



**Scouts**  
Clwyd



# Annual Report 2023

Clwyd Area Scout Council Annual Report & Accounts 2023



Cover photo: 1st Rhosnesni Beavers at the H.A.C.K horse sanctuary

# Four Districts, One Area



## Vale of Clwyd

1st Carmel  
1st Denbigh  
3rd Prestatyn  
6th Prestatyn  
1st Rhuddlan  
1st Rhyl  
2nd Rhyl  
1st Ruthin  
Ruthin Explorer Scouts  
Platypus Explorer Scouts  
Bobcat Explorer Scouts  
Vale of Clwyd Scout Network  
Young Leader Unit

## Wrexham

6th Wrexham  
41st Wrexham  
Bishops Own Wrexham  
1st Bwlchgwyn  
1st Coedpoeth  
1st Esculsham  
1st Gresford  
1st Gwersyllt  
1st Hope  
1st Marchwiel and Pentremaelor  
1st Moss  
1st Overton on Dee  
1st Rhosnessney  
1st Rossett  
HQ Active Support Unit  
Atlas Explorer Scouts  
Bryn-y-Pys Explorer Scouts  
K2 Explorer Scouts  
Cox Wood SASU  
Events Scout SASU  
Wrexham Scout Network  
Young Leader Unit

## Flintshire

1st Bistre  
1st Broughton  
Buckley St Matthews  
1st Connahs Quay  
1st Flint  
Halkyn Mountain  
1st Hawarden  
1st Kinnerton  
1st Mynydd Isa  
1st Northop Hall  
1st Pen-y-Ffordd  
1st Saltney Ferry  
1st Sandycroft and Mancot  
Treffynnon - Cyntaf  
Trinity Fammau  
Fusion Explorer Scouts  
Gladstone Explorer Scouts  
Echo Explorer Scouts  
Blaze Explorer Scouts  
Quay Explorer Scouts  
Phoenix Explorer Scouts  
Cross County Explorer Scouts  
The Gladstone Training Centre  
Flintshire SASU  
Flintshire Scout Network  
Young Leader Unit

## Llangollen

1st Chirk  
1st Corwen  
1st Johnstown  
1st Llangollen  
1st Pen y Cae  
1st Trevor  
Dragons Explorer Scouts  
Pen-y-Cae Explorer Scouts  
Young Leader Unit

Add to the above all of the Group, District and Area Trustee Board members, occasional helpers and everyone else involved in making Scouting happen on the ground. It's a busy Area! We should be proud of what we achieve!

# Welcome!

Welcome to the 2023 Clwyd Area report and I hope you find it useful. This is a new style report that we are continuing to adapt from last year. In future editions we want to try and use this report to celebrate achievements and successes throughout the Area so its not just a standard AGM report. Hopefully we are on to something!

The report contains:

- 2023 at a glance
- An introduction by our Area Youth Lead
- An update by the new the Area Chairperson
- A review of the year and look forward by the Area Lead Volunteer
- Communications update and by the Communications Lead
- Area Training update by the Area Training Manager
- District summaries by the four District Lead Volunteers
- An update of the Area finances by the Area Treasurer
- Area annual accounts financial year 2022/23
- 2023 Area Annual General Meeting (AGM) minutes



Just like these Pen-y-Ffordd scouts, Clwyd Scouts set out with a clear set of objectives in 2023! Find out the successes and challenges on our journey later in this report!

# Its fair to say 2023 has been a bit of a busy year...



We created and deployed an Area strategy and plan which we are delivering



We assembled a Transformation Team to lead on the transformation project in the Area



We were selected as an Early Adopter for Transformation (10% of UK)



We recruited a new Area Youth Lead, Esme Jones



We recruited a new Area Communications Lead, Jacob Jones



We ran a successful Area Reunion for our adult volunteers



We recruited a new Area Training Manager, Sue Lloyd



We updated our website and are more coordinated and active on social media



We moved our event bookings to Eventbrite for the Area



We have delivered regular pulse checks and area communications



We changed our Trustee Board, bringing on board new blood



We ran a successful Area Explorer's ball



We have delivered over 300 hours of high quality online modules



We supported the Kings coronation



We have managed our MOGL non compliance to >1% of the Area

# But, like any good journey, we have hit obstacles. Still, there is **NOTHING** stopping us now!



We have struggled with Area volunteer recruitment



We don't yet have a big enough events team to run large scale events



We have lots of vacancies for youth leads



We still don't have a joined up calendar for Districts and Area



On the ground visits by the Area Lead haven't been as often as planned



Communication between Groups, District and Area still needs to be improved



We are working thorough the Transformation and what it means for us



Some training has had to be postponed due to lack of trainers



Our Area Leadership Team meeting tempo hasn't been consistent



We have had to make suspensions and close roles due to MOGL non-compliance

## Can you help us? We need your skills and experience to make a **BIG** difference at **SCALE!**

# Intro & Youth Update



## Area Youth Lead - Esme Jones



Hello everyone and welcome to the Clwyd Area Annual Report 2023. My name is Esme and I am the new Youth Lead for the Area!

