own young people, we are experiencing multiple re booking of activities being led by these permitted instructors.

This year has seen the introduction of a booking secretary, this is working very well and our thanks go to Ellen Boon for making this a success and also Sarah Sowden for her time taking care of this role previously.

The future of Fanwood is giving us many challenges and very much relies on the continued voluntary contribution by many and I'm hoping we can welcome more volunteers to Fanwood

in the coming year, in particular corporate group work days and others joining our Service Team and Friends Of Fanwood.

I'm looking forward to the summer and seeing many of you down at Fanwood, You know where I am if you want to become more involved.

David Hirst

FWAC

DISTRICT SERVICE TEAM

The service team have had another busy year doing the little jobs that keep Fan Wood going but no one really notices. Rodding drains, mending blinds, fixing locks, shifting leaves etc.

At Fan Wood our wood pile now only contains wood sourced onsite, we have quite a few trees around the woods which need removing for one reason or another which we cut up split & season ready for our campers to use.

Thanks to the 14th SV we now have a new white tent under which campers/site visitors can shelter.

The woods are looking great with the trees coming into full leaf & the fields have had the first cut, if campers returned unused wood onto the wood pile, fire bases to the racking & ash into the bin it would help maintain a beautiful place.

The woods are a place to see a large array of British wildlife from bats, buzzards, Red kites & deer unfortunately the non-native grey squirrel is causing a lot of damage to both buildings & new saplings resulting in us having to either repair or replace damages.

We are a small team who are always happy to have new faces join us on Tuesday's and Sunday's for tea & biscuits & the occasional job around the site.

Robert Jackson

District Campsite Lead Volunteer

SPEN VALLEY SCOUT & GUIDE BAND REPORT

The band continues to make music and perform despite lacking numbers, performances over the last year include Field Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas Carols, Birmingham International Tattoo and St George's Day.

The band was heavily involved with Bradford Scouts Gang Show, with members performing on stage, in the band, helping backstage and with the production of the show.

A camp was held at Fan Woods in September, with members from Halesowen Scout Band attending for the weekend and a great time was had by all.

The band continues to offer music nights to groups and invites them to come along to a practise, where their members can experience playing along with the band as well as trying out different instruments, if any groups are interested then please get in touch.

We have had a member attend the Royal Marines "Look at Life" course in October, spending a week in Portsmouth, working with the Royal Marines and gaining experience of what life is like in a military band. They have since applied to join the band and have an audition in July, everyone in the band wishes them every success.

Carl & Joanna Nelson

Bandmasters

NIGHTS AWAY REPORT

Currently, we have 37 leaders who hold a night's away permit, covering one or more of the different categories i.e. Indoor, Campsite, Greenfield & Lightweight expedition.

During 2023/24, 9 permits were renewed, 4 new ones were issued, one upgraded from indoor to campsite and one leader retired.

There is a permit holder of at least one category in every group, along with 5 district appointment holders. Remember, N/A permits are not section specific.

I would encourage leaders to contact me at any time for a chat about the process, and if you have very little night's away experience, attend as many as you can, keep a record of your involvement, noting your role, such as first aider, cook etc. Pick the brains of the 'old hands' and do not be afraid to ask.

Please remember the N/A process is not intended to be an exam, we are here to offer practical help that, hopefully, will enable you to provide safe and enjoyable N/A experiences for our young people.

David Bentley

Night's away adviser

MEDIA AND IT REPORT

As Media Lead for the Spen Valley Scouts, I'm pleased to present this report highlighting our team's activities over the past year.

Maintaining Our Digital Presence

We actively manage two key websites and two key Facebook pages to promote Spen Valley Scouts and connect with the community:

Spen Valley Scouts Website: This serves as our primary hub, providing information about our Scout Groups, sections, events, and upcoming activities. We've ensured the website is regularly updated with fresh content, making it a valuable resource for the Spen Valley community.

Spen Valley Scouts Facebook Page: This platform allows for more immediate communication and engagement. We share updates, photos, and stories to showcase the exciting experiences our Scouts enjoy, this is our Public Facebook presence, and usually the first port of call for Facebook Scouting enquiries.

Fanwood Activity Centre Website: This serves as our primary hub, for Fanwood providing information about our activities and serves as the document hub, with all the latest booking info and risk assessments etc. This is the primary booking resource for Fanwood.

Fanwood Activity Centre Facebook Page: This platform allows for more immediate communication and engagement. We share updates, photos, and stories to showcase the exciting activities on offer at Fanwood.

Internal Communications

Over the next 12 months the primary focus will be to get a better plan for managing internal communications across the district. We have found that the current plan isn't working and the tools used are not getting the information to all our volunteers. We are looking to address this ASAP and will hopefully have something in place ASAP.

