



Scouts

Grafton

Annual Report 2020

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District Commissioner Report

Sadly, we had to cancel our planned AGM and Awards Evening in May fingers crossed we might be able to do something next year. And so, to another first for Grafton - our Virtual AGM!

Grafton District currently has 17 Groups made up of 3 Explorer Units, 17 Scout Troops, 19 Cub Packs and 19 Beaver Colonies. At the latest Census in January 2020, we had 1120 young people registered with 333 adult volunteers.

The year began as any normal year but certainly ended in a very different and challenging way for us all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the District Executive for your support over this last year and to welcome our newest members Rosemary and Denise - I look forward to working with you both. As we welcome 2 new members, we say a sad farewell to Robert Skears our District Secretary. Robert has completed an incredible 42 years' Service by my calculation! Robert we will miss you and a huge thankyou on behalf of the District for the contribution that you have made over those many years.

To my DESC Mike who has decided after 5 years in the role to pass the baton on to someone else. Thank you, Mike, for all that you have done over those 5 years to keep Explorers going strong.

To my ADC's Sue, Sandra, Sarah, Steve, Anne, Carol and Pete and to Hannah as District Beaver Leader thank you all for your continued support and hard work over this last year.

To Tyler District Youth Commissioner and to Will Deputy District Commissioner for all your continued hard work I could not do what I do without you all so thank you.

Finally, and most importantly thank you to all the Group Scout Leaders, Section Leaders, Sectional Assistants and Occasional Helpers across the whole District who provide these amazing opportunities for our young people. We know that this coming year is going to provide different challenges for us all, but I am confident that we can work together to overcome them as a District.

Thank you

Ruth Kentigern-Fox
District Commissioner

District Chair's Report

As a newcomer to the Grafton District Committee, I would like to thank everyone for making me so welcome and supporting me in learning the ropes.

My first impression was how wide ranging all your individual roles are and how committed and knowledgeable everyone is to their roles. It is evident that these times we are in, with COVID-19, have brought uncertainties to light in a wider context, not only locally, but within the movement generally. As District has a responsibility to our local groups, it looks as if the way ahead could be quite complex and challenging but I am confident that we have the skills and energy on the Committee to get us and the groups through this time.

As I am still getting to know you all, please forgive me if I do not mention everyone by name but I would specifically like to thank Ken U for all he has done in gathering in the groups and setting up regular meetings on Zoom with the Chairs and Treasurers so that we can support them through this time, and in the future to help them keep going or in whatever way they might need. He has also been immensely helpful in finding a source for the protective wear and sanitisers for the groups. The District Executive agreed to provide the initial funding for these products to support groups and help them to get going again after the Lockdown.

Also, my thanks go to, Sue P, who is making sure training is up to date, including mine(!) and Robert who has taken on board the changes in some of the procedures of his role in true scouting spirit. Ken H has made sure that the Band continues, which I am aware has had some problems for a while.

Ruth has many commitments in her role as DC and is a very vital component of the team as our leader, and she is now ably assisted by Will H who, amongst other things brings with him a vast technical knowledge of computers.

In my role as Chair, I have attended a County zoom meeting for Chairs, and it is my intention to be as involved as much as is possible with groups in order to get to know as many of you as possible. I have met some of you in the zoom meeting set up by Ken and hope we can forge closer relationships between District and the groups. Having been chair of a local Group Executive, I know how isolated you can feel at times. Grafton District Executive want to change this so we can all work together. Summaries of District meetings will be sent to you.

The expertise and enthusiasm of each of the members of the District Executive and the local Group Executive committees will get us through the problems that may lie

ahead, and I am looking forward to being part of these teams and to help with all that has to be done. Thank you very much to all of you for what you do for the Scout movement, as it ensures that the young people, the volunteer helpers, and leaders can all enjoy scouting in a safe and organised way in accordance with the Scouting Rules.

As you will know, your time and commitment will benefit the young people in Scouting now and for the rest of their lives! What could be better than that?! Thank you all.

Rosemary Shaw
District Chair

Financial Review 2019-20

The District Finances are in a very secure position with Year End Reserves at £69523.

Capitation charges of £44890 were collected from Groups and Explorers for 2020. £39602 was remitted to County (£37921 in 2019) to cover Headquarters and County fees.

The surplus for the year shown in the accounts of £8,812. This could be attributed to collecting Gift aid for the previous 4 years of £4,164 and greater income over expenditure for Explorers, Spotley Campsite and the District Band. The surplus for the General Fund was £602. There was an additional £360 inadvertently paid to District for County Cub camp instead of to County, this will need to be refunded. The 2019 total surplus was £17,890.

The Spotley Campsite generated significant income of £2,421 (£3,111 in 2019) and incurred total costs of £1,305 (£1,281 in 2019).

The District Band had income of £2,209 and expenditure of £1,376, there were several outstanding subscription payments, this needs to be chased up next year.

