



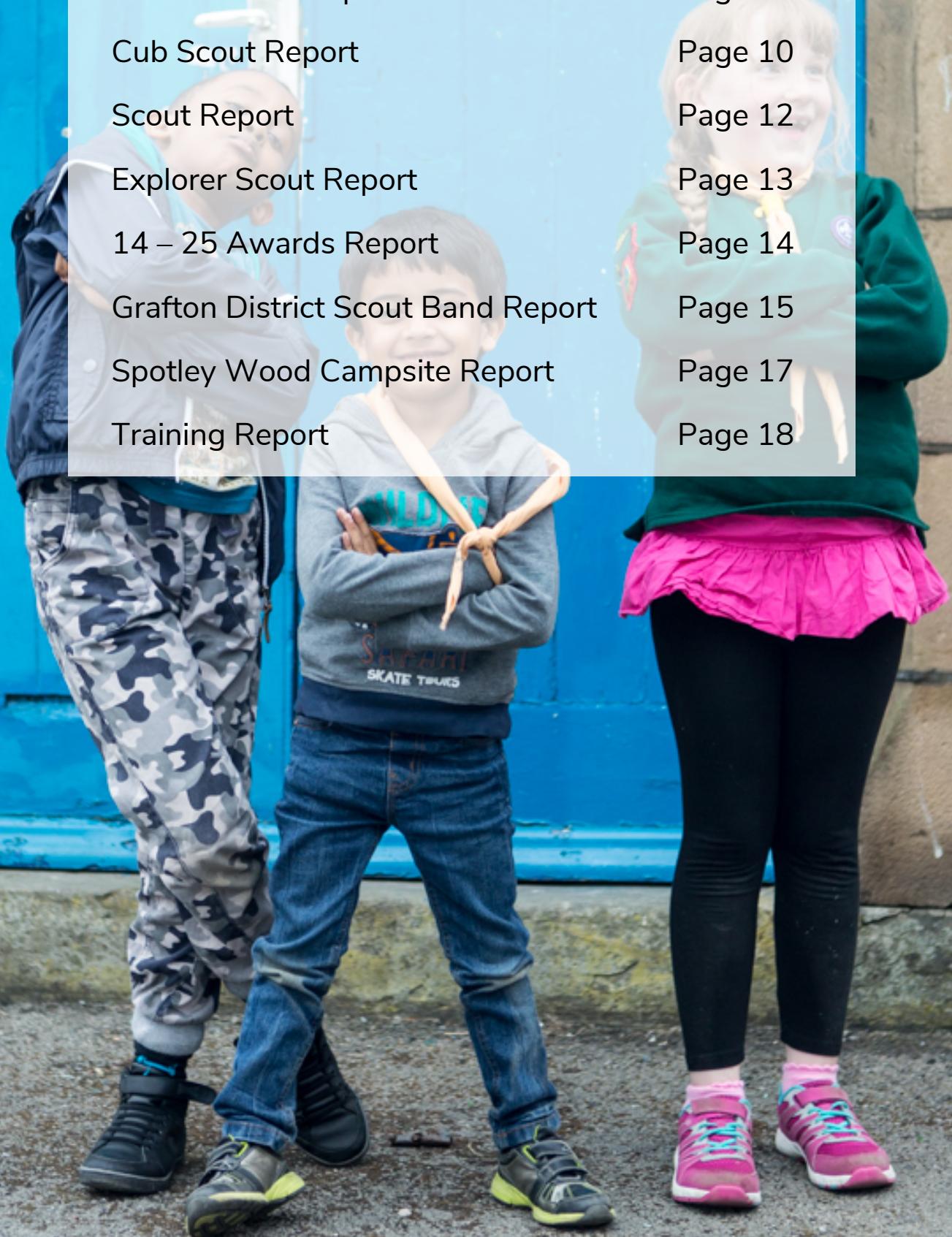
**Scouts**

Grafton

**Annual Report 2021**

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## District Commissioner's Report

Well, this year has certainly been a very different year and one which we have never experienced before and certainly one I hope that we will not have to go through again.

