**Report from the Trustees to the Forest of Dean Scout Council for the year**

 **1st February 2021 to 31st January 2022**

During the year, your Executive met five times by Zoom and face to face. We also held the 2020/21 District Annual General Meeting in October at Forest Hills Golf Club with Andrew Morgan-Watts as Chair.

In July 2021 the District Commissioner, Gary Law, stood down from the role and we want to thank Gary for his service to the District and we are glad that he has remained in Scouting in his new role as Assistant County Commissioner for Inclusion.

Mark Spiller, the County Commissioner, stepped in as Acting DC whilst the recruitment process was underway and we thank him for his work and guidance in that role and his work as County Commisioner.

Also, in July Rosie Marks stepped down as District Secretary to concentrate on her professional role. Thank you Rosie for all your help to the Executive and for continuing as the District Badge Secretary. Our thanks to Brian Wingfield for stepping in to assist as a temporary District Secretary.

At the AGM in October Mark Stapleton was announced as the new District Commissioner. Thank you to those that assisted the County Commissioner with the selection process as an advisory panel.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Andrew Morgan-Watts for his work as District Chair during the year this report covers. Andrew resigned as Chair in March 2022.

Scouting activities during the year were again heavily affected due to the Covid pandemic. However, all in Scouting in the District continued to rise to the challenge working remotely and keeping the young people involved and interested. During the year the Scout Association gradually lifted restrictions using the traffic light system and Groups and Sections carefully returned to face to face Scouting. This had to be led by the young people, parents and leaders feeling comfortable to meet, starting outdoors and then using indoor premises. One of the criteria set by Scouting was that at each stage of the return specific Covid risk assessments had to be completed and submitted to the DC before actually meeting. Those risk assessments were reviewed by a small panel before going to the DC and we thank those involved in that work and for their feedback to the groups and sections.

The Census held at the beginning of 2022 showed that despite Covid the number of young people involved in Scouting in the District increased by an average of 22.1% across all Sections. Whilst this was helped by the inclusion of two Squirrels Sections (18 as at the Census point) to have grown during the pandemic is a reflection of the good Scouting across the District. There was a small drop in adults across the District in the same period.

Unfortunately, due to Covid there were limited District events with no water activities, swimming galas etc. It is hoped to bring these back during 2022. However, there were Incident Hikes for Cubs and Scouts , a Scout Biathlon and a Cub 5 mile cycle ride. Thanks to Gareth Ovens, Ang Healey, Carol Rushton and all the volunteers for running these events. Remembrance Parades were attended across the District. The Covid delayed Scout Expedition to Belgium, which should have run last year, will now happen in July of 2022.

Recruitment of new Leaders, helpers and other roles continued during the year helping to offset the losses. Our thanks to Helen Williams as Appointments Panel Secretary for her work checking applications and arranging Appointment Panel meetings with the applicants. As with all Scouting most of these panels were held on Zoom and thank you to all the Panel members.

As these Leaders and changes of Appointment go through they have to complete the Mandatory training modules and the role specific modules and in this they are assisted by the Local Training Manager and the Training Advisors spread throughout the District. They also had to learn how to get to grips with Zoom, on-line modules and validation. A copy of the LTM’s report is attached. Thanks to Martin Williams and his training team.

Our thanks to Martin & Helen who are stepping down for all their efforts.

During the year Brian Wingfield and the Awards Panel approved many adult awards, including

10 Five Years service awards,

6 Ten Years Service awards,

7 Fifteen Years Service awards,

2 Twenty Years Service awards,

5 for Twenty Five Year Service and

4 for Thirty Years service to Scouting .

9 Adults gained their Wood Badges, 2 for more than one role.

7 received Commissioner Commendations

2 received Chief Scouts Commendations

6 received the Award of Merit

2 received a Bar to the Award of Merit and

One member, the Bar to the Silver Acorn award

Well done to all and thanks to Brian and the Awards panel. The full list is at Appendix 2

Thank you from the Chair to all the Executive members and our advisors for their work during the year.

