



Scouts

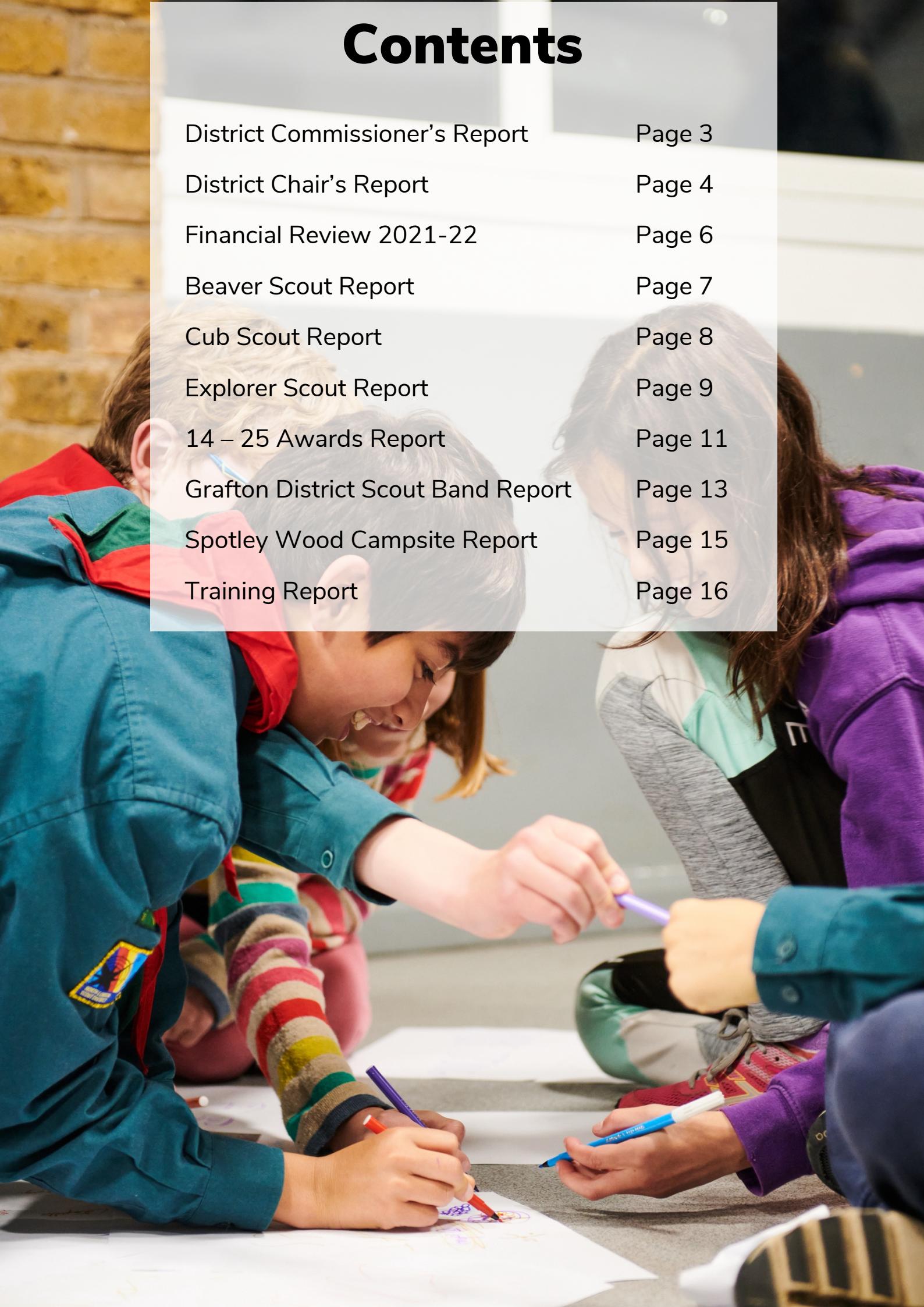
Grafton

Annual Report 2022



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District Commissioner's Report

I always find it hard looking back over the last twelve months for year ending in March as we have already moved on and are planning ahead constantly but it is important to stop every now and then and reflect.