Firstly, I would like to thank the District Executive for their continued support over this challenging year. To Will my Deputy for all your support over this last year and for all your efforts in the organisation of both our camps and badge day supported very ably behind the scenes by Tyler Jeffs. To all of the ADCs for your input and support in the virtual District events and in supporting the Groups and your leaders through the past twelve months it has been a great team effort which has shown the District at its best.

I have been completely inspired by both young people and adults throughout the District over this period in time. We have seen leaders running sessions virtually, which having run District sessions myself I appreciate is not easy and was a huge learning curve for many of us. We have seen Scouting at its best in our local communities with many acts of kindness and friendship. As a District, lockdown has not stopped us and we have run 2 very successful District camps and a District badge day and finally our very successful cards to care homes at Christmas which resulted in over 150 Christmas cards being delivered to 2 care homes in the District. From talking to young people and adults around the District one very clear message has come across is that Scouting has played a very important role in helping both young people and adults get through these very challenging few months.

As we expected our Census figures were down for the year, but this was far better than we anticipated and this was down to leaders across the District keeping our young people engaged whether it be by virtual meetings, setting challenges to be completed or delivering packs of activities for the young people to complete at home.

We still face many challenges ahead, but I am more confident than ever that having come through the events of the last year we can emerge stronger and better than before. None of this is possible without the contribution of our amazing volunteers and I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done over this last year to keep inspiring the young people in our District, whether you are an Occasional helper, Executive Member, Leader or Parent never underestimate the influence that you have on equipping our young people with skills for life and building those lasting friendships which in challenging times will be invaluable.

As we move forward this year, we need to focus on ensuring that we support all our adult volunteers as we return to a more normal situation and that we also recognise the impact that the pandemic has had not only on our adult volunteers but also on our young people.

We have seen neighbours who had previously had little to do with one another come together and communities supporting those most vulnerable, and we must learn from this as we move forward together.

The District this year really has come together and we have seen many Leaders joining forces across different Groups sharing ideas and skills. As we begin to get back to some sort of normality, we recognise the need as a District to support all our Groups in adult recruitment and this will be our priority over this coming year with a focus on building stronger foundations to move forward with.

Thank you once again to everyone across the District and I am really looking forward to getting out across the District and seeing you all face to face very soon.

**Ruth Kentigern-Fox**  
**District Commissioner**

## District Chair's Report

Despite lockdown and a length of time when groups were unable to meet face to face, the Executive have been as busy as ever. I would like to thank everyone collectively for all they have done and the time and effort you all put into what you do in your various roles, it is greatly appreciated. All of you, and particularly those working in the groups in the District have had to deal with the changes in Covid -19 restrictions, which I am sure at times will have been frustrating and disheartening. You have carried on despite all this and I hope that as time goes on you will be rewarded for your persistence by the return of the young people and more normal meetings.

I have endeavoured to keep you all up to date with what District Executive has been working on through the Newsletter circulated to Group Executives following our meetings, and I hope this has been useful?

To mention just a few of the activities: Ruth and Will have been working throughout on the risk assessments enabling the groups to go forward when there is some sense of 'normal' meeting up. The census has also taken place which you will all have been involved in, in some way. Guidance and assistance have been given to one group to maintain its presence and this is ongoing for now. Will, with his technical skills, along with others, helped with the virtual camp at Easter and in creating a new District website which will be extremely useful for everyone.

Sue P, continues to make sure helpers and members training is up to date, including mine(!). It is important that we keep in line with all that is involved in being a Trustee of the movement as well as health and safety and safeguarding.

We were sad to lose Robert in his role as secretary, but very pleased to welcome Denise G, who has had a long association with Scouting. Ken H continues to have a connection with the Band. Our new DESC, Thomas N, is also most welcome. Norman P, who has a long association with Grafton has also decided to step down, but we are honoured that he has accepted a new role as our President. Ken U, our Treasurer, has continued the reorganising of the finances and making sure that the money we have, is placed in accounts that are more beneficial and easier to operate than the old ones. In his role as Spotley campsite warden he has also made sure that it has benefited from the lockdown and restart grants available as well as suggesting some positive changes on the site.