Looking Ahead: Embracing Digital Transformation

In the coming year, the Media Team plans to continue enhancing our digital presence and communication strategies. One significant change will be the district's transition to Microsoft 365 (M365). By embracing M365, we aim to streamline communication, strengthen information security, and create a more efficient workflow for the entire district team.

Don't forget that if you have something to shout about with regards to Scouting in your group, get in touch and we will do our best to help you out.

Michael Holroyd – Spen Valley Scouts Media Lead

ADC (HR) REPORT

I was sorry to have to report to the District Exec that we had a decrease in numbers in the census of 4.6% this year. Strangely that almost matches the increase of last year. Our young people decreased by 23 and we have 4 adults fewer than last year.

The Squirrels remained exactly the same and the scout numbers went up by 5. The largest loss was in Beavers. I suspect that this is probably something to do with the effects of the pandemic as our young members slowly work through the age groups.

The census went really well again this year. All the groups responded very quickly and did so well before the deadline. I sent everything off to County and got only one easy query back from them. Wonderful.

The DBS system with Atlantic Data is still working very well from my point of view. Results come through very quickly for most applications. I pass these on to GSLs as soon as I can for their information and to help to get new adults active in their roles as soon as possible.

I must say yet again, a BIG THANK YOU to everyone for the patience and the understanding they have had over the past year. I know it can be tedious dealing with all the processes that we have in place and the various requests that I make. But it is there to keep our leaders and young people as safe as we possibly can.

I've only been doing the census for 14 years and now that I have finally got the hang of it, the Scout Association are about to make big changes, and are bringing in a new membership system. Consequently, the census will also be a very different beast. This means that I will have to relearn how to deal with both appointments and the census. As I don't know how many more census's I'll be able to deal with, I informed the District Board that this will be my last. Much more sensible to let a younger person learn the new way. With any luck next year's census will be totally automatic and much easier for them to deal with.

However, I hope that I'll still be able to assist if needed during the handover to my successor and in the meantime any problems with Compass and who to put where, I am still here to help. My phone and email are always open.

Tony Bannister ADC (HR)

Appointments Sec.

TRAINING

Looking back over the last year I wonder what we have to report when it comes to training. In one respect there is nothing much to report, then when I look in more detail, I realise how much should be mentioned and celebrated. Whilst there has been a huge focus on Training Compliance, we have also seen 19 wood badges awarded over the past 12 months, to put this in context, this is around 25% of those in wood badge roles and linked to this a further 19 were working through their wood badge – none of which are “Overdue”. Congratulations to all those who have achieved their wood badge in the past year.

Last year I reported a lot on training compliance, and I am happy to confirm that we have maintained our high standards. Whilst some months we have seen a slight drop in the compliance rate this has always been 95% or above, and as an average Safety & Safeguarding is over 99% GDPR 98% and First Aid 96% - an amazing record. A huge thank you to all for maintaining such standards.

I would hope that everyone now knows that there are changes coming soon, especially to the training scheme. One key change is that more people will be required to maintain first aid training. As we move through the remainder of 2024 and into 2025, we will aim to put as many first aid courses on as possible – can I ask all volunteers to keep an eye out for communications from their Team Manager or myself and book onto a course accordingly.

For information, a volunteer will need to maintain first aid training if they have regular contact with young people, or could reasonably be expected to step in. This means that those currently in Section Assistant roles, or working at Fanwood are likely to fall into this category moving forward.

The other change to Training is around what training will be mandatory. Moving forward the Wood Badge will become optional but should still be encouraged. Linked to this is that the initial training (currently known as Getting Started) will become known as Growing Roots and will be expanded slightly to ensure volunteers gain the necessary learning and skills to support them in their role. The exact content will be made up of common elements (such as Safe Scouting) which everyone will be required to complete plus role specific elements depending on role. If you would like to know any more information regarding the forthcoming changes, please let me know.

Lastly a HUGE thanks to you all – to the GSL’s and TA’s for their hard work and support (to both me and their leaders) and also to all the leaders who have made our lives easier by completing training and embracing what they can learn. It has to be said that I almost feel redundant due to the immense efforts within the groups, I barely need to chase people up – so as I say a massive Thank You from me and indeed the volunteers within the District.

Richard Oldfield

Local Training Manager

WELCOME TEAM REPORT

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to the amount of hard work and effort Jane Terry put into the role as the Appointments Committee Chair for the past few years. As most of you may know, Jane passed away in late 2023 and will be sadly missed.