Appendix 1

Training Report for the Forest of Dean District Scout Council 13th July 2022

With the continuation of the lockdown in 2021 organising and taking part in training events was a challenge. The County and District continued to put on ‘online’ sessions. These could be actual online individual learning supplied by HQ, Gloucestershire and other Scout Counties, online classrooms via zoom were also popular. With sections meeting online the number of new adults coming forward was greatly reduced, but those that did completed their induction successfully.

Our biggest challenge was to get all those who needed to renew first aid qualifications to be able to attend learning experiences. It was decided that we would use a ‘blended’ method, a mixture of distance individual learning and online classrooms followed by a practical element when we were able, these started to be available early in 2022. Several full face to face first response sessions are planned for 2022.

The time that mandatory training modules should be renewed was changed from 5 to 3 years during the lockdown by HQ. This initially gave us all a few headaches but with the assistance of the training team and line managers we eventually managed to get adults to renew or complete the necessary modules for their roles.

We did manage to arrange a couple of local events during 2021 which were obviously socially distanced which reduced the number of participants, events included a scouting skills session and an introduction to the Forest of Dean Scouts for those who needed it.

Those who needed to renew their Nights Away Permits were seen and assessed, some by zoom and others face to face, the backlog was cleared before we went to green readiness and were able to hold residential experiences again.

My thanks go to all those on the training team for their efforts over the past 2 years. Now we are back at green readiness level we have plans for more locally orientated sessions for new adults, line managers and those wishing to learn new skills or update their training.

Martin Williams

Local Training Manager

Appendix 2

**AWARDS FOR 2021**

**5 Years Service Awards**

Hannah Kingdon Matthew Gordon Patrick Healy Sam Westwood

Stephen McAuliffe Emma-Jane William Paul Weiss Stephen Virgin

Tracy Hughes Annalisa Price

**10 Years Service Awards**

Simon Holmes Thomas Ovens Fiona Price Robert Potter

Samuel Quinby Catherine Smith

**15 Year Service Awards**

Alison Buttery Carol Rushton Daniel Kidger Timothy Carter

Trevor Hek Mark Westwood Sam Donagh

**20Years Service Awards**

Andrew Keighley Garry Bluett

**25 Years Service Awards**

Gillian Clayton Mark Bunyan Nicholas Miller Stephanie Ovens

Emma Spiller

**30 Years Service Awards**

Andrew Morgan-Watts Gareth Ovens Geoffrey Young Paul Etheridge

**Wood Badge**

Helen Bone Carol Rushton Nicholas Miller Thomas Rushton

Ang Healy Martin Williams Alexander Cook Anita Maxwell

Matthew Johnson

Note, during the course of the year:

Ang Healy received wood Badges for ADC Public Relations and ADC Cub Scouts.

Carol Rushton received wood badges for ADC Activities, GSL and Section Leader Cub Scouts.

**Commissioner Commendation**

To recognise a contribution to Scouting in the Forest of Dean

Mark Westwood Gareth Ovens Emma-Jayne Williams Rosie Marks

Archey Barrell Lily Hough Carol Ruston

**Chief Scouts Commendation**

Awarded in respect of not less than 5 years good service which stands out. It should be regarded as the Chief's Scouts recognition of the very real contribution made to Scouts by the individual concerned.

Ang Healy Thomas Rushton



**Award of Meri**t

Awarded for outstanding service. It implies keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service over a sustained period of at least 12 years.

Paul Hill Stephen Crick Tracy Lashford Carol Rushton

Diane Ruck

Nicholas Miller

**Bar to Award of Meri**t

Awarded after at least five years of further outstanding service after receiving the Award of Merit.

Neal Harden Caroline Etheridge

**Bar to Silver Acorn**

Awarded after at least five years of further distinguished service after receiving the Award of Sliver Acorn

Martin Williams

Brian Wingfield

District Advisory Awards Administrator