In my role as Chair, I have attended as many other appropriate scout meetings as I can via webinars or Zoom, which has been extremely useful, and I have learnt much

from these meetings. I am very aware that recruitment of new volunteers is vital at this time and District will do all it can to support groups in this.

Thank you to all on the Executive for the support you have shown me. I am aware I have not mentioned everyone individually on the Executive in this report, but all of you are valued for your time and the contribution you make to Grafton Scouts. In my last report I mentioned that 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 confident that this is still the case. I continue to look forward to being part of these teams and to help with all that needs to be done. I hope that by next year's AGM all of you in District will be enjoying a much more normal way of running your groups.

Keep on Going!

**Rosemary Shaw**  
**District Chair**

## Financial Review 2020-21

The District Finances are in a very secure position with Year End Reserves at £69887.

Capitation charges of £37730 were collected from Groups and Explorers £1875 for 2021. £39783 was remitted to County (£39602 in 2020) to cover Headquarter and County fees.

The surplus for the year shown in the accounts of £364. The deficit for the General Fund was £4074. The 2020 total surplus was £8812. The deficit could be attributed to the Covid 19 pandemic which resulted in little face to face scouting and activities taking place and significant costs to set up and run virtual events in order to support Scouting in the District.

The Spotley Campsite was closed all year.

The District Band had income of £147 and expenditure of £588, they were not able to meet or attend any events during the year.

Badge sales amounted to £1581 (£7502 in 2020) with costs of £2203 (£6192 in 2020). There are £96 of unpaid invoices which will be chased up. The stock has decreased to £3076 (£4105 in 2020) which is as we aimed to do and was a great achievement.

The 2 District Explorer Units Tunnel Rats and Jaguars have generated total income of £1530 and expenditure of £3844. Again they were not able to meet during the year but at least a nominal amount was collected as subscriptions to cover membership fees.

Gift aid was successfully claimed for the previous year of £1198.

The District managed to obtain grants totalling £8573 as part of the UK government support to organisations which had to close due to COVID 19. Some of this will be spent on further facilities at Spotley.

The new Group at Paulerspury has not been able to meet but managed to obtain a grant from the Recovery fund to enable them to be self-sufficient hopefully from now.

With District Reserves standing at £69887 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 £167 at 0.5% as funds were transferred to a better yielding account.

**Ken Underwood**  
**District Treasurer**

## Beaver Scout Report

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

Despite the uncertain times we have experienced during the last 18 months the number of young people joining Beavers has continued to grow. Most Colonies are running at full capacity and unfortunately there are more young people wanting to join Beavers than there are places for.

Throughout this year despite not being able to meet Face to Face the young people have joined in many of the activities put on by District such as virtual camps, badge days, parties and Karate, also leaders have worked tirelessly preparing opportunities for the young people to continue their Scouting by holding weekly meetings virtually on Zoom (a learning curve for all) where both young people and their parents enjoyed fun, friendship and gaining badges.

The reports from parents who also took part in the virtual sessions were very complimentary, they were impressed by the standard of preparation and work that leaders had put in to enable their young people to continue Scouting, some of them even said that of all the on line learning and other clubs in which their young people had taken part in that Scouting evenings held virtually really were the best.

We would like to thank the leaders for all their time and hard work they have put in during this last year it's not been easy, but they are all stars some of them going over and above the usual to ensure the young people had a truly wonderful Scouting experience.

Again, a huge thank you to all that make Scouting happen

Yours in Scouting

**Carol Fraser**  
**Assistant District Commissioner - Beaver Section Support**

**Pete Rock**  
**Assistant District Commissioner - Beaver Section Support**

**Hannah Fraser**  
**District Leader - Beaver Section Support**

## Cub Scout Report

It has been another difficult year for everyone with no Face2Face Scouting and for those of us that were not so computer orientated, we have become more so, with all the meetings being held via Zoom etc.

In some respects, I did not think we had achieved much during the year but, going through the diary to make sure I had covered everything, we have managed quite a bit!

Our first ever Virtual District Cub Camp was held in May with 118 Cubs registering. Many badges were gained and from feedback received Cubs enjoyed their time, even though it was different, they, their parents and any siblings responded to the tasks they were set.

Sadly, with the pandemic County Cub Camp had to be cancelled in June.