I've been asked to introduce the report as we mean what we say when we want to lead from the front on Youth Shaped in Clwyd Area and I am proud to be leading on this with the rest of the Area Leadership Team.

I hope you find the report useful and easy to read and any suggestions on how to improve it are very gratefully received.

Kevin asked me to take on the role earlier in the year and since then I have been finding my feet so its been a rollercoaster. I have been in plenty of meetings with the leadership team to help ensure that the Youth Voice is at the centre of the Area plans and the events that we deliver. There is a lot to do, not least of which I need to help support the District's with their youth shaped provision and to ensure that we have Youth Leads in each of the Districts.

My plans for the next year are to continue working as a key part of the Area Leadership Team and to also join the dots with the ScoutsCymru Youth Lead, Callum Jones to keep learning developing.

Youth Shaped Scouting is not just a buzz word in Clwyd Area and I am proud that I am helping make this a reality.

Next year we have lots of events on and I am currently helping Jacob and Kevin get the Area Awards Evening ready for January 2024.

I hope to reach out to all of the Districts in 2024 and try to get a Youth Voice forum set-up so we can really start to hear from the young people and young adults in across the Area and learn from their experience and feedback

On top of all this, I just started university, so I need to make sure I keep an eye on my energy levels!

Please get in touch with me if you want any support with Youth Shaped Scouting and I hope to speak with you next year either at events or Area pulse checks.

**Esme**



Esme has been working hard with the rest of the Area Leadership Team since taking on the role in 2023. There is lots more to come in 2024!





1st Mynydd Isa Squirrels having lots of fun for Halloween!

# Clwyd Area

## Area Chairperson - Russell Lodge



Hello everyone and welcome to the 2023 Annual report.

I am now a few weeks into my new role for the Area Chairperson and it's great to see what a fantastic Area we are in Clwyd. I would first like to thank the outgoing Chairperson Gareth Jones for his service in his role and recognise the support and guidance he has given to the Clwyd Area over the years.

These are exciting times to be involved in scouting and as you are all probably aware by now, we are transitioning into a new era, with some changes about how we do our volunteering with the main goal being to make volunteering easier. One benefit we will hopefully see from the new way of working, is the formation of Teams in our Groups, Districts and Area to bring together the subject experts from all around Clwyd into the relevant Teams. A benefit of this Teams approach should be that Groups and Districts

will collaborate much more with each other, will meet many more new people from other groups and hopefully we will be operating more as a Clwyd family, sharing our resources and experience with each other, more than we have done previously.

One of the key changes is the transition from Executive Committees to Trustee Boards and how Trustee Boards will operate with a focus on Governance and Compliance. I have already met with a few Trustees in the Area and hope to meet up with many more of you over the coming weeks and months, and with the assistance of the Area Trustee Board we hope to offer help and support to Groups with the transition from Executive Committees to Trustee Boards.

One of our main challenges will be to help Groups who don't currently have valid Trustee Boards in place to look at ways to identify and attract volunteers to fill these roles. These volunteers don't necessarily have to come from within scouting, or have had a scouting background, they could be parents or careers, work colleagues or friends. If you know of anyone who is looking to give something back to their community with some of their free time, who may not fancy a scouting leader role, please encourage them to

explore joining the scouting family a trustee.

This year was Kevin's first full year as our Area Lead Volunteer where he shared his vision for Clwyd by producing the Area Plan. The Area Team has taken shape with some critical roles filled, focussing on youth, and they have showed good progress with the Area Plan which Kevin will tell you about in his report.

So, this year will be about continuing to provide the best possible framework of support, guidance, and assistance for all the Clwyd volunteers so that young people can participate in scouting in a safe and rewarding environment whilst gaining the exciting new skills and experiences which scouting provides.

We are privileged to be doing our scouting in one of the best areas in the UK with our local facilities and the great North Wales natural playground for our outdoor activities. I am looking forward to this year and seeing Clwyd Scouting take full advantage of what our area has to offer for young people and our volunteers in getting the best scouting experience possible.

**Russell**

# Clwyd Area



## Area Lead Volunteer - Kevin Field



This year has been a fun one and I actually can't believe how fast the 12 months have gone since I took on the role. I remember sitting down with the District Commissioners back in November 2022 and starting to draft out a strategy for the Area wondering if we would ever be able to deliver. We always knew that it was going to be a huge challenge as I think it's fair to say that the Area (not Districts) offering was in cardiac arrest so the first twelve months was always going to be about gathering our thoughts, resources and strengths and being very clear on what we are going to invest our limited time and efforts into for the best effect. I like to think that we have had some success but it would be wrong of me to say that it's all been plain sailing.