As a District we have much to be proud of and once again I would like to thank each and every volunteer across the District for what you have done over this last year. It has been lovely to see things returning to normal again and it is great to be receiving NAN forms again. We do need to be aware that we have a whole generation of Scouts who may have never been on a camp before even though they may have been in Scouting for the last 2 years.

The Census saw us grow the number of young people once again, but we have lost a number of adults over the last 12 months and this will be our main focus over the coming 12 months. It will not be easy, but I am confident that working together we can continue to move the District forward.

Ruth Kentigern-Fox
District Commissioner

District Chair's Report

Once again District has had a busy and productive year and 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. The covid restrictions have stretched us all in numerous ways but it has enabled everyone to be innovative and so given us new skills that have kept the groups going! The membership at the census for the young people stood at 1000 in the District, so the challenging work on the Executive and in the groups' during lockdown has paid off!

Ruth and **Will** continue to work hard supporting and setting up groups in their individual roles in leadership of Growth and Development. **Will, Tom H, Harry H and Roy C** have formed the new Risk & Asset Management Subcommittee and have written a new Finance Management Policy, with a focus on Budgets (This was last done in 2014); they are also looking into creating an asset register—This is important work as obviously we need to work within the up-to-date rules of Scouting as well as making on going Risk and Health and Safety checks to keep the young people safe.

Both **Ruth K-F** and **Will H** with the help of **Sarah Watton** have worked hard on recruitment and the flyers they created will have advertised, as effectively as it can, our need for volunteers and young people. This was a welcome but huge and time-consuming project. Recruitment is a difficult and vital task, but it is important we continue to pursue this in creative ways to help the groups flourish.

Sue P, works side by side with the work of the DC's in checking up on training requirements, with **Harry H**. It is particularly important that training is kept up to date again to comply to the rules of Scouting and it would be a pity if we lost valuable members of Scouts through noncompliance.

Ken U, our Treasurer, has continued to manage the accounts thoroughly and advise us of any changes he feels appropriate. The grants that District received during covid have also been reviewed on how they can be beneficially used. Sending Accounts in on time and submitting expenses as soon as is possible would be a tremendous help for him. Groups in financial difficulties can apply for help from the recovery fund and can also approach District for support. **Ken** has also spent many hours at **Spotley** designing and building, with the help of others a shelter which will add to the facilities there. Thank you and your helpers for this, Ken. Spotley continues to be a popular place to give the young people a first-hand experience of learning, and the enjoyment of being outside.

The Hardship Fund has been set up by **Tyler**, with **Denise** and me as committee members. This fund is designed to help young people participate fully in scouting

despite and their families having financial problems. We have also seen the setting up of Cavatappi Explorer Scouts, which is thriving, and it is good to see Vulcans and Tunnel Rats are running again, but sadly Jaguars have closed. The Band is in a place of uncertainty about its future, but it is hoped that it can be continued.

It is wonderful to see that 4 young people from Grafton District have been selected to go to South Korea for the World Scout Jamboree in 2023. District is again providing the appropriate financial support where it is needed and will help and support fundraising for those who have been chosen to attend.

I am indebted to our Secretary, **Denise**, for her support, guidance, and thorough approach to her work. She too is introducing us to new ways of managing meetings from an administration angle.

As your Chair, I have attended, when it is possible, scouting webinars and subcommittee meetings which have kept me informed of other areas of scouting outside of my direct role of Chairing the Executive meetings.

It is difficult for me to mention everyone individually on the Executive in this report, but all of you are valued for your time and the contribution you make to Grafton District Scouts. In my last report I mentioned that I was confident you would all lead us on through the restrictions and you have more than lived up to my expectation. Thank you for this, and all the dedication, time, and commitment you put into in Grafton District Scouts and also for your support to me, which has been invaluable. I think the buzz words for this year are recruitment and compliance!!! Happy Scouting!

Rosemary Shaw
District Chair

Financial Review 2020-21

The District Finances are in a very secure position with Year End Reserves at £78,288.

Capitation charges of £46,052.15 were collected from Groups and Explorers for 2022. £41,553.45 is due to be remitted to County (£39,783 in 2021) to cover Headquarter and County fees.

The surplus for the year shown in the accounts of £8,401. This could be attributed to further Covid support grants of £12,167.

