



Registered Charity Number: 1030019

Annual Reports for the Year 2023 to 2024

Comprising Reports from:

District Leader Volunteers

ADC Beavers

ADC Cubs

ADC Scouts

DESC Explorers

Warren Oak

Malvern Branch of the BP Guild

District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts in The Malverns

April 2023 - March 2024



Ben & Paul formally teamed up in October 2023 to form Team DC and it's been non-stop since.

The New Year brought with it the Census and having digested the data it was encouraging to see the following:

Overall District Growth+3%
Program Delivery Roles+19%
Young Leaders..... +78%

We saw our first Squirrel Drey open at 1st Leigh and we're currently working to set up others in The District.

Our only Section with negative growth (-17%) was Cubs but Deb Harrison and our other Cub Leaders are working hard to help Packs that are struggling and there's hope that come September, 7th Malvern will be restarting their Cub Pack. We are optimistic that these actions will reverse this statistic, there's optimism also that September will also see a Scout Troop restarting at 1st Cradley thanks predominantly to the work of James Burton & Matt Cooper.

Another area of increase that we'd rather not see though is waiting lists. We currently have 119 young people waiting to join Scouts in The Malverns and we continue to receive an average of 5-6 enquiries a week. We have taken to asking the intended recipient Group to say if they have space or not thus allowing us to redirect to Groups that have low Section numbers.

So far this year also we've had 12 Squirrel enquiries and with 1st Leigh's Drey waiting list extending into 2025 we are having to advise that we can't offer a place, but are working hard to set other Dreys up in The District.

Each District Section now has a Leader's WhatsApp Group to aid and encourage communication and having attended each Sections Leader's meeting there are positives to be taken from each. There are however several underlying concerns over shortages of Leaders but we're optimistic that with a continuing investment of time, training and encouragement of our Young Leaders, all 32 of them, the District will see some of these developing into adult roles thus alleviating these concerns. We're still working with Julie Turbutt, County Growth & Development Officer, and we continue to direct her to those requiring immediate assistance.

In the absence of a Young Leaders' Leader we continue, when time permits, to work on a training calendar and are hoping to offer further dates for various modules as the year proceeds.

For obvious reasons there has been an emphasis on Compliance and having received our first set of data we were tasked with 27 cases to deal with. Regular, on the odd occasion persistent, communication coupled with the cooperation of all parties has thankfully seen a dramatic reduction. Many of these were due to expiry overlaps on First Aid training modules, we are encouraging a District approach back to the full day training sessions where Modules A & B are completed simultaneously. Many thanks to Brock for hosting the first session at 7th Malvern Headquarters recently with another one penciled in for September.

We now average a couple of Compliance issues each month and look forward to a time where this becomes zero.

We continue to receive updates on Transformation, both Derek & John Day doing their very best to keep us all abreast with what's happening.

Lots of positives, plenty to do yet none of this would be possible without you all.

Many thanks for all your hard work in making sure Scouting in The Malverns continues to be exciting, rewarding and accessible to all. A special thank you to our Assistant District Commissioners, Brock and of course Derek & The District Trustee Board for keeping us on the straight & narrow.

Paul Boniface & Ben Johnstone
District Lead Volunteers – Scouts The Malverns

BEAVERS

The Malvern's Currently have 10 Beaver colonies, increasing by one from last year now that 7th Malvern are back up and running successfully again after support from the County.

The Colonies continue to provide a varied indoor and outdoor activity-based programme to encourage the young people in The Malvern's to try new things, master new skills all whilst having fun and making new friends.

Beaver numbers at this year's census showed an increase of 7% now standing at 143 Beaver Scouts in the District.

This year we re-introduced our main District sleepover event which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. We are currently in the process of planning our next year's events.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Beaver Leaders, helpers and Young Leaders for their continued hard work and enthusiasm during the last year.

Maureen Heath
ADC Beavers

cubs

Cubs in the Malverns continues to thrive and the District have met up on several occasions including:

- Shirejam '23 - the county camp on the Three Counties Showground in July 2023.
- Quiz'n'chips - well attended and the trophy was won by 2nd Malvern.
- Swimming Gala - as usual, cubs show true scouting spirit by swimming for other teams to make up numbers. Trophies won by 1st Leigh, 1st Malvern Wells and 2nd Malvern.
- St. George's day – organised by 1st Bosbury and 1st Cradley who got us making banners and parading through Ledbury town Centre.

We are now preparing for the District Group Camp at Warren Oak in July 2024.