A curve ball for us was when I took the call from Scouts Cymru to ask us to be early adopters for the transformation changes that were

coming up across the UK. This threw a spanner into the works for sure because it meant that our deadline had come forward by around three months and our plan had to be revised to fit this. It remains a great honour to be able to do this

### **Launching the strategy:**

In November we launched our strategy for the Area and broadcast it far and wide. Using our new benchmarking criteria, we took a long hard look at the Area and made some objective assessments about where we were and what we could do to improve. These formed the backbone of our strategy strap line #get2good which was the leadership team making a promise to ourselves that our objectives would all be focused on improving our service to drive us to a 'good' status in each of our criteria.

### **Looking back – the successes:**

It's easy to forget the achievements and focus on the negatives so let's sense check on our progress since November.

We said we wanted a clear Area plan that we regularly reviewed and communicated our progress against. In November we launched this plan with an all area invite to attend our online launch. This was successful and the plan is visible. We have attempted to create a

plan which tries to achieve the almost impossible task of delivering what I refer to as the three C's of strategy; providing a plan that gives Clear direction and a roadmap of how to get there, is Concise enough that anyone can understand it without lots of work, and Communicated well enough for it to be readily accessible. We have also run a video Area Pulse Check every three months as promised to which anyone is welcome. We have made all this available from our redesigned website .

We said that we wanted to improve communication to the Area. We have done this by ensuring that every month, each member of the Area gets an Area Update sent out by email from myself containing lots of useful information, dates, and updates on the plan.

We said we wanted to make the Area more youth shaped. We have made progress in this by recruiting a new Area Youth Lead, Esme Jones, and incorporating them into our Area Leadership Team and Trustee Board. We have also recruited Jamie Dixon into the Trustee Board. They are both integral in our future.

We said we wanted to run a reunion type event for adult volunteers. This happened in June at Gladstone Scout Camp, and it was a great success with another one planned for 2024. I hope you

can all make it!

We said we wanted to get our event calendar in order, so we switched to Eventbrite and all of our Area events are now available through that system to view and book into.

We said we wanted to deliver online modules 'in house' for wood badge training and we have delivered over 300 hours of training across almost all the core modules this year. We have run, on average, three high quality modules a month for the last year gaining an average feedback rating of 4.8 out of 5.

We said we wanted to fill all the Area roles. This was always going to be a challenge and was made even more difficult when we were selected as early adopters (more on that later). We have recruited a new Area Training Manager, a new Communications and Marketing Lead and a new Youth Lead.

We said we wanted to get ahead of the transformation and not be led by it. We recruited a Transformation team and they have all been doing an absolutely outstanding job, delivering numerous on the ground and virtual sessions and doing everything they can to keep on the pulse and answer questions. This effort led to us being selected as the early adopter Area for Wales and one of only 10% of Areas/Counties in the UK, something we should all be proud of.

We added new blood to the Area Trustee Board, saying goodbye and thanks to our outgoing Chairperson and Treasurer and welcoming new members. The Board is in a really good shape to drive forward positive

change.

A big win this year was handing over £8k to those who applied for our Area New Horizons fund. This was used to help WSJ participants and the Flintshire Explorers who travelled to Croatia. I encourage everyone to apply for this fund in 2024.

#### **Looking back – the things that didn't go according to plan and what we are doing about it:**

Recruitment to the Area team has been slow and very time consuming. Recruiting is always difficult, but I had hoped there would be more interest in Area roles. We will continue to advertise and recruit via all out mediums and options.

We had hoped to run more Area events but a lack of a team and other pressing matters caused us to think again. We are reviewing our calendar and trying to keep a two year rolling calendar up on Eventbrite. I am also asking all District Lead Volunteers to coordinate their calendars and events so that we can work together as best as possible and deliver the best Scouting experience for all.

#### **Looking forward**

I am super excited about the next twelve months. We have some really good ideas in the melting pot around Area events and we already have the Annual Awards Evening booked in for January and I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

The next steps must be to continue to grow the Area team to deliver at

scale, especially with younger blood, and to stay ahead of the Transformation and lead the way. We have a lot more to do before February when we get our hands on the new tools.

I look forward to continuing to strengthen the bond between ScoutsCymru and Clwyd Scouts Area as I view this as a key support link that runs both ways to get the very best result for all. Its great to see that they have recently restructured, and I have had numerous productive meetings with the new team, especially with Kerrie Gemmill the new Director and Rachel Merriott, the new Head of Scouting Support.

Personally, I really enjoyed the few days this year at Gilwell taking part in my Area Commissioner days, learning what goes on. I also really enjoyed my first SWAT weekend learning to canoe and seeing all of the happy faces on the water for a full weekend of activities!

Receiving my wood beads for the Area Commissioner role was also a real high point and very emotional!

I can't thank everyone in the Area team enough for their help, support, guidance and challenge this year. As someone who is relatively new to Scouting it was an experience to drop into an Area Lead Volunteer role and must get up to speed with everything Scouting.

I am looking forward to another great year for the Area. Thank you for making my first year in post special.

**Kevin**



Lots of the year has been spent laying the groundwork for the Transformation in 2023/24. Being selected as an early adopter was a surprise but we can do it!



The Area Reunion at Gladstone was a highlight for me personally. I wanted to put an event on to give back to the adult volunteers and it didn't disappoint!