In September, as a District, we held our first Virtual Badge Day. This proved a great success with many badges being gained and, again from the evidence received, enjoyed by the Cubs with a lot of work and thought going into each badge.

Many packs were endeavouring to meet via Zoom during the start of the new season and I would like to thank all those leaders who kept going through trying, difficult times. Sadly, it was not always easy for some as some parents seemed reluctant for their children to be spending more time 'on-line' with the added pressures of home schooling.

I know some packs had virtual Christmas parties during December.

I would like to mention 1<sup>st</sup> Hackleton Scouts and congratulate them in giving their local villages something to enjoy with their Santa Sleigh carrying Father Christmas and his elves. Money was collected for the group but so many villagers came out with thanks and praise for the enjoyment this event had given them.

The new year brought very much of the same with seemingly no let up from the pandemic so virtual life carried on .....

In March we had a Virtual District Cubs Party with over 50 young people joining in the fun and entertainment.

In April we had our second District Virtual Cub Camp with 119 Cubs registering. As leaders, we had learned a lot from the first camp and I feel this one was easier all round. Again, many badges were earned and around 80 Cubs logged on and enjoyed the Magician/Juggler during the Saturday afternoon.

One of their tasks was to decorate an Easter Hat/Bonnet/Basket and the winner to receive an Easter Egg. All seemed easy on paper but a very difficult job to decide on a 'winner' from the evidence of the entries. These were whittled down to five, so two had Easter Eggs and the other three had large bars of chocolate. I delivered these one evening and I found it very humbling receiving the thanks from parents for the 'amazing camp' the District Team had organised.

As I said last year, I am very proud of all my leaders for the amazing work they have done during these strange and difficult times, running Zoom meetings and doing their utmost to keep the interest of their young people going. Without them, their helpers, parents and the young people, we would not be the District we are.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped and given me support by attending DCSL meetings and running their Packs so well.

I look forward to being able to visit to see you Face2Face again, very soon.

**Anne Oram**  
**Assistant District Commissioner – Cub Section Support**

## Scout Report

Despite numerous attempts, we still found ourselves without an Assistant District Commissioner – Scout Section Support which is a real shame – we will keep trying!

It has been amazing to see how Scout Leaders across the District have worked together during the last year, sharing programme plans etc., to ensure that they give their young people the best possible Scouting experience, even if it did have to be virtual for the most part.

At Census in January 2021, we had 266 Scouts within the District. This equates to 2.6% less than last year but is the section which 'lost' the least number of members in the District during the last year which is testament to all Scout Leaders for doing their very best to keep the young people engaged, whether that be through Zoom meetings, setting challenges and delivering packs to the young people to allow them to complete these at home.

It was brilliant to see 124 Scouts register for our inaugural Virtual Camp in May and 52 Scouts take part in our virtual Badge Weekend, earning themselves 67 badges.

I would just like to thank the leaders for all the time and hard work you've put in over the last year – we know it's not been easy but we, and the young people and their parents, really appreciate it.

**Will Hazell**  
**Deputy District Commissioner**

## Explorer Scout Report

Having appointed a new DESC we were sad to hear that due to personal circumstances she was not able to continue in the role. So, we have found ourselves DESC less over this past year!

We have 3 Units across the District with the biggest Unit still Tunnel Rats. Obviously, this last year has not been easy but we have had periods of time when young people from 2 of our Units were able to temporarily get back together face to face and the happiness could be quite easily seen on their faces at being able to meet up again. My thanks go to all the leaders across the Units for keeping young people engaged and I know that you are looking forward to hopefully returning to normality soon.

Our priorities over this year will be to review where our Units are and look towards trying to relieve some of the pressure on Tunnel Rats due to numbers. We hope that a new DESC will soon be in place.

**Ruth Kentigern-Fox  
District Commissioner**

### **Introduction from our new District Explorer Scout Commissioner**

I would like to say hello and introduce myself. My name is Thomas I was a Cub and a Scout in this District. After finishing agricultural collage, I returned as an Assistant Leader as 5th Brackley for more than 10 years now. Along the way I've taken part in our County international camp to Belgium, as well as the 24th Australian Jamboree in 2016.