The Spotley Campsite generated income of £874.50 (£0 in 2021) and incurred total costs of £2,411.88 (£1,033 in 2021). This was partly due to building a new campsite shelter near the campfire which was supported by a £200 donation from the Compton Estate.

The District Band had income of £255 and expenditure of £871, this was due to not being able to meet fully and take part in events.

The 2 District Explorer Units Tunnel Rats and Jaguars have generated total income of £7,578.50 and expenditure of £4,100.

Gift aid was successfully claimed of £428 on behalf of Explorers and Band subscriptions.

Badge sales amounted to £5,920 with costs of £6,120 and successfully reduced stockholding to £2,264.

The bulk of the District funds are held in an instant access savings account which generated interest of £357.

The District purchased camping equipment amounting to £1047 to support DofE expeditions.

Ken Underwood
District Treasurer

Beaver Scout Report

Beavers in the District continue to be very active despite the uncertain times we have faced during the last 2 years, however our leaders have really stood up to the challenge and have delivered some great activities for the young people.

Most of the District Colonies are meeting face to face now, but in many cases starting back was not easy due to the many constraints that leaders and the young people had to deal with. Although we have not been able to organise a full District event in the past couple of years, we are hoping that next year we can start off with a bang with the return of our annual Big Beaver Disco event and party.

It is great to see that during the past few months some Colonies have joined up with others to give the young people a chance to take part in some of the activities they have missed, and in some cases activities that they have never been able to do having started in Beavers during the lockdown, for example taking part in sleepovers, camps and hikes. Hopefully now we can look forward to the future and give the young people a truly wonderful, exciting scouting experience.

The number of Beavers has continued to grow across the District and many of our Colonies within District are running at full capacity and the waiting lists of young people wanting to join is ever growing, as always we have a great need to try to recruit new adult leaders and helpers to help meet this demand.

We would like to thank the leaders and all helpers for all their time and hard work they have put in during this last year.

Yours in Scouting,

Carol Fraser
Assistant District Commissioner (Beaver Section Support)

Hannah Fraser
District Leader (Beaver Section Support)

Cub Scout Report

Another strange year with all the restrictions with the older ones amongst us getting more and more familiar with Zoom meetings, not that we like them but at least it has been a way of keeping in touch!

I am so very proud of my leaders and their teams for all the amazing achievements they have managed to complete for their cubs during the restrictions.

I have been very honoured to attend some AGMs and meetings to present Silver Awards to Cubs and Wood Badge Certificates to leaders, plus many Thank You Awards to well deserving recipients.

August was a sad month with the untimely and sudden passing of Alan Beal. Alan was a great supporter of the Cub Section of the District and was always helpful with Badge Day and other competitions. He had a wonderful send off when a few of us, with a representation from Deanshanger Scout Group, stood on the grass verge in Yardley Gobion as the funeral passed through the village and then met later to remember Alan. A lovely but very sad day.

We started to get 'back together' in September and I attended a First Response update course at Fernie Fields with the room being packed to the rafters. The County Commissioner paid a visit and had to go back outside to regroup as he was amazed to see so many people together again in one room!

Hackleton group finished 2021 with their Santa Sleigh again going around the villages raising money for the group. I felt that the locals were just pleased to be able to get outside and have something to smile about.

I have managed to visit some camps that have been well run with a recent Blisworth Camp being probably the coldest one. The Leaders were still thawing out when I arrived late morning!

I would like to again thank everyone who has supported me. All leaders who attend the DCSL meetings; leaders who run events; members of the District Team who agree to help. I have everything crossed that we can soon move on to getting back to Scouting in the way we would call 'normal' if that word even exists anymore!!!!

Anne Oram
Assistant District Commissioner (Cub Section Support)

Explorer Scout Report

A full year since taking the role as DESC I am pleased to give my first report. We started the year with 3 Explorer Units (Tunnel Rats, Jaguars & Vulcans) and 1 Young Leader Unit (Arrows)

Vulcans

Although the numbers for this Unit seemed to start low, they soon started to grow and are now at full capacity of 29. They now have a waiting list and are the Districts largest unit

Jaguars

Numbers seemed stable but around Christmas a number of Explorers started to leave as they reached 18 years of age. The leadership team at Jaguars have tried to recruit and publicise but sadly with no avail. So, after half a term with low numbers, the unit was shelved in February until the Unit has viable numbers. Of the remaining Explorers some carried on as Young Leaders and one transferred to another Unit.