# Clwyd Area



## Area Communications Lead - Jacob Jones



Hello! I'm Jacob and I've been involved in Scouting for as long as I can remember! From a Beaver Scout right up to Explorers and as a young leader, I have so many fantastic memories and friendships that were formed through scouting. Once I turned 18 I didn't want my scouting experience to be over so I stayed on as a leader; even whilst at university I remained involved in scouting, joining a group in Liverpool.

I am now back in the area and thrilled to be in the position of Area Communications Manager. In this

role I get to share and shout about everything that makes scouting so awesome! Although I've not been in the role too long, I've been busy formulating plans to help boost our external comms as well as our internal messaging. This has been from spending some time updating our Area website, as well as preparing some social media campaigns.

We've still got a lot of work to do, but I'm optimistic and excited about the future of our comms - looking at other areas for inspiration, as well as what some of our groups are doing locally, there is a lot of potential for what we can achieve. I've been looking at what gaps we have in social media and online presence across the area and Districts and will be working with Lead Volunteers over the coming year to hopefully fill some of these gaps.

A major priority for me is supporting our smaller Districts to achieve the same online presence

that our larger ones do. I have started this project off by working with our new Vale of Clwyd Lead Volunteer in getting a website set up - watch this space!!

At the moment it's just me at area looking after our communications and marketing - I'm looking forward to developing a team of volunteers to support me with this. I'm planning on delivering some training over the next few months for volunteers to help support them in promoting their groups locally. I'm also looking at delivering some training on the Scouting brand and tone of voice as well as using the Brand Centre.

Please do send me any good news stories, positive posts and ideas you have. If you have any questions about promoting your group or District, please feel free to get in touch. You can contact me on 07526 446169 or at [comms@clwydscouts.org.uk](mailto:comms@clwydscouts.org.uk).

**Jacob**



The Area Reunion in 2023 gave all of the adults the chance to try out the things we normally only run for the young people. Pedal carting is really hard!



Pen-y-Ffordd getting up close and personal with a little snapper!



# Clwyd Area



## Area Training Manager - Sue Lloyd



My first 6 months in post have been quite an eye opener!

Already working with two Districts, briefly helping with another so made sense taking on the challenges of all four Districts!

With the new Transformation looming the need was and still is to get training up to date on leaders Personal Learning Plans on Compass.

Area Training has continued via

Zoom with booking through Eventbrite. Area Lead Volunteer, Kevin, has delivered all the training on a regular basis for the modules that aren't available as e-learning or workbook.

Mandatory On-Going Learning has also been a priority to chase too. All members are receiving 60- and 30-day notice emails from The Scout Association as a reminder to complete these. For most this is working well but there are still members that need chasing!

As an Area we are doing well in the grand scheme of things! On monthly reports we showing as about 1% of members are non-compliant.

Sadly, failure to update this Mandatory training has in some instances resulted in the person being suspended from scouting until it is completed. Not something we as a team like to do

but a necessity.

First Aid training continues in various forms throughout the Area.

The Blended First Response course continues to be run via ScoutsCymru.

Initially e-learning via Hampshire Scouts, Trainer led Zoom session with ScoutsCymru followed by a Practical session locally.

Alternatively, Dave Jones (Red Dragon Ventures) continues to run his 'face to face' six-hour First Aid at Work Courses to a couple of Districts.

Overall, I feel we are in a pretty good place going forward to Transformation despite the slight delay with the early adoption.

I look forward to new challenges and see what the new 'Learning' brings from the initial 'Growing Roots' to 'Branching Out'.

**Sue**



In January we delivered an Area Explorer ball. Everyone had a great time. Thanks to Steve Love and the team for delivering an excellent event!



How can I help you develop your digital skills?

Ask me what your new role will be come February

David Morris and the Transformation Team have been leading the way to prepare us for the transformation. We wouldn't be where we are without them! Its thirsty work!

# Vale of Clwyd District



## District Lead Volunteer - Simon Williams



As the new District Lead Volunteer since mid-2023, I've been heartened by the warm welcome and positive response I've received. It's been a time of significant change and growth for us all. Our internal communications have seen a great improvement, making how we talk more effective and collaborative. This is a testament to our collective effort and dedication.

We've had a series of productive District Leadership Team meetings, where we've laid the groundwork for a robust growth plan. It's exciting to see our 14-24 Team and District Leadership Team taking shape, brimming with potential and ready to lead us into a transformative future.

Our new 1st Rhuddlan Squirrel Dray has been a wonderful addition, engaging our youngest members in the joy of Scouting. It's heartening to see such enthusiasm and participation from the very start.

Meanwhile, we're navigating through some initial resistance to our transformation initiatives. Change isn't always easy, but we're making steady progress in changing hearts and minds, thanks to our shared commitment.

Our leaders have been busy too, enhancing their skills through Water activities and Tomahawk training. It's fantastic to see such a dedication to personal growth and development. And let's not forget our proud moment on the international stage, with our representation at the South Korea Jamboree.