**Thomas Newman  
District Explorer Scout Commissioner (appointed 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021)**

## 14 – 25 Awards Report

This last year has been a strange and challenging one for Scouting and Awards.

With regard to Duke of Edinburgh award, some of our young people adapted quickly and changed their skills and physical challenges to suit their own situations, many were cycling and walking for their physical sections whilst others changed to food and cooking for their skill and must be congratulated on progressing in an unprecedented situation.

We currently have 11 working actively towards their Bronze award and 7 Actively working towards their Silver award. I have already had a call from one group to go visit as they have young people keen to start their awards, so hopefully we can increase these figures shortly.

Hopefully we will soon be able to get back to Expeditions as we have quite a few young people that have finished their awards apart from their Expeditions, which I know they are all keen to get completed and be awarded their certificates.

Our District Virtual Camps have been a great success and I have very much enjoyed being a part of them, as I know the young people have and a lot of badge work and awards have been achieved during them.

At the first Virtual Camp I challenged the young people (and Leaders!) to complete the Welsh Dragon Award. This consisted of camping out for 1 night every month for a year in a variety of places. I am pleased to confirm that we had 2 young people from Blisworth Scout Complete the Bronze Award, and these will be presented next month. These 2 young people are an inspiration and are now proceeding onto their Silver award.

**Steve Smith**

**Assistant District Commissioner Growth and Development (14-25 Awards)**

## Grafton District Scout Band Report

### March 2020

The last f2f meeting of the Band was the middle of March 2020 and then lockdown.

### April 2020 onwards

The Band have not been able to meet and play together all year due to the pandemic lockdowns. In June Claire Shrubbs resigned as Bandmaster and left Scouting.

Three of the Band Leaders met in July and decided that the Band should continue and a proposal was put to the DC which was accepted and in September, Roy Cooper was appointed Acting Bandmaster.

When the lockdown 1 was lifted, f2f meetings for Scouting were allowed.

We submitted two very detailed risk assessments via the CC, Dean Smith into the formal system. One to be able to meet at Blisworth to play/rehearse, the other for the Remembrance Day wreath laying at Roade. Details were agreed after very helpful discussions with the local British Legion and the school in Roade. The Remembrance Day event did get approval and we were planning this prestigious occasion, only for it to be cancelled a few days before when lockdown 2 happened.

Permission to play at Blisworth was refused despite heroic attempts by the DC, Ruth, and CC, Dean to get HQ to understand and accept that there are entities within Scouting that aren't just single age groups. HQ would not accept any situation involving wind or blowing instruments despite reference to Brass Bands England's' agreement with the **Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)**. Therefore, we have not been able to meet f2f and play.

We did manage to have 9 Zoom meetings from October up to Christmas. We tried all playing together at the same time. The resultant 'sound' was recorded. On playback it was difficult to recognise the tune even though we knew what it was. We settled for individuals playing to backing tracks while on mute. This was OK for Christmas carols and we did manage to all get to the end of each tune together.

The numbers attending these meetings only ranged from 4 to a maximum of 8.

We have new e-mails for contact: [bandmaster@gdsb.org.uk](mailto:bandmaster@gdsb.org.uk), [events@gdsb.org.uk](mailto:events@gdsb.org.uk), [band@gdsb.org.uk](mailto:band@gdsb.org.uk)

The Band have not attended any events during the year.

All accounts for 2020-21 are up to date with copies of balance statements supplied and agreed with the District Treasurer.

We continued with Zoom meetings in January but with less than 10 participating and not being f2f it was difficult to achieve satisfactory progress and keep interest. We made the decision to suspended Zoom meetings and wait until f2f Scouting and permission to play blown instruments was allowed. This was not an easy decision.

### **April 2021 ongoing**

We now have our risk assessment for indoor playing approved and will be returning to Blisworth on Sunday afternoons from 6<sup>th</sup> June.

We will be having a recruitment drive by circulating information to all Groups within the District in July ready to re-energise the Band in September.

The Band will have lost nearly 18 months but hopefully will re-invent itself and will once more be an asset to the District.

