



**CHESTER & DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

St Mary's Creative Space, St Mary's Hill, Chester CH 1  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Meeting opened at 19:35

Present:

Kieran Skinner	District Chair
Alan Wilding	District Lead Volunteer
Liz Roberts	District Treasurer

Together with the Vice Presidents, members of the Executive and guests.  
Total attendance 45.

1. Introduction and welcome

Welcome and thanks from Kieran Skinner, District Chair.

There were no additional items to be added to the agenda.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

George Birch, District Youth Lead  
Amy Dilworth-Thomas, Group Lead Volunteer, 1<sup>st</sup> Saltney (St Marks)  
Samantha Dixon (MP) – Due to a sitting in Parliament  
Ewan Harries, The Earl of Chesters Fund  
Dave Hopley, County Lead Volunteer  
Ashley Hynds (District Exec)  
Lord Mayor of Chester, Councillor Sheila Little

3. Governance Topics

- a. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were approved.

**We prepare young people with skills for life**

- b. The adoption of the Chester & District Council Constitution revised 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 was approved. Kieran ran through the main changes included in constitution.

They are:

- Adopts latest changes included The Scout Associations Policy Organisation & Rules.
  - Introduces consecutive term limits for Trustees (9 years starting now).
  - Allows appointments of between 1- 3 years.
  - Provides closer alignment with Charity Commission best practice.
  - Provides increased flexibility for the creation of subcommittees.
- c. Kieran noted the District's financial year runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December. The AGM is for our 2023 financial year running from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

#### 4. Review of the previous year

- a. The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in the Chester District.

The annual review was prepared and presented on projector screen by Alan Wilding, District Lead Volunteer.

Alan reported that on the whole numbers were up on the year before. Alan reported on all the various groups from the success of Squirrels to the re-launch of Network.

The year's highlights included: The very successful Community Day held in Grosvenor Park, the WS Jamboree 2023 held in South Korea, District Camp held at Tatton, the continued success of Gang Show who along with performing at The King's School, also appeared at various other events during the year, the Water activities Team ran courses through the season and Alan talked about the extremely successful Cheshire Hike.

A copy of the presentation will be published on the district website.

Part 1 of the presentation of awards took place. For details on presentations see section 6.

This followed by an excellent performance from Gang Show. Keith thanked the Gang for performing. The choreography was by Kelly from Amasing. Keith went on to talk about his involvement in the Gang Show dating back to 1967 he has spent 250 24 hr days of his life working on Gang Show!

### **Experiencing Scouting in Chester**

Presentations followed from various Chester Scouts. First to present was a selection of young people involved in Gang Show from the new Youth Producer Grace Robson-Traynor who has been involved in Gang Show for 10 years, through to a young member of the gang Elodea. Each spoke with great enthusiasm about what Gang Show meant to them, bringing confidence, friendship and fun.

Next to present were Ruth Evans, Sophie Mochrie and Pheobe Whiteley-Smith who attended the World Scout Jamboree 2023 in South Korea. They spoke about despite being sad that the Jamboree had to close early due to the hot weather they all resoundingly agreed they had an amazing time. Mixing with other nationalities, sharing food and games, making friends for life and they closing ceremony was incredible.

Harry Gaskarth talked about his experience with Explorer Belt, an international self-led expedition he took part in as a group of three. They spent ten days travelling through Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany. Other Scouting groups were travelling through Europe at the same time. Harry talked through the trip day by day, which involved, hiking, meeting other international scouts, trying local foods, travelling on buses and trains. There were many adventures along the way and lots of food enjoyed!

#### **b. Receive and consider the 2023 Annual Report & Statement of Accounts**

The District Scout Council received and considered the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts as approved by the District Trustee Board. The Scout Council's approval of the Annual Report & Accounts was duly noted.

### **5. Making Appointments**

- a. Appointed the Kieran Skinner as District Chair for three years, following recommendation by the District Trustee Board.
- b. District Treasurer – The treasurer position is vacant with no nominees. Candidates continue to be sought urgently.

- b. Appointed members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations by the District Trustee Board.

Prior to moving to a standard 3-year term for all appointed Trustees, the DTB has proposed transitional arrangements to stagger the future reappointment of Trustees. This has been achieved by using a mixture of 1, 2, and 3 year appointments in this transitional year.

