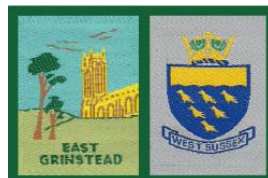




# Scouts

## East Grinstead

### Annual Report 2021-2022



Our aim is to offer and promote quality Scouting in a caring friendly way to all our members

Registered Charity No 305849

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

## District Executive Committee

### Providing active support to the District Commissioner and the Group Executive Committees

It has been another successful year for the District, notably the restrictions we had been under thankfully now fully relaxed as we hope to be putting the challenge of the pandemic behind us.

Looking back, it is once again important to draw attention to the high membership retention we have experienced. This is in no small part to the excellent and varied programs supported and operated by the leaders and volunteers across the district. On behalf of the District Executive Committee thank you for the tireless efforts and commitment you show your groups, sections, and units.

As you will probably be aware, we had been operating without a District Commissioner “in post” so my thanks go to Robert Sawyer for his representation and his caretaking, however we are delighted to welcome Heather Furminger who has now officially stepped into the role of Acting DC.

We also welcome a number of new members to the Appointments Advisory Committee. By adding more members we enjoy the benefits of a wider pool of experience and opinions whilst also reducing the burden on individual members. We also now have two younger panel members who help provide youth representation to the process. My thanks in particular to Tony Harvey who as chair has helped apply these improvements over the last year.

This year we have we have said goodbye to members of the District Exec for various reasons such as role changes, moving homes and further education - of significant note is the retirement of Marcus Williams who has been District Treasure for 26 years.

Marcus has been instrumental in the successful management of the District finances and has been pivotal in securing many of the administrative challenges such as the renewal of the lease of the Wagg centre and the operational aspects of managing the tenants. Marcus had remarked that he would stay in post until the lease was

renewed, but to make sure we realised he was serious, no sooner was the ink dry on the paperwork he had relocated to Norfolk! I want to extend my personal thanks to Marcus for his stewardship but on behalf of the entire District we recognise and thank you for everything you have helped the District to achieve. As I write this, we are still yet to name a new treasurer, but Marcus has agreed to remain part of the exec team in the very short term to assist with handover to a new treasurer on the proviso that we don't make him drive down for the meetings. My final thanks for to him for his flexibility and willingness to ease the transition, we wish him and his wife Janice our best regards for the future.

**Nick Hills**

**Chairman East Grinstead Scouts**



**At 6 - 8 years old these are our youngest members**

**Well your back! And better than ever having made a healthy section growth post pandemic. I cannot stress the importance of all that is done by the Leader teams in this section. Once we have caught the imaginations of our 6-8-year-olds they are hooked and inspired to carry on their Scouting pathways often attracting their parents as future leaders too. All Colonies have returned and enjoyed sleepovers at Broadstone Warren, Blackland Farm, Stanfords and in their own HQ too. Pirates and castaways seem to have been the favourite themes. Go Beavers was back, a firm favourite in the Beavers calendar, and was enjoyed by 800 plus from across the County, with many Beavers having a go at new challenging experiences during the day. A huge thank you to you all with a special mention to Maggie Goodbrand at the 1st and Lizzie Cooper at Ardingly who stepped down after many years' service and a very warm welcome to the 18 new Leaders, yes 18, who have joined the Leader team this year across the**



**Groups. The District does still have a vacancy for an ADC Beavers which may well suit an experienced leader who wants to step aside and accept a new and different challenge in a section in which they are familiar and without the weekly programme commitment - just saying !**

**Heather Furminger**

---

## **cubs** open to any Young Person Aged 8 - 10½

Normal service has been resumed with our Cub Scouts now settling down again.

It has not been easy, this particular section, having experienced disruptive behaviour post pandemic. I know that several of our Packs have struggled but all credit to our extraordinary talented Leaders who have stuck with it! Thank you.



Many of you have taken advantage of this very fine weather and held activity days, sports events, competitions and camps for our young people providing a huge variety of challenges and different experiences along with those forgotten basic skills. Sites used have been varied and included Frylands Wood, Blackland Farm, Broadstone Warren, Bushy Wood, and Bentley Copse.

Most Packs stepped up and took part in the additional community events that were held over the Platinum Jubilee weekend raising the Scouting profile and attracting some new recruits and leaders along the way. The 4th EG Cubs held a bring and buy sale raising a not insignificant amount of money for the Scouts Ukrainian appeal.



Please remember too that we have an extremely well qualified water team who are more than happy to organise kayaking opportunities for your Packs to enjoy once more.

I would like to record Special Congratulations to Akela Jill Beckingham at the 4th EG who was recognised this year and awarded a Silver Acorn.

It is with sadness that Akelas Sue Williams at 1st East Grinstead Walker and Jo Herbert at 1st Turners Hill and Crawley Down - both long term leaders have stepped down after many many years of service you will be greatly missed and hard acts to follow.