Badge sales amounted to £7,502 (£6,102 in 2019) with costs of £6,192 (£3,420 in 2019). There are £577 of unpaid invoices which will be chased up. The stock has increased to £4105 (£3,777 in 2019) which is over 6 months of sales so will be reduced in 2020.

The 2 District Explorer Units Tunnel Rats and Jaguars have generated total income of £10,552 and expenditure of £8,986. There are some outstanding subscriptions which need to be addressed.

Gift aid was successfully claimed for the previous 4 years of £4,164 and we are now up to date with claims.

The new Group at Paulerspury has required some help in getting up and running and they have collected income of £1,705 with expenditure of £3,534. There is a need to help them get established as a viable group.

With District Reserves standing at £69,523, well above the suggested reserve level of £40,000, the Executive Committee is committed to utilising the surplus reserves over the coming years to promote growth across the District and to further enhance the support provided by the District Team members.

Although the District does not have sufficient funds to invest in long term investments it can look at obtaining the best interest possible on instant access or short-term notice accounts. Interest gained this year was £86.19 at 0.15%. This will be looked at in the coming months to improve return.

On 17 March face to face Scouting was suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic until further notice. This will have a severe impact on income in the coming months and next year will be particularly challenging. How this will develop is unknown at the moment, but it is anticipated that Groups will need support over the coming year.

Ken Underwood
District Treasurer

Beaver Scout Report

Beavers in the District have been very active both in their own colonies and at District events.

Most Colonies are running at full capacity and there are more young people wanting to join Beavers than there are places for. What is the answer? There are so many young people missing out each and every one of us needs to try to address this situation.

In June we took 3 coach loads of eager Beavers to The Cotswold Wildlife Park. We

enjoyed wonderful weather and had a great time seeing all the animals, riding on the train and having a great day out.

In January a leader's social was held and it was good to meet, getting to know each other in different surroundings.

In February we held the yearly party at Roade Village Hall with over 140 Beavers plus leaders. Again, a great afternoon of fun, laughter and competition with the usual hot dogs, lots of cake and squash, Terry's Disco and a visit from Billy Beaver.

We would like to thank the leaders for all their time and hard work they put in throughout the year giving the young people a wonderful time. Beavers in the District are going from strength to strength and it is wonderful to see so many Beavers gaining the Chief Scout Bronze award.

Again, a huge thank you must go to all leaders, assistants and helpers it is with their support and help that makes our role easier to manage.

Yours in Scouting

Carol Fraser
Assistant District Commissioner Beaver Scouts

Pete Rock
Assistant District Commissioner Beaver Scouts

Hannah Fraser
District Beaver Scout Leader

Cub Scout Report

The year was not totally packed with events run by District as most Packs were holding events of their own and to try and fit dates together, was, at times, difficult.

District Cub Camp 17 – 19 May 2019 was held at CTC Yardley Chase with 86 Cubs attending, gaining 300 badges between them. The main aim of this camp was badges and back to basics. Bases throughout the weekend were First Aid, Den/Bivi Building, Backwoods Cooking, Fire Lighting, Communications, Knotting, Pioneering and a Safari Ride on an old army lorry which was the highlight of most of the Cubs' weekend. We were very lucky with the weather, which was fine throughout the

days, although it did rain during the Friday night. A huge thank you to the District Team for helping run bases and just being there for support!

In November Deanshanger Cubs hosted and ran the Totem pole Competition with 7 teams entering. Many thanks to Alan Beal and Deanshanger for hosting this and to Roy Cooper for being the MC. From the feedback received, everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

We were planning to hold another Badge Day; attend County Camp; District Quiz; Totem pole Competition but the dreaded COVID-19 scuppered any ideas we had.

I am very proud of all my leaders for the amazing work they have done during these strange times, running Zoom meetings and doing their utmost to keep the interest of their young people going. I have been invited to attend various meetings and presented many badges and awards which gives me great pleasure.

I would like to apologise to all the groups that I have not visited but due to my health not being so good during this time I was unable to get to as many as I wanted, but I'm hoping that that is now all behind me and once our lockdowns are lifted, I can get out to visit you all.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has given support to me to enable events to be held. All leaders who attend the DCSL meetings; leaders who run events; members of the District Team who agree to help. As I said in my report last year, they more often than not say 'Yes' before they even know what I'm asking them to do and rather than mention individuals – a big Thank You to you all.

Anne Oram
ADC Cubs

14-25 Awards Report

In May 2019 we had 5 Bronze DofE participants complete their practice expedition to Spotley Woods. The assessor present said that he was really impressed with the standard and were trained way above the standard required for Bronze. This was a real boost to the young people and confirmed that the training we are putting in place was working. On this note I would like to thank Pete Rock and Mick Turton for their help in the training.

Then Last October (seems a long time ago!) we held a DofE County Expedition at the Northampton Mountain Centre in Wales. We had an amazing turn out with 6

groups for Silver and 1 group out for Gold assessment. Some of the silvers were on their practice, and some were being assessed.