Of course, every journey has its bumps. We've noticed that some groups have been working in isolation, but we're gradually fostering a more united approach. The closure of the 1st Ruthin Scout Group was a tough moment for us, but it's also an opportunity to reintroduce Scouting in Ruthin with fresh ideas and renewed energy.

We've also observed a need for more active volunteer participation, both in filling District roles and in events like the 'Area Reunion'. Addressing the backlog of awards and recognitions is on our agenda too. It's important that we acknowledge and celebrate the dedication of our members.

Looking ahead, there's much to be excited about. We're focusing on solidifying our Transformation

Teams and launching a new District website to keep everyone connected and informed. Our communication strategies, both internal and external, are set for further enhancement. This will help us in supporting our groups more effectively.

We're also expanding our reach with the opening of a new Explorer Unit and another Squirrel Dray. Efforts to reintroduce a Beaver Colony and Trustee Board at 6th Prestatyn are underway, and a working party is being formed to bring Scouting back to Ruthin.

In all these endeavours, our goal remains the same – to nurture a vibrant, inclusive, and dynamic Scouting experience for all our members. I'm excited for what the future holds and look forward to continuing this journey with each and every one of you.

Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm. Together, we're making Scouting in Clwyd an adventure to remember!

**Simon**



3rd Prestatyn Scout Group having a great time with cooking on the beach



Squirrels

Squirrels

The new 1st Rhuddlan Squirrel Dray really loved making tents!

# Wrexham District

## District Lead Volunteer - David Morris



It's been a funny year as my time supporting Wrexham District as Lead Volunteer has at times taken a back seat to my role as Transformation Lead for Clwyd. It's only when I've sat down to look back at the last 12 months for this report that I've realised how much has happened. We've been changing the way we do things as we move over to the new structures, so in March we held our last ever District Team meeting made up of Commissioners, and started moving to the new team structures.

This is all very new and will take time to get used to, but we've already seen people getting involved in District teams who hadn't previously been involved in supporting Scouts outside their own Sections.

Throughout the year what was our District Executive Committee, and is now our District Trustee Board, have

worked tirelessly to support Scouts in Wrexham. We are so lucky to have Nicola our District Chair who has done so much to work through the changes, support Groups and help those challenges by the cost of living crisis.

Karen our District Treasurer has put so much time working with groups hiring our headquarters, helping with shop orders and much more, and sadly let us know this would be her last year as District Treasurer as she and her husband Dave - an equally valued Trustee - will be moving away.

Paul our District Secretary stepped in to help with the Appointments Advisory Committee and had done an amazing job keeping this going until we no longer require it next year, together with his work on our District headquarters building.

Sue from our District Leadership Team has continued the work on our potential HQ move, has done so much work at our amazing Cox Wood campsite - along with Chris, Gerry and the rest of the Cox Wood Crew - and has always been there to support and give great advice. To all those and the other members of the Trustee Board and District Team, a massive thank you!

Early in 2023 we held our usual

gathering of adult volunteers and changed it up a bit with various workshops instead of one big plenary session, the aim was that people would be more comfortable speaking up in smaller groups. It went down very well but we were a bit rushed so less workshops next time!

Ethan and Meg our Youth Leads ran a session on Youth Shaped where they gained lots of new ideas; Andrew showed how Online Scout Manager can save volunteers time and effort; Sue focus grouped our work on improving communications in the District; and Steve shared his plans for improving the Explorer Scout provision in Wrexham.

Throughout the year we've also had fantastic events for the Sections including: a chaotic but fun Christmas Celebration at Tŷ Pawb; the annual District Panto at the Stiwt; Beavers trips to Explore! and Greenwood; a Cubs DIY day and water camp; Scouts Frost Camp and Explorers running Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions.

We had a large representation at ScoutsCymru's Cub Fun Day and at their water events, and K2 Explorer Scouts travelled to Croatia for a week of amazing activities in the sun.

Croatia wasn't the furthest

Wrexham Scouts travelled as we were lucky enough to have 9 Explorer Scouts and one adult attend the 25th World Scout Jamboree in Korea. You've all no doubt heard that this event didn't go to plan, but we were incredibly proud of the way our representatives made the best of the situation.

As well as visits abroad, we had our own visitors when Moore Scouts, 5th Roscommon, from Ireland camped at Cox Wood for a week. They had a packed programme including visits to Eryri, white water rafting in Llangollen and even abseiled down Anfield football stadium. Scouts from Wrexham popped down to say hello and they got on so well a reciprocal visit is planned for next year.

Thanks to Colleen, Sue, Andrew, Steve, Butch and Pete for making these essential joint activities happen.

In May we were once again lucky enough to have members of Wrexham District selected to attend an event of National importance when Dave and Siân travelled down to London to help out at His Majesty's Coronation. Thanks both for bearing the rainy weather and also thank you to Daniel and Harriet who volunteered but sadly weren't selected.

In November we held a meeting for those who may be interested in starting a Squirrels Drey in Wrexham. There was a huge attendance, with lots of interest and a couple of months later we

opened our first Drey at Bishop's Own, with a second just opening at 1st Rhosnesni last month. Welcome to all our little Squirrels - we hope you're having an amazing time.