All groups have worked hard developing exciting and fun programmes that also help their local communities and give them an appreciation of their local environment. Here are just a few, of many, Group hurrahs!!:

- 1st Cradley have been Animal Tracking in their local woods and found badger pawprints and made casts of them.
- 1st Ledbury Cubs completed a charity cycle challenge and have run a plant creche at a local Flower Festival to raise funds for district camp.
- 1st Malvern painted stones and then hid them in the woods for others to find and enjoy and then went hunting for wild boar and deer.
- 1st Upton have been building and testing remote control boats and exploring Loxter Ashbed quarry and discovered fossils.
- 1s Leigh have had a visit from the Guide Dogs for the Blind to appreciate what a great job they do and have sponsored a puppy too - ahhhhhh.
- 2nd Malvern have been helping the bees and local environment by replanting the borders at St. Mary's Church, Pickersleigh, with bee friendly plants.

As ever a great big thank you to all the leaders and helpers for all they do to ensure cubs in the Malvern District have amazing adventures.

**Debs Harrison
ADC Cubs**

SCOUTS

- We have been holding regular District Scout Leaders meetings and a lot of positive actions have come from this.
- We have 10 Troops operating in the District with varying levels of numbers and there has been some significant movement in re starting Cradley Troop
- Troop's interaction with each other, the sharing of ideas and best practice has slowly increased. Our next aim is to bring in more interaction with Explorer units (they have so far attended the swimming gala, Muddy fox and helped with the District Patrol Leaders day). To this aim a District Scout Leaders WhatsApp group has been created and is regularly used. The explorer leaders are kept informed of any activities that we would like them to attend.
- **District events this year have been:**
 - Swimming Gala. Organised by Andy Massey (many thanks) and was attended by 3 Troops and 1 Explorer unit – we hope to improve on this next year. Congratulations to Wells for winning everything!!
 - Muddy Fox wide game – 1st Malvern Wells took the Trophy again
 - Air rifle shooting competition – 1st Ledbury took the win
 - St George's Day Parade was well attended – great to see so many different Troops marching together.
 - The Patrol Leaders activity day in May was attend by 31 Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders from 5 Troops.
 - The District Archery competition is next Saturday

My thanks go to all the Scout Leaders in the District that have attended meetings and engaged with new District events to give our young people more experiences in scouting.

Matt Cooper
ADC Scouts

EXPLORERS

The numbers of Explorers within the District have risen to over 80 and we are pleased to say that Northside Explorer Scout Unit (ESU) has commenced as well as the successful relaunch of the Explorer Unit based at the Leigh Sinton Scout Headquarters under the new name of Pioneer ESU.

It was also good to be able to do a number of activities jointly organised and attended jointly by a number of the District Units. We are however desperate for new Leaders within the Units and for a Leader to take forward the Young Leaders Gators Unit.

Gators Young Leaders ESU



The numbers of Young Leaders within the District is continuing to grow and are still playing a vital role in supporting the District's Scout Groups. Unfortunately, we still do not have a Leader for this Unit, a position that we are struggling to fill.

Adrian Ward DESC

Beacon ESU



Beacon has currently 14 Explorers, 8 of whom are attending this summer's District Camp in Wales along with 3 Leaders.

A weekend camp was held at Kinver in below zero temperatures where we took part in some onsite activities as well as helping to plant trees on the campsite.

We are now starting to work towards the Chief Scout Awards and awarded a Platinum recently and our meeting nights have included a midsummer night hike, tomahawk throwing, pioneering, backwoods cooking, and a values evening as well as demolishing and recycling a piano.

We have also been lucky to have been able to purchase a trailer which will be invaluable for future camps.

Kirk Davies ESL

Phoenix ESU



Phoenix ESU currently has 22 explorers & 4 leaders with potentially 12 more to join from 1st Malvern Wells Scouts.

After our last year's summer camp at the Haarlem Jamborette we gave a video diary presentation night for all attendees & their parents which was a great success.

We had members achieve their Chief Scout Gold & King's Scout Award. One of our explorers gave their King's Scout Presentation to the unit & their parents, including the County Commissioner.

Members of our unit also proudly attended the remembrance parade at Malvern Wells. We have held various evening & weekend activities off site including a trip to The Buzz in Worcester, paintballing in Oakerwood & skiing at Gloucester dry ski slopes. We hosted a survival camp at Rhydd Covert Scout campsite, a weekend expedition to count towards the Chief Scout Platinum award & joined in the St. George's Day Parade held in Ledbury.