In January we then carried out a recruitment drive and as at today we have 32 signed up for Bronze, for which 10 are now completed and 2 are all finished just awaiting the expedition.

On Silver, we have 9 signed up and 2 are fully completed but again just awaiting the expedition.

On Gold we have 4 signed up and just 1 completed but awaiting expedition.

Kay Aitken, the Assistant County Commissioner for Senior Awards, is hoping that we can get the young people to complete a full 'proper' expedition in the appropriate environments. If this pandemic continues, I understand this may change. We have been informed that the young people are able to sign up for and start on the next DofE level if they are just awaiting their expeditions, which we have encouraged and seen a few do already.

In the not too distant future we will have a new District Explorer Scout Commissioner and look forward to working closely with this role where we can hopefully build more higher awards into the Explorer programmes. This in time will then mean more and more explorers will sign up for the DofE and Senior awards programmes, which will become increasingly more important on CV's in the future.

Since COVID-19 and the various lockdowns, very few of the young people have been progressing with their DofE, which is disappointing, although we have had a couple that have changed their goals and really made outstanding progress.

Looking forward to returning to a more 'normal' Scouting in 2021.

Yours in Scouting

Steve Smith

Assistant District Commissioner Growth & Development (14 – 25 Awards)

Training Report

Many thanks to Caryll Mumme, District Training Administrator, for compiling Grafton
District Annual Training Stats 01/0419-31/03/20

Course attendances / eLearning Completed

Module	Leaders		Section Assistants		Exec Members		Total	
	Course	EL	Course	EL	Course	EL	Course	EL
Exec's Module 1					4	3	4	3
Module 1	1			1	4		5	1
Module 3					1		1	
Modules 1 & 3	19		11	2			30	2
Module 5	2	6					2	6
Module 7	2						2	
Module 10	24						24	
Module 10 Refresher	10						10	
Module 11	3						3	
Module 12a	6	4					6	4
Module 12b	7						7	
Module 13	2						2	
Module 14	4						4	
Module 15	4						4	
Module 16	7						7	
Module 17	12						12	
Module 18	2						2	
Module 19	2						2	
Module 38	9						9	
Module 38 (Lightweight Expedition Training)	4						4	
Safeguarding	7	2	3	2		2	10	6
Safety	8	2	4	2		2	12	6
Skills of Management	3						3	
Total No. of Courses / eLearning Completed	138	14	18	7	9	7	165	28

A fantastic take up of training – well done Grafton District :)

GDPR

As at 31/03/20, out of 277 leaders, assistants and executive members, 252 (91%) had completed GDPR e-learning.

Have you completed yours? If not, here is the link -

https://members.scouts.org.uk/training_module/GDPRwithcertificate/#/

Safeguarding and Safety e-learning compliance from 01/04/20

Although not technically inside the dates of this AGM report, I should like to add my thanks and appreciation to all of you who, following reminders from myself or Tim Kidd, have completed MOGL e-learning; you are all brilliant and much appreciated.

Between you, 41 completed Safeguarding and 46 completed Safety.

Wood Badges Awarded (16): Many Congratulations :)

Name		Role	Group	Wood Badge Date
Henson	Natasha	BSL	Cogenhoe	10/06/19
Van Schaijik	Chris	CSL	Towcester	26/06/19
Jeffer	Ian	BSL	Middleton Cheney	01/07/19
Huckin	Harry	ASL	Brackley	15/08/19
Deane	Dave	DESL	YL Training	09/09/19
Markham	Stuart	AESL	Vulcans ESU	05/11/19
McCawley	Tony	ACSL	Brackley	09/12/19
Evans	Jonathan	BSL	Grange Park	16/01/20
Lee	Maisie	SL	Hackleton	12/02/20
Jeffer	Dawn	SL	Middleton Cheney	13/02/20
Jeffer	Ian	SL	Middleton Cheney	13/02/20
Ball	Toni	CSL	Grange Park	17/02/20
Butlin	Chris	ASL	Towcester	31/03/20
Luckman	Michelle	CSL	Hartwell	03/10/20
Elder	Andy	AESL	Vulcans ESU	03/10/20
Elder	Andy	ASL	Middleton Cheney	03/10/20

I felt it appropriate to include the 3 recently completed Wood Badges to let you know Training in Grafton District hasn't gone to sleep!

Sincere thanks to Caryll Mumme for continuing to keep our District and your Compass training records meticulously in order, Caryll's support for training in our

District has no limits; she is a splendid and much appreciated member of our training team.

Sincere thanks also go to Sandy O'Connor and Stephanie Watts; the support they give to Grafton Leaders as they progress through their training is second to none and very much appreciated.

The last training review meeting we held, at Towcester Scout HQ, was on Saturday 14th March; then on Monday 23rd March everything went bang as lockdown took over and here we are, 7 months later, still in a world of worrying uncertainty so therefore a good time to remind us all of BP's original Scout Law number 8:

A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties

Stay safe; adhere to our Scout Law and always **Be Prepared to do your best.**
Happy Training

Sue Pearson
Local Training Manager