I'd like to end by saying a huge thank you to every single volunteer in Wrexham Scouts. What I've mentioned above mostly neglects to acknowledge the real week in week out activities in the Sections and Groups which are of course the real magic and where the bulk of our energies go. Just because they're not listed doesn't mean they're any less important or appreciated.

They're what Scouts is all about - new adventures every week.

**Moz**



The transformation team has spent a lot of time visiting the Districts to bring the transformation news and updates to the front line



Jamboree Jamie meeting a Danish Scout at the 25th World Scout Jamboree



3



1st Esclusham Scouts hitting the rapids!

# Flintshire District

## District Lead Volunteer - Dan Campbell



Another year has gone by which it is time to reflect on the highlights of the year, what we have accomplished and what we have to look forwards to as a Scouting family.

At the beginning of year we have saw Flintshire start up a Target Sports SAS. In 12 months Terry and his team have grown from their humble beginnings to now being able to offer sessions which include Air Guns, Archery, Crossbow and Tomahawk throwing. The team have entered national competitions and we have come away with podium medals for all our efforts. The team now offer regular coaching sessions to a team of 20 Scouts, Explorers & Leaders! Gladstone Campsite has had another jam packed year! With virtually constant use throughout the week, most weekends and already taking bookings for 2025! A major amount of time and effort have been put in this year by the

Campsite Support Team making sure we are compliant in all aspects and investing so much time and money to ensure that the campsite is a centre of excellence for futures generations of Scouters!

This year Flintshire Scouts have been supporting a scheme helping cancer patients through their journey. District members Sue and Nicola have been coordinating with the Star Box Team to acquire items for the boxes, including a donation of blankets from Dunelm Mill, which will be given with to patients in the Shooting Star Unit. The Star Box appeal launched at The Shooting Star Cancer Support unit at Wrexham Maelor Hospital in April. It sees boxes which include small, luxury comforts given out to support patients through their cancer journey.

The Scouts Cymru Community Impact Award has been won again by one of our groups in Flintshire. We had many commendations across the awards this year, well done to everyone who was nominated.

2023 was a Jamboree year, hosted in Korea. The event had its own set of challenges but the true Scouting spirit was shown by all who attended. From our Explorer members who had an experience they will never forget, to those who went to support them as part

of the International Service Team. Already we have some interested in Poland 2027 and on the road to Roverway 2024 in Norway.

It is with a great sadness this year we have seen Scouters Go Home. The dedication and support they gave to so many will always be remembered. Roger Smith, Andrea Dixon, Gary Robinson, June Worthington & Brian Casey we thank you for all you gave to the movement.

I had the privilege of seeing Andy and Dan from 1st Mynndd Isa receive a Commissioners Commendation from our Area Commissioner for there brave actions when they happened upon an RTC. Due to their training and cool headedness, those involved made it to hospital and are recovering. Needless to say I am immensely proud of both of them!

Looking forward we have Gladstonbury 2024 coming soon. We are expecting it to be bigger and better than ever before. With activities, live music and performances giving the Explorer a safe and enjoyable environment to experience a festival.

**Dan**



A very bouncy experience for Pen-y-Ffordd Scouts!



Quay ESO throwing tomahawks (we promise there is a target there!)

# Llangollen District

**District Lead Volunteer - Kevin Field (Temporary)**



I will be acting as District Lead Volunteer until we can recruit a new Lead Volunteer or agree a structure in the District to allow it to continue as a team of teams approach under the new transformational changes happening in Scouting.

My intention is to start 2024 with a concerted effort to ensure that Llangollen has the right structure it needs for growth and success and I will be working closely with the Group Lead Volunteers and the Trustee Board to put a plan in place to ensure that this happens.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and young people in Llangollen

District. I know that you have done many amazing things this year, most of which would have gone under my radar due to the structural difficulties in the District.

I know that 2024 will be better I hope to start off strong, helping you integrate with the Area fully and allowing the other Districts to learn from you and support you in all of your activities.

If you feel like you can help me do this, please reach out!

**Kevin**

I wish to thank Rachel Owen for leading Llangollen District over the last year. Rachel stepped down in November and unfortunately we haven't been able to locate a replacement yet.



Penycae scouts on the River Severn near Monford Bridge



Scouts from Llangollen District getting ready to Sumo!



1st Pen y Cae Scouts preparing for a rafting adventure!



Dusk at the Clwyd Area Reunion 2023 - after a long day of fun



**Clwyd Area Annual Accounts**  
**Financial Year 2022/2023**

# Clwyd Area

Area Treasurer - John Lyons



In September 2023, I assumed the role of Area Treasurer and have been collaborating with the Trustee Board to expedite the setup of internet banking and access to bank accounts. I'm grateful to Jake Myatt, the former Area Treasurer, for his

assistance in this transition.

Our current priority is to work with the new Trustee Board to enhance financial awareness and control, which are essential for effective charity trusteeship. The Area Trustee Board's new structure has already fostered valuable discussions about improving financial controls to achieve excellence.