We plan to take Phoenix to Cornel Scout Centre, North Wales for this year's summer camp.

Frazer Bennett ESL

Northside ESU



The Northside ESU was reinstated in September 23 we started with 4 Explorers, and we are now 5 Explorers. Over the year we have been meeting on a Thursday evening alongside 1st Malvern Link Scouts.

Troop night have included a Monopoly Run, Ready Steady Cook, Card Board Canoes and St George's over night hike. Were working on a survival camp coming up it July.

On the whole a steady year and hopefully building in the future

Andrew Massey ESL

Pioneer ESU



Pioneer Explorers launched in September 2023. We currently have 8 Explorers and 6 adults in our leadership team. We have awarded two Platinum Chief Scout Awards, and all the Explorers are working towards their next awards.

Earlier this year I applied for and was granted a Start Up Grant from the Uniformed Youth Fund Waiting Lists grant scheme. This, along with money raised from the Explorers helping at Alfrick show and a donation from our Parish council have given us the funds to purchase equipment to enable us to put together a varied an exciting programme.

Pioneer have had an advertising campaign run for us with articles in local newspapers and social media, including the first ever Scout Tik Tok post, potentially reaching 55,000 people.

We have been involved in several community events, including local shows and an outdoor Carol service. We have also participated in District organised events including the wide game and swimming gala. Last year we went on the county run Snowdonia walking weekend.

The Explorers shape our programme and we have looked at mental health and wellbeing, car maintenance, fire lighting, back woods cooking, tarpology, knife and axe safety, map reading and navigation as well as a ghost walk in Worcester. We have also done crossbow shooting and plan to do archery, tomahawk throwing and air rifle shooting as the weather improves.

Clive Maddock ESL

Tigger ESU



Currently numbers stand at 10 Explorers and we are still looking for adults to fulfil the Leadership Team.

We have awarded 7 Platinum and 2 Diamond Chief Scout Awards. The Explorers are all continuing their participation in a local community project and have completed a Platinum and Diamond Expedition in Wales.

We have also assisted with the District Scouts Wide game and other activities have included map reading, hikes, pioneering, quiz nights, cooking, fire lighting, axe, knife and saw skills and a very enjoyable murder mystery evening.

One of the highlights of last year was when Tigger joined other Units from our District in November to attend the relaunch of the Camp Cockerel competition and were delighted to come back as winners - for the record breaking fourth time!

This year our Summer Camp is at Talybont where the Explorers will take part in Caving, Rock Climbing, Paddle Boarding, Gorge Walking, Kayaking and a visit to Big Pit. We will be joined at camp by members from Northside, Western and Beacon.

Adrian Ward stand-in ESL

Western ESU



Currently we have 14 members with some more due to come up from Scouts later this year.

We have been able to run a good range of activities in our program and have also helped with a couple of community projects.

We had fun with Pancake Making, a budget cooking night themed around St George's Day, Indoor Pioneering Bridge Building and pheasant preparation evening and then cooking on open fires.

We helped out with the annual Christmas Tree Collection around Ledbury worked on the Ledbury Primary School Forest Garden clearing and also helped at the Hellens Garden Festival with the car parking.

Coming up we have planned Archery with a local archery club and will be going on the Summer District Camp with Tigger, Northside and Beacon Explorers.

Paul Bartleman ESL

On a final note, I would like to thank all the Leadership Team for their hard work, dedication and patience that keeps Explorer Scouting going within the District, organising programs and activities that provide "Skills for Life" to our Explorers at an important time in their lives.

Adrian Ward

District Explorer Scout Commissioner



Warren Oak District Camp Site – Report 2023/24

We are very pleased to report that this year's camping season is looking very healthy with approximately 4000 camping nights and we are also hosting the County Cub Camp this year.

Under structural engineer guidance the bouldering wall is going ahead with materials mostly donated by Ringway Worcester (roughly £3000 worth) for which we are very grateful. All materials are with us and we are just waiting for dry conditions in order to move the machinery onto site.

The archery hedge has been planted, some 400 plants, with the help of 1st Malvern Cubs, many thanks.

We are now keen to progress the outdoor covered area, meanwhile the toilet block has received a spruce up.

Tree surgeons have assessed that a few trees required work and that the largest oak would need to be fenced off permanently. This work has been completed alongside all hedges being cut, grass mown and maintaining the general upkeep of the campsite.