Tunnel Rats

At the start of this period, they were the largest Unit and were at full capacity. As the year went on, the Unit had a change of leadership. We thank Steve for his years at Tunnel Rats growing the unit to be a strong Unit. Explorer numbers decreased as they came to the age of 18; this has given the new leaders space to reopen the door to members and with time the numbers and flow of Explorers will return to Tunnel Rats.

New unit - Cavatappi

With no Unit at the top of the District there was excessive numbers of Scouts wanting to continue Scouting at Explorers. With the help of the Deputy District Commissioners, we were able to open a new unit in September. At the start numbers were thought to be about 10 people interested in the Unit; but on the opening night 14 turned up and every week more were turning up and by Christmas we were at 20 Explorers. This flow of Scouts we hope will continue as the area now feeds the two Units.

Arrows YLU

Young Leaders in the District have grown this year. This has mainly happened due to a high proportion of them doing DofE through School and Scouting. A positive is that a high proportion of YLs seem to be completing the modules.

All Units have been able to return to full programs and events with multiple camps from bivi to hammocks to expeditions. As a District we organised a day in London doing the

Monopoly Run; 21 Explorers in 4 teams in a league of 7 other teams. A mixed team from Vulcans, Cavatappi and an Arrow won the league.

The future of Explorers is looking strong and the Units leaders and Explorers are the ones making this happen and possible, so I personally thank them for all their work and dedication and look forward to the year ahead.

Thomas Newman
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

14 – 25 Awards Report

With 2021/2022, we are finally getting back to face-to-face scouting – whoop whoop! A successful year for Grafton regarding awards.

At present we have 15 Actively completing Bronze D of E (With 7 nearly completed), 2 Working through their Silver award and 4 signed up for Gold. Two Of these Gold award young people have already completed bronze and silver awards with us which is great.

It is great to now have Ben Bucklow on board to administrate and keep me on the straight and narrow! Well done and thank you to Ben, it's not easy!

Over the past 12 months we have been able to purchase a number of tents, cookers (and gas), compasses, a group shelter, plus a number of other items for the DofE young people to use. This has helped immensely and makes it so much easier to offer the young people these DofE opportunities. Thank you again to the committee for this funding.

September 2021, we trained up 5 young people for their Bronze Exped, of which they completed successfully in early October. It was a very wet and cold weekend and they all did really well to push on as a team and get through in what were very challenging conditions.

Mid October (16th / 17th) we had 4 young people from Grafton and Daventry District for Silver Exped training. These 4 young people went on to Wales (Northampton Mountain Centre) and achieved passes in their Silver Assessment. At the same time, they were also training for their Gold Practice Exped. (This was known as a hybrid Exped and was set up due to covid regulations). I understand the weather was very 'challenging' so again they worked well to achieve these results.

With Winter 2021 we started monthly zoom meetings for all young people working through their D of E. We were there to help and assist with all areas and allowed them to see each other before the Exped's were organised and for them to be able to work out what areas they were going to choose for their other sections. Advise on what evidence is needed in each section etc. (Beautifully orchestrated by Ben).

Spring 2022 – In March we completed an evening and a day training Hike and then 4 sessions at Towcester Scout Hall to help prepare the young people for their Exped assessment. These meetings also allowed any other young person doing D of E

within scouting to attend for any assistance / guidance they required in the other sections.

Seven people from Grafton attended their Bronze Exped Assessment on 28th/29th May which was assessed by Shaun Macken from Daventry District. All young people passed and hopefully on completing their other sections will progress onto Silver.

I feel we have had a great year and can really offer these young people a chance to get through their D of E with the Leader Teams we have and with this in mind I would ask that all the Leader Teams in Grafton can promote D of E (and Higher awards) within scouting before the schools pressurise the young people and parents in early September.

Regarding the Welsh Dragon awards, we have 2 young people that have now gained their silver award and are working towards their Gold. We also have 1 young person getting through their Bronze and another well on their way to getting their silver award.

Steve Smith

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

Grafton District Scout Band Report

It has been a difficult year for the Band with continuing Covid restrictions through to September. We managed 4 Zoom meetings during April and May, but we still had to settle for individual playing to backing tracks while on mute. There were no St Georges Day parades.