**Future Elections:**

District Lead Volunteer and Youth Lead will be appointed to 3-year terms by default and will resign in-line with their Ex-Officio role's term.

While we continue with a DTB of 12 in total:

- AGM May 2025: Four Trustees for Election & Potentially Treasurer
- AGM May 2026: Two Trustees for Election & Potentially Treasurer
- AGM May 2027: Two Trustees for Election & Chair
- AGM May 2028: Four Trustees for Election & Potentially Treasurer

The District Trustee Board recommends the following nominees for appointment to the Trustee Board. Members are invited to vote to accept the recommendation and appoint the nominees listed. Approved.

The trustees appointed (with two vacancies) are:

Kieran Skinner – Chair  
 Alan Wilding – Lead Volunteer  
 George Birch – Youth Lead  
 Treasurer – Vacant  
 Megan Porter – Trustee  
 Ashley Hynds – Trustee  
 Michael Stout – Trustee  
 Callum Webster – Trustee  
 David Bull – Trustee  
 Steve Shone – Trustee  
 Kristy Collins – Trustee  
 Vacant – Trustee (Seek an 18-25 individual for Youth perspective)

Existing Trustees not standing for re-appointment are:

Neil Thornton  
 Chris Huxley-Clowes  
 Jess Booth  
 Liz Roberts (Liz will remain as Secretary)

On behalf of the Chester & District Scout Council the Chair thanks those Trustees who were not standing for re-election for the contribution they had made to scouting in Chester during their tenure.

- c. Reappointed McLintocks Accountants as the Independent Examiner.
- d. Nominated Graham Polley and Esme Rippon as representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council.

## 6. Address & Presentation

- a. Presentation of Awards.

Alan, District Lead Volunteer presented

### **Stan Hinson Award**

Jack Carter cub 1st Saltney for putting his first aid skills into action when his friends pace maker failed in the school playground.

### **Lord Mayors Trophy**

Ellie O'Farrell/Oscar Cousins jointly as young leaders at 40th Chester who go above and beyond to support the disabled young people in their section

### **Chief Scouts Commendation**

Hugh Cunning – 1<sup>st</sup> Christleton  
Alex Dodd – Spartan ESU

### **Long Service Awards**

5 years	Sian Clark	40 <sup>th</sup> Chester
5 years	Jo Cousins	40 <sup>th</sup> Chester
40 years	Robin Turney	1 <sup>st</sup> Tarvin
50 years	Grahame Polley	Watersports Active Support Unit

- b. County Commissioners Address

In Dave Hopley's absence, Val Thomason, Volunteering Development Team Leader Presented the Cheshire Scouts review of the year (a copy of the presentation is available upon request).

Val covered the successes of the year which included a sell out Cheshire Hike, 560 Scouts and Explorers receiving top awards to the first King's Scouts Parade at Windsor Castle to name but a few.

Val talked about the Census 2024 initial headlines highlighting the positive news of an increase of over 300 more young people taking part in Scouts in Cheshire than in 2023. Squirrels is proving extremely popular with a waiting list of 2,123! Overall, we are 86.7% towards our 2026 goal.

The County has a growth plan for 2024 – 2026 with £220,000 of external funding secured for two local growth officers for 2-year inclusive growth project to open 40 new sections in IMD 1 – 3.

Aim to make volunteering easier and more fun. Val talked through what is changing; a warmer welcome for all, more engaging learning and reimagining the way we volunteer. New teams with the same principles.

Lots of exciting activities will be taking place this year with opportunities to volunteer at the Royal Cheshire Show in June to Roverway 2024 taking place in Norway this summer.

## 7. Closing Remarks

Before the meeting came to a close, Cheshire Scouts Vice President, and former Bandmaster of the 18<sup>th</sup> Chester Scout Band, Frank Hough made a surprise presentation of the Scout Band's Drum Major's Sash to Kieran, District Chair. The extremely successful Scout Band closed in 1993, having been Scout National Champions in 1992, playing all over the country. As national champions the Scout Band performed at Windsor Castle, for the Scouts annual St George's day parade, Kieran was the band's Drum Major and led the parade.

Kieran thanked all our fantastic volunteers for their valued contributions to Chester and District Scouts.

Meeting closed at 21.17