In 2024, Kevin will present a new budget for the financial year, which we'll review to ensure proper expenditure of our funds. We have also adopted a new reserves policy aimed at gradually decreasing our account balances by spending funds judiciously for the Area, as we currently have more than

necessary.

Last year, we allocated over £8,000 to the New Horizons fund, benefiting individuals who applied through our website. Successful applicants received financial support for their activities.

We're exploring the creation of a fund in 2024 to assist adult volunteers in acquiring permits for permitted activities, which incur costs. Further details will be provided later.

The Area Trustee Board has significant potential to support our wide-reaching efforts, and I eagerly anticipate the developments in 2024.

**John**



Scouts from Pen-y-Ffordd taking aim!

**CLWYD AREA SCOUT COUNCIL**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note s	31.3.23 Unrestrict ed funds £	31.3.2 2 Tota l fund s £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies		2,044	7,210
Investment income	2	128	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,172</b>	<b>7,221</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Raising funds		517	712
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Area camp			
Genral fund		8,000	-
New horizons		(13,216)	5,948
		20,800	-
Other		-	684
<b>Total</b>		<b>16,101</b>	<b>7,344</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>(13,929)</b>	<b>(123)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward		50,111	50,234
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>36,182</b>	<b>50,111</b>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**CLWYD AREA SCOUT COUNCIL**

**BALANCE SHEET  
31 MARCH 2023**

		31.3.23 Unrestrict ed funds £	31.3.2 2 Total fund s £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	Note s		
Debtors	6	120	120
Cash at bank		145,071	52,809
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		145,191	52,929
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(109,009)	(2,818)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		36,182	50,111
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<hr/>	<hr/>
		36,182	50,111
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<hr/>	<hr/>
		36,182	50,111
<b>FUNDS</b>	9		
Unrestricted funds		36,182	50,111
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<hr/>	<hr/>
		36,182	50,111

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on ..... and were signed on its behalf by:

.....  
Mr G Jones - Trustee

.....  
Mr J Myatt - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements



Flintshire district Jamboree of the Trail 2023

**Clwyd Area**

**Annual General Meeting**

**19th September 2023**

**Video available [HERE](#)**

# Clwyd Area Scouts AGM Minutes 19th September 2023



<b>Reason (Why?)</b>	Annual General Meeting
<b>Date and time (When?)</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2023.
<b>Location (Where?)</b>	Zoom (Online)
<b>Duration (How long?)</b>	Start: 19:00, Ended at 20:30 (90m)
<b>Attendees (Who?)</b>	Area Trustee Board and Area Scout Council – Invitation issued to all members
<b>The main goal (What?)</b>	Annual General Meeting
<b>Apologies:</b>	Gavin Hughes and Rachel Owen.

Ser.	Agenda item	Lead	Notes
1	Welcome and introduction.	KF	<p>Everyone was welcomed to the AGM by KF and he explained that that there are proposed changes to the Area Trustee Board members.</p> <p>KF also explains that the Area Trustee Board will be adopting a new constitution based on revision of POR's, instigated by the transformational changes that are occurring at Scouts UK.</p>
2	President.	KF	<p>KF informed everyone that the previous president, Lord Lieutenant Mr Henry Fetherstonhaugh OBE, was asked to stand down due to personal commitments and being unable to fulfil role during the year.</p> <p>KF explained that there is no Area President at present, and we would be looking for one in the new year.</p>
3	Apologies received.	KF	<p>KF thanked everyone for attending and confirmed that their attendance has been noted via Zoom.</p> <p>KF explained that there were no apologies for attendance by the Trustee Board.</p> <p>Apologies from Area Scout Council are mentioned in the apologies section above.</p>
4	Approval of AGM Minutes 2022.	GJ	<p>GJ asked for last years AGM minutes to be adopted as a true reflection of the AGM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2022.</p> <p>The AGM minutes were approved and accepted by voting poll.</p>
5	Adoption of the annual accounts.	GJ/JM	<p>JM explained that the accounts had been approved by the Area Trustee Board via email prior to the meeting and then shared the accounts with the attendees, walking them through the accounts and answering questions.</p> <p>JM explained that the Area is consciously attempting to lower the total of is funds by reducing the subscription cost and using the available funds sensibly as part of the Area strategic plan.</p>