In May one of our youth members had 'gone home'. He had been struggling with cancer for several years.

We were allowed to meet f2f during June and July but under Covid rules. Our numbers ranged between 7 and 12 and we reduced our rehearsal times to 2hrs, not our normal 3hrs. During this period, we lost some of our Leaders/instructors. As the country was still under Covid there were no public events for the Band to attend and hence no monetary income. We then closed until September as normal.

We did have a working party day at Blisworth HQ in August with the usual great support of our few youth members and their parents. We thank 1st Blisworth Group for their continuing support, allowing us storage space in their HQ.

At the end of August, we prepared for a recruitment day. A poster was circulated to all Leaders in the District. The only response was from an ex-player who is now an assistance leader.

We started back up in September not under Covid rules (yah!!!!) and managed 9 meeting through until Christmas. We were unable to provide even an ensemble Band for a static playing for Roade Remembrance Day as the few players we still had were attending their own Groups' parades.

During November and December, the few of us left practised Christmas tunes. Although there were only between 5 and 8, we did produce a good sound. We could get no Christmas bookings.

Because of the lack of members returning after Christmas we had to reduce our meetings to only 2 per month, still only 2hrs a time. We only met on 4 occasions up until the end of March with numbers between 3 and 7 but we still sounded good. There was no Band camp in Feb 2022.

The events that have been our main sources of fundraising have finished. They may start again in a reduced format.

We did have some enquiries including heading St Georges Day parade in Buckingham and Blisworth Jubilee celebrations, but both have had to be declined due to lack of numbers.

The Band remains a member of the Traditional Youth Marching Bands Association (TYMBA) until January 2023. There have been some events, but the Band have not been able to attend.

National Performing Arts SASU:

The Band have been contacted by the Manager National Performing Arts SASU, appointed by HQ to bring together a database of the Bands and Gang Shows in the country.

The Bandmaster now attends this committee (by Zoom) to discuss all thing Banding. It is trying to formalise banding within the Scout movement, as at present, Bands have been considered as an extra activity not a section in their own right.

The first Band Leaders conference for many a year is in May 22.

April 2022 ongoing

Very reluctantly the Band has had to cease meeting due to lack of numbers until September.

The Band is running a Stage 1 Music Activity Badge Day in late June for the District.

With the dedication of the few Leaders and the remaining youth members hopefully the Band will re-invent itself and will once more be an asset to the District.

Yours in Scouting,

Roy Cooper
Acting Bandmaster

Spotley Wood Campsite Report

The site was able to be open for limited use from late April 2021 and it was used by some Groups during the year. Use of the site was FOC for Grafton Groups during the year and for 2022 we are only asking that they pay the deposit to use the site.

We continue to maintain and improve the site. Compton Estate repaired the building roof last year and we constructed a roofed shelter near the campfire so that there is a covered area when the weather is not dry. This has been met with very positive feedback. We aim to purchase more pioneering equipment in the near future and any other suggestions would be considered.



Thanks to Bob Gibson for running a very efficient booking system and to Mike, Martin and Mike for their help in building the shelter.

We are looking for other helpers for the service crew to spread the maintenance tasks over more people so get in contact if interested in helping in any way.

Ken Underwood
Campsite Warden

Training Report

Courses Attended (on-line and face-to-face) / E-learning Completed 01/06/21 to 31/05/22

Module	Leaders	Section Assistants	Exec Members	Total
Module 1	10	17	7	34
Module 3	15	18		33
Module 4	1			1
Module 5	11			11
Module 7	18			18
Module 8	13			13
Module 9	14			14
Module 10A	14			14
Module 10B	20	1		21
Module 10A&B	38	2		40
Module 11	9			9
Module 12A	15			15
Module 12B	14			14
Module 13	9			9
Module 14	9			9
Module 15	9			9
Module 16	6			6
Module 17 (discontinued)	5			5
Module 18	7			7
Module 38 (Lightweight Expedition)	3			3
LMM	1			1
Meeting the Challenge	1			1
Skills of Management	1			1
Safeguarding	25	14	8	47
Safety	21	9	11	41

Module	Leaders	Section Assistants	Exec Members	Total
GDPR	10	15	6	31
Trustee Introduction	4		9	13
Total No of Courses Completed	303	76	41	420