Taking on this mantle is by no means an easy task, especially with the changes that are ever developing from both National and County with respect to the face of the new "Welcome Committee".

As we are one of the few early adopter counties, we have been transitioning to the new welcome committee. These conversations will happen within 4-6 weeks of a new volunteer joining the movement and will be at a venue convenient to them. This is most likely to be your usual meeting space. Going forward, the welcome conversation will only be with one member of the committee with your line manager present and should last in the region of 15 to 20 minutes. We hope that this will provide a warmer and friendly introduction to scouting and to improve the volunteering experience.

We are hoping to become a wider, more diverse welcome committee to allow us to span the district and be able to provide support and guidance for all sections and roles. As such, if anyone is interested in joining the welcome committee, or would like any more information, please do not hesitate to get in touch, either directly or through the District Lead Volunteer.

Josh Newlands

Welcome Team Lead Volunteer

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

A small awards committee has been set up to review all volunteer records. This process aims to ensure all volunteers have completed the appropriate mandatory training for their role and to ensure everyone has the opportunity to be considered for an award. The process will take time and we would like to encourage all GSL to put names forward to the committee for consideration of an award.

The awards granted in the past year are set out below.

Name	Award
Neil Smith	Bar to the Silver Acorn
Charles Brian Holmes	40 Years
Jonathan Ellis	25 Years
Neal Edmondson	25 Years
Karen Mckirgan	25 Years
Helen Kennedy	20 Years
Catherine Schofield	20 Years
David Denham	20 Years
Chris Rhodes	20 Years
Karen Wright	15 Years
Peter Littlewood	15 Years
Lee Tootill	5 Years
Richard Lupton	Wood Beads
Lee Tootill	Wood Beads
Alice Bloom	Wood Beads
Faye Irving	Wood Beads *
Francis Wilkinson	Wood Beads *
Gillian Cane	Wood Beads *
Tracy Hargreaves	Wood Beads *
Emily Hall	Wood Beads *
Xavier Fishwick	Wood Beads *
Josh Newlands	Wood Beads *
Lesley Austin	Wood Beads *
Peter Burton	Wood Beads *

* denotes change of section wood beads.

Sarah and Carl

Awards Committee Lead Volunteers

3 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Spenn Valley District Scout Council

Report & Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024

TRUSTEES & MEMBERS

Ex-Officio Members

	Name
Chairman	David Kelly
Secretary	Sarah Sowden
Treasurer	Richard Terry
District Lead Volunteer (formerly District Commissioner)	David Sowden
Deputy District Commissioner	Mike Terry
District Network Commissioner	Vacant
District Explorer Scout Commissioner	Vacant

Nominated Members

	Name
Committee Member	Mike Terry
Committee Member	David Hirst
Committee Member	Chris Rhodes
Committee Member	Beth Midgley

Elected Members

	Name
Committee Member	Michael Holroyd
Committee Member	Rebecca Holroyd
Committee Member	Lesley Austin
Committee Member	Josh Newlands
Committee Member	Neil Smith

BANKERS: Virgin Money, 12 Bradford Road, Cleckheaton, BD19 3RJ
Scout Association Special Deposit

Group Registration Number with the Scout Association: 16621

Charity Registration Number: 524812

Contact Name & Address: c/o David Sowden
31 West End Drive
Cleckheaton BD19 6JD

Spen Valley District Scout Council
Receipts and Payments Account Summary
For the year ended 31st March 2024

	31.3.2024	31.3.2023
	£	£
Total Receipts for the year	95,028.99	82,717.98
Total Payments for the year	(85,191.45)	(143,833.75)
Net Receipts (Payments) for the year	9,837.54	(61,115.77)
Cash, Bank and similar funds b/f	71,833.82	132,949.59
Cash, Bank and similar funds c/f	81,671.36	71,833.82
Change in Cash, Bank and similar funds	9,837.54	(61,115.77)

The above account and accompanying statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees

On 30 May 2024

And signed on their behalf by



David Sowden - District Commissioner

Spen Valley District Scout Council

Receipts for the year ended 31st March 2024

	31.3.2024	31.3.2023
	£	£
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS	21,260.00	24,120.00
Less Paid	-	(35,305.00)
	21,260.00	(11,185.00)
INVESTMENT INCOME RECEIVED		
Scout Association Interest - District	45.06	-
	45.06	-
DONATIONS / GRANTS / TRAINING		
Donations	-	7,561.45
Grant Income	392.78	21,625.00
Gift aid (explorers)	1,025.57	-
	1,418.35	29,186.45
ACTIVITIES		
Grass sledging	1,755.00	1,275.00
Instructor fees	-	20.00
FHTC – Fees	24,059.00	13,835.00
District Beavers	139.14	-
District Cubs	2,950.00	555.00
Explorers – net subs	1,180.00	3,770.91
Scout & Guide Band	1,385.22	1,132.04
Outdoor Activities	11,393.00	15,738.50
Jamboree Receipts	-	16,843.50
Camping Fees & Levy, Holmes Cabin etc	17,265.00	7,816.00
Other	-	90.00
	60,126.86	61,075.95
OTHER INCOME		
Income from the shop	2,440.00	3,229.50
General	9,326.22	378.08
	11,766.22	3,607.58
SUNDRY RECEIPTS		
Badges	412.50	33.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR	95,028.99	82,717.98