The crew hope you are able to come and enjoy your site at some point during next season and look forward to seeing you there. If anyone feels they could offer any time to help please get in touch.

on behalf of the Team at Warren Oak



MALVERN BRANCH REPORT 2023/4

Report on the year's activities and events

We have had another successful year with a number of branch activities and social events.

In February We made a visit to Ledbury Methodist Church followed by a lunch at the Full Pitcher. We also made a visit to meet members of the RDA (Riding for the Disabled) at Leigh Sinton farm and presented them with a donation of £100. We met for morning coffee at Morgan Motors Cafe. Members ran a Pensioners Sunday afternoon Tea on behalf of Community Action at 1st Malvern Link Scout Group HQ. Scouts and Guides came to help.

A donation of £100 given to Maya Goodger a senior guide towards her International cost to Scandinavia and a further donation of £85 to Charlotte Walker a scout towards her costs of going to the World Jamboree. We made another donation to Libby Middleton a scout for £85 towards her trip to Kandersteg Switzerland. Also a donation of £200 to Ellie Jones a Scout towards her costs to the World Jamboree.

In March We held a social skittles evening, and members also took part in a quiz. We purchased Hedging for scouts to plant at Warren Oak Scout Camp Site. Members set up a team to marshal the Car Parking at Eastnor deer park for the Shirehike walking event. Some of our members attended the National Guild Social 4 day Gathering in Llandudno.

In April Our members ran the Lost Persons Office at the 3 Counties showground for CountryTastic. We held a Silent Auction at the British Legion Colwall to raise funds in aid of the Jamboree scouts.

In May Members helped to run the Lost Persons Office for the 3 Counties Spring Show. We also put on a Guild recruitment stand at the Madresfield Village Show. Members also made a visit to the Masonic Museum in Worcester, and this was followed by Carvery lunch at the Ketch Inn.

In June Members ran the Lost Persons Office at the 3 Counties Agricultural 3 day show. This year the Lew Nash Trophy was awarded to Explorer Scout Charlotte Walker for her good work and support to others in scouting and with the 1st Colwall Scout Group.

In July Members helped with the 3 day Shirejam Event running the Coffee shop and member Liz McGain gallantly catered for 90 helpers with Breakfast, Lunch, Evening Meal. Well Done Liz. Zak Page and work colleges cycled from their office in Cheltenham to their works office in Fareham Hampshire and then cycled back to Cheltenham raising £1500 for McMillan Cancer. Sue and Allan attended the 11th European 5 day Conference in Ranum Denmark, and we were delighted that Susan was elected as President of ISGF Europe by the 28 member countries at the Conference. A great achievement not only a member from the UK but a member of our branch. Well done Sue.

During July some of our branch members joined up with members from Milton Keynes branch to spend the day at Toddington Railway Centre for lunch and a trip on the steam train to Cheltenham and Broadway. Our Branch Chairman presented a framed portrait of Agnes Baden-Powell to the

Worcestershire County Guide Commissioner to be displayed in the training centre at Blackmore Camp Site.

In August Members had a Car Boot Stall at the Hanley Swan Village Fete.

In September Members served the refreshments at the Malverns Scout District AGM and members ran the Lost Persons Office at the 3 Counties Autumn 3 day show. Members also served refreshments at the 1st Upton Scout Group AGM. We displayed a Guild recruitment stand at the Alfrick and Lulseley village show. This is not only about recruiting but showing the public "who we are and What we do". The Guild purchased and presented to the Beacon Explorer Scout Unit a set of compasses at a cost of £ 342. We held another coffee morning at Trinity Church, Malvern. Members were invited to the Trefoil Guild 60th year celebration at Blackmore Guide Training Centre.

In October Members entered 2 teams in a quiz held at the Railway Inn Ripple and helped to raise £250 for 1st Upton upon Severn Scout and Guide Group HQ. Some members also helped to run a Badge Scout Club meeting at 2nd Malvern Scout HQ and made refreshments for those taking part. In November. Members held a fund-raising event at Upton Memorial Hall. We met for Coffee this time at Clarence Park, Malvern.

In December. To complete the year members enjoyed a Christmas Lunch at the Royal Oak, Broadwas.

In January 2024. We started the year with a visit to the Trinity church monthly Lunch and ended the month with our annual Church and Lunch, this year visiting Ripple Parish church with lunch at The Railway at Ripple.

In February 2024 The AGM was held at Poolbrook café, preceded by hot drinks and cake!

On behalf of the Malvern Branch of the Baden-Powell Guild