Module 10, Safeguarding and Safety (as at 31/05/22)

- Module 10: Out of 107 leaders, 2 are out of date with their first response training and 3 have completed Module 10A but not 10B; all others are in date or have booked a course. A further 4 leaders who are under training have not yet completed or booked a Module 10 course; 3 of these have not yet completed Getting Started.
- Safeguarding: Out of 244 adults, 4 are out of date. A further 12 new adults have not yet completed Safeguarding, of whom 9 have not yet completed Getting Started.
- Safety: Out of 244 adults, 4 are out of date. A further 12 new adults have not yet completed Safety training, of whom 8 have not yet completed Getting Started.

GDPR

As at 31/05/22, out of 244 leaders, assistants and executive committee members, 233 (95.5%) have completed GDPR training.

Trustee Introduction

As at 31/05/22, out of 54 leaders and exec members required to complete Trustee Introduction, 47 (87%) have done so.

Wood Badges awarded (19):

Name		Role	Group	Woodbadge Date
Fraser	Hannah	DLBS	District	04/06/21
Huckin	Harry	DLTM	District	04/06/21
Whitlock	Lynne	BSL	Blisworth	30/06/21
Heeler	Janet	ABSL	Blisworth	30/06/21
Hazell	Will	DDC Support	District	03/07/21
Smith	Steve	ADC G&D	District	07/07/21
Elder	Andy	GSL	Whistley	19/09/21
Jones	Bill	ASL	Towcester	19/09/21

Name		Role	Group	Woodbadge Date
Smith	Adam	BSL	Towcester	27/09/21
Waters	Louise	BSL	Brackley	12/10/21
Bulgin	Mark	Cogenhoe	Cogenhoe	19/10/21
Hawkins	Beth	ABSL	Brackley	30/10/21
O'Connor	Mike	AESL	Tunnel Rats	06/12/21
Newman	Tom	DESL	District	21/12/21
Stockton	Adam	BSL	Brackley	26/01/22
Newman	Tom	DESC	District	17/03/22
Rock	Pete	ADC Activities	District	22/04/22
Mezciems	Anna	ABSL	Whistley	20/05/22
McCawley	Tony	ASL	Whistley	20/05/22

Another strangely different year for training, however, as you will notice on Caryll's immaculate stats, we do have a good mix of modules that have been completed. For example, The Module 7 that Harry ran in May last year via Zoom was recorded, therefore, Harry now has a copy to send out to any Learners across the County.

Validation criteria is available from any member of the Training Support Team Grafton District, see information below, alternatively, check out the Learners Hub on the District website at gdscouts.org.uk/learners-hub

On 2nd October 2021, Harry and Will ran a face-to-face course covering 12A - Delivering a Quality Programme and 12B - Programme Planning. This course was opened up to the other Northamptonshire Districts and it was good to welcome Leaders from across the County to join us for the day.

We are slowly seeing the return of F2F courses being offered within our County, however, we are thankful for the online opportunities that other Counties have offered which have enabled us to retain leaders and experience other ways of working.

Thanks go to our team of Training Advisors, who are always working in the background to support our Leaders with their training and development.

Training Support Team Grafton District - REMEMBER - WE are HERE for YOU

Local Training Manager Training Advisor	Sue Pearson	01604-890972/ 07521-286836	suehpearson@sky.com
Deputy Local Training Manager Training Advisor	Harry Huckin	01280-841354/ 07864-811747	harry.huckin@gdscouts.org.uk
District Training Administrator	Caryll Mumme	01327-811673	dtagrafton@outlook.com
Training Advisor	Sandra O'Connor	01604-858764/ 07751-804021	sandhflick@hotmail.com
Training Advisor	Stephanie Watts	07864-811747	stephaniejwatts@gmail.com
Training Advisor	Barbara Parkinson	01327-830245	barbaraparkinsona5@gmail.com
Training Advisor	Will Hazell	01604-765731/ 07748-753200	william.hazell@gdscouts.org.uk

Many thanks to our Grafton Training Team and to all Leaders in training, without you, what would we do!?

Happy Scouting

**Sue Pearson
Local Training Manager**

**Harry Huckin
Deputy Local Training Manager**



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