Spen Valley District Scout Council
Payments for the year ended
31st March 2024

	31.3.2024	31.3.2023
	£	£
PREMISES		
Insurance	4,068.97	4,067.70
General Maintenance & Refurbishment (FHTC)	16,271.43	1,375.00
FHTC Rates, Heat, Light, Maintenance etc	13,652.15	15,179.02
Entrance / Centre Development	-	75,771.74
	33,992.55	96,393.46
 ACTIVITIES		
District Beavers	-	995.71
Cub Section	3,374.35	100.00
Explorers	2,082.61	4,486.98
Grass Sledges	937.50	682.50
Outdoor Activities	625.14	66.51
Scout & Guide Band	1,920.81	1,063.92
Field Day	2,120.13	1,951.14
Jamboree	2,750.00	14,000.00
	13,810.54	23,346.76
 OTHER EXPENSES		
General Expenses - District	11,653.35	1,261.27
FHTC - General Expenses	8,494.96	4,111.98
Shop purchases and donations made from shop profits	1,296.05	950.12
Bank Fees	118.40	64.56
	21,562.76	6,387.93
 SUNDRY PAYMENTS		
New Adventure Trial	15,825.00	16,785.60
Badges	-	920.00
	15,825.00	17,705.60
 TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR		
	85,191.45	143,833.75

Spen Valley District Scout Council
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
at 31st March 2024

		31.3.2024	31.3.2023
		£	£
MONETARY ASSETS			
Bank Current Account	Note 1	65,551.96	55,055.07
Scout Association Short Term Investment	Note 1	-	1,006.00
Bank Current Account - Explorer Scout Section		1,995.22	863.18
Bank Accounts - Scout & Guide Band		1,098.07	1,633.66
Bank Current Account - Fan Wood Activity Centre		12,765.75	13,095.50
Cash in hand - Shop	Note 1	50.84	50.84
Cash in hand - Explorers		177.71	97.76
Cash in Hand - District	Note 1	30.32	30.32
PayPal account		1.49	1.49
Total Monetary Assets		81,671.36	71,833.82
NON-MONETARY ASSETS			
Stock at Shop (Fan Wood)		2,867.96	3,220.00
Stock of Badges / Neckers / Progress Books		920.00	920.00
Scouting Equipment		11,000.00	11,000.00
Uniforms & Instruments		20,000.00	20,000.00
		34,787.96	35,140.00
LIABILITIES – membership due to County		(19,270)	-
TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES		97,189.32	106,973.82

The total assets less liabilities of £97,189.32. This includes £19,961.49 for the development fund which will be used during the 2nd quarter of 2024 / 2025 towards the replacement the FHTC heating system.

**Spen Valley District Scout Council
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
at 31st March 2024**

	31.3.2024	31.3.2023
	£	£
Note 1 - Includes items as follows:		
Deposit Account	-	1,006.00
Jamboree Fund	4,252.07	7,002.07
Development Fund	19,961.49	3,596.74
District Funds	25,555.27	7,408.04
District Grants	725.00	725.00
District Squirrels	500.00	500.00
District Beavers	192.09	52.95
District Cubs	642.22	1,066.57
Network	120.20	120.20
Leader Training Fund	5,122.42	5,122.42
Recruitment Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00
District Camp	1,560.52	1,560.52
New Adventure Trail	-	20,950.60
Shop	4,071.08	2,927.13
Shop cash	297.50	50.84
Re-start post Covid 19/Big Camp	879.92	2,053.15
	<u>65,879.78</u>	<u>56,142.23</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Spen Valley District Scout Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 22 to 26.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

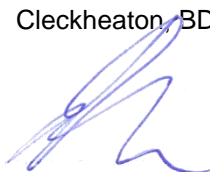
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with 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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the 2011 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.

Name: David Alan Taylor
 Qualification: Association of Accounting Technicians
 Address: 3 Craven Close
 Gomersal
 Cleckheaton BD19 4QZ

Signed:



Date: 30 May 2024