Laura Carter, Akela at Forest Row, is now working for The Scout Association on the new initiatives planned for 2023. If you have any thoughts on what you have read in the monthly emails or heard on the National online meetings, I know Laura would welcome the opportunity to have a chat just drop her an email - [laura.carter@egscouts.org.uk](mailto:laura.carter@egscouts.org.uk) . This is our opportunity to have our voices heard and yes ladies I have already registered my opinion on the current female uniform trousers!

Thank you to all Akelas, Assistant Leaders, Section Assistants and Group Occasional Helpers - it is so good to be back and see laughter and beaming smiles once more.

**Heather L. Furminger ADC Cubs**

---

## **SCOUTS** Our Young People aged 10½ to 14

**With the Covid restriction behind us, Troops are once again meeting face to face, running a wide spectrum of activities from indoor training sessions to outdoor hikes, kayaking, camps plus many other adventures activities. Following Covid some Troops have lost a few members, but on the whole most Scouts have made it back to Troop meeting. We seem to have also lost a number of adult leaders, while some Troop leader teams are fairly strong some are struggling for leaders.**

**I enjoy my Troop visits, so please get in touch if you have an evening or activity where I could come a see what you are getting up to, and possible be involved.**

**Congratulation to the leaders that have received awards this year, there has been a Medal of Merits to Claire Goold at the 4<sup>th</sup> EG. I would like to thank the Marathon organising team for running this event again this year and all Troop leaders that have provided Scouting to the young people throughout the year**

**Andy Ruxton**

**Assistant District Commissioner - Scouts**

---

# EXPLORERS

Providing Scouting for the 14 -18 years old

This has been a year of finding normality in Scouting, a task the Units did without asking twice. Getting out and about doing what they do best, fire lighting,



backwoods cooking, whittling and woggle making, pioneering, climbing, hiking, kayaking, weekend camps and planning their Summer expeditions. to name a few.

Explorers from around the District were at hand to help at events that had previously

fallen fowl of Covid but managed to return in a different way, Ardingly Remembrance Parade, Cophorne Scouts bonfire night, Edenbridge and Oxted Show and something slightly different, an environmental project, the Queen's Green Canopy, celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

During this year, we had a leader step down who, with over 25 years' service to East Grinstead Scouting, made a huge and long-lasting difference to our young people. Nigel Williams, former Sputnik Venture, Griffyn Explorer leader, and District supporter decided to take a break from Scouting to pursue other things. Thank you, Nige, for all you have done for the young people of East Grinstead District.



Coming in 2023 is the 25th World Scout Jamboree in Korea. East Grinstead decided to send five participants as part of the two West Sussex Units 73 & 74, going by the names of West Sussex Warriors and West Sussex Wasps. Three Explorers and one Young Leader were select, we wish them luck in their fundraising, next year in Korea and we can't wait for their stories on their return!

Alas, my time as Explorer Scout Commissioner has come to an end, I would like to thank my team of leaders in the Explorer and Young Leader sections who work tirelessly to ensure that all our young people continue to learn 'skills for life' and enjoy their Scouting.

Peter Few

District Explorer Scouts Commissioner

## East Grinstead Scouts – Young Leaders, Annual report 2021/22

The Young Leaders Section of East Grinstead Scouts in the last year has not been as active as hoped, we have managed to run a "Module 1" session in the Autumn term.

There are more than 40 Young Leaders registered in the section. Over the year we had a couple of members achieve their Young Leaders Belts which is a great achievement and sets the young person up well for their continued journey as they move into adult leadership roles.

Looking forward to next year we are scheduling a monthly YL meeting on the afternoons of the second Sunday each month where we will be able to deliver the full set of modules for the young leaders.

Mel Fletcher

DESL (YL)

---

## network The 18-25-year-olds enjoying their Scouting

East Grinstead Network has had a successful year. In the Autumn, I took up the mantle of District Network Commissioner and I hope with the continued support of the rest of the members, we can keep growing as a unit.

We have almost doubled in member numbers and almost all of our members have other roles within Scouting, whether that is within our District, another District, or a County role.

As a unit, we supported the Scouts parking team at the Edenbridge and Oxted Show in August last year, which is an important fundraiser for us. We'll be there again this year, hopefully with a good attendance. We also had a small force come out to support the East Grinstead Rotary Club for their Father Christmas run in December.

We've taken part in activities such as escape rooms, car hide-and-see, BBQs, camp fires, bowling and the occasional night hike.

Two of our members (and one ex-member) have completed our Gold DofE expedition in Dartmoor in the past year. Myself, Becca and Miles spent four days hiking on the moor in April, bringing us one step closer to both our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and Queens Scout Award

Adam Raynor

District Network Co-ordinator