Yours in Scouting

**Roy Cooper**  
**Acting Bandmaster**

## Spotley Campsite Report

Although the campsite was closed all last year, we managed to obtain Covid related grants from the local council which we must be very grateful for. These enabled not only to cover the running costs of the site but also balance the District accounts with all the extra support given to support Scouting activities during 2020.

We still have some resources available to improve the site and plan to build a roofed shelter near the campfire area for those rainy days. Any other suggestions of site improvements would be useful. We have also waived camping fees for 2021 for all Grafton District groups so if you haven't used the site this should be the time to do it. It would be good if more District groups used the site.

Next year it will be 50 years since the site was first used for camping by the previous Castle Ashby District and I am sure many young people have experienced camping there over that time. Let's hope it can continue for many years to come.

Many thanks to Compton Estates who we rent the site from for their continued support as they are so helpful in providing this resource. Special thanks to Bob Gibson who manages the bookings to make sure the site is used as much as possible and Mike and Martin who help with the upkeep. We could always do with extra help so if you can help in any way let us know.

**Ken Underwood**  
**Warden**

## Training Report

Grafton District Annual Training Stats 01/04/20 to 31/05/21

On-line Courses Attended / E-learning Completed

Module	Leaders	Section Assistants	Execs	Total
Module 1 (including discontinued Execs Mod 1)	10	11	9	30
Module 3	7	10		17
Module 4	3			3
Module 5	4			4
Module 6 (discontinued)	2			2
Module 7	13			13
Module 9	1			1
Module 10A	25			25
Module 11	3			3
Module 12a	8			8
Module 12b	4			4
Module 13	8			8
Module 14	3			3
Module 15	3			3
Module 16	10			10
Module 17 (discontinued)	3			3
Module 18	7			7
Module 19	4			4
Module 38 (Skills for Residential Experiences)	1			1
LMA	1			1
LME	1			1
LMM	1			1
LMP	1			1
LMU	1			1

Module	Leaders	Section Assistants	Execs	Total
LMW	1			1
Safeguarding	49	23	30	102
Safety	46	23	27	96
GDPR	6	12	8	26
Trustee Introduction	15		15	30
<b>Total No. of Courses Completed</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>409</b>

### Module 10, Safeguarding and Safety

- Module 10: As at 31/05/21, out of 123 leaders 4 are out of date with their first response training; all others are in date or have booked a course. A further 12 leaders who are under training have not yet completed or booked a Module 10 course; 5 of these have not yet completed Getting Started.
- Safeguarding: As at 31/05/21, out of 264 leaders, assistants and executives, none is out of date. A further 6 new personnel have not yet completed Safeguarding.
- Safety: As at 31/05/21, out of 264 leaders, assistants and executives, only one is out of date. A further 9 new personnel have not yet completed Safety.

### GDPR

As at 31/05/21, out of 264 leaders, assistants and executives, 14 (94.7 %) have completed GDPR training.

### Trustee Introduction

As at 31/05/21, out of 37 leaders and execs required to complete Trustee Introduction, 30 (81%) had done so.

### Wood Badges awarded (8):

**NB: The number of wood badges is for the period 01/11/20 – 31/05/21 as wood badges gained up to 31/10/20 were included in last year's stats.**

Name		Role	Group	Woodbadge Date
Fraser	Carol	GSL	Collingtree	17/11/20
Green	Judith	CSL	Greens Norton	01/12/20

Oram	Anne	ADC CS	District	13/01/21
Sweeney	Tabi	ABSL	Greens Norton	16/03/21
Gibson	Kate	ABSL	Yardley Gobion	07/04/21
Sinton	Sarah	CSL	Hackleton	28/04/21
Sinton	Sarah	BSL	Hackleton	28/04/21
Huckin	Harry	ADC Inclusion	District	18/05/21

As always, 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.

In this difficult 12-month period, limited training has still been offered and my sincere thanks go to the people who have responded to this and have completed any other training.

My thanks also go to Harry Huckin for running a virtual Module 7 (Scouting for all) within the District and we hope to offer more virtual modules in the near future.

I'm hopeful that at some point soon we can get the team together again and restart the face-to-face training reviews!

**Sue Pearson**  
**Local Training Manager**



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