			<p>Gordon Richardson asked what the target for the reduction in total funds is.</p> <p>The Area aims to reduce the funds down to as low as reasonably practicable and KF explained that the operating budget for the Area is around £4500 per year (at this current time) but that does not include budgeting for new horizons funds etc.</p> <p>GJ asks for accounts to be adopted.</p> <p>The accounts were approved and accepted by voting poll.</p>
6	Approval of the Area Lead Volunteer Area Report.	KF	<p>KF provided a brief review of the Area Lead Volunteer Report that had been issued prior to the meeting via Mailchimp mailshot to all Area members. Positive news and progress are being made but there is more to do with strengthening the Area team and its resources to assist Groups/Districts at scale.</p> <p>GJ asks for the report to be adopted.</p> <p>The report was approved and accepted by voting poll.</p>
7	Chairperson.	KF	<p>Gareth Jones stood down as Chairperson and KF thanked him for his service over the last 10 years of being the Chairperson.</p> <p>KF appoints Russell Lodge as the new Chairperson and hands over the rest of the AGM to Russell.</p>
8	Election of Treasurer.	RJ	<p>RJ nominates John Lyons (JL) to be the new Area Treasurer as Jake Myatt wished to resign from the position.</p> <p>RJ asks attendees for approval.</p> <p>The appointment was approved and accepted by voting poll.</p>
9	Election of Secretary.	RJ	<p>KF explains that Emily Boucher (EB) stood down during the year and is not in attendance.</p> <p>KF explains that we are still looking for an Area Secretary.</p> <p>No nomination or approval required.</p>
10	Election of District Representatives to Area Trustee Board.	RJ	<p>RJ nominates the following to be District Representatives on the Area Trustee Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Vale of Clwyd – No rep this year</li> <li>o Flintshire – Elved Gray-Jones</li> <li>o Wrexham – Robert-Hilton and Andrew McGregor-Andrew</li> <li>o Llangollen – No rep this year, John Stewart has stepped down due to retiring from the movement</li> </ul>



			RJ asks attendees for approval. The appointments were approved and accepted by voting poll.
11	Approval of Co-opted members to Area Trustee Board (not to exceed the number of elected officials).	RJ	RJ explains that there are no co-opted members to be approved at this AGM.
12	Approval of 18-25 representatives on the Area Trustee Board.	RJ	RJ explains that Esme Jones (Area Youth Lead) was appointed during 2023 and is ex-officio by nature of the office.  RJ nominates Jamie Dixon (JD) to be youth (18-25) representative as at last AGM.  RJ asks attendees for approval.  The appointment was approved and accepted by voting poll.
13	Elect members of the Area Scout Council to represent Area on the Scout Cymru Council.	RJ	RJ asked if anyone present will put themselves forward to be a representative on the Scouts Cymru Council.  We should elect a uniformed, non-uniformed and 18-25 representative.  Elved Gray-Jones offers to be the non-uniformed representative. No other offers of representation were provided.  RJ asks attendees for approval.  The appointment was approved and accepted by voting poll.
14	Confirmation of quorums and numbers for elected members.	RJ	RJ proposes the following quorate numbers for the Council and Trustee Board.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Area Scout Council – 10 members</li> <li>o Area Trustee Board – 4 members</li> </ul> RJ asks attendees for approval.  The appointment was approved and accepted by voting poll.
15	Approval of the constitution.	RJ	RJ proposes the adoption of the new constitution based on the new changes in POR's due to the transformational changes at Scouts UK. The drafted constitution was issued to the Trustee Board and Area Leadership Team for review prior to the meeting.  RJ asks attendees for approval.

			The constitution was approved and accepted by voting poll.
16	Appointment of independent examiners.	RJ	JL proposes the use of JD Banks as the new auditor. RJ asks attendees for approval. The new independent examiner was approved and accepted by voting poll.
17	Appointment of representative on The Scout Association.	RJ	RJ proposes the continued appointment of the uniformed representative on the TSA Scout Council. We should elect a uniformed, non-uniformed and 18-25 representative. Gareth Sandilands offers to be the uniformed representative. No other offers of representation were provided. RJ asks attendees for approval. The appointment was approved and accepted by voting poll.
18	AOB	RJ	Gareth Jones asked how we are managing the Safeguarding and Safety compliance and training for the Area. KF referred to the Area Update's that he issues monthly and explained that Scouts HQ send him and the other commissioners a monthly file for compliance which they then follow up immediately. This has led to Clwyd being one of the top Areas/Counties in the UK for compliance with MOGL and that the Trustee board will make this a standing item on their meetings going forward, though it is perceived little will need to be done by the Trustee Board and this is the lead volunteers' responsibility to enforce. No other business was raised.

A group of five people are standing in a lush green cornfield. In the background, there are trees and a cloudy sky. The people are dressed in casual attire, including a baseball cap and a purple jacket. The overall mood is one of accomplishment and anticipation.

**Well done for making  
it to the end!**

**2023 was fun. 2024 is  
going to be awesome**

**Thanks for taking the  
journey with us**

# Thankyou!

Thanks to the following for their support creating this report:

- Russell Lodge (Clwyd Area Chairperson)
- John Lyons (Clwyd Area Treasurer)
- Esme Jones (Clwyd Area Youth Lead)
- Jacob Jones (Clwyd Area Communications Lead)
- Sue Lloyd (Clwyd Area Training Manager)
- Simon Williams (District Lead Volunteer - Vale of Clwyd)
- David Morris (District Lead Volunteer - Wrexham)
- Daniel Campbell (District Lead Volunteer - Flintshire)



[www.clwydscouts.org.uk](http://www.clwydscouts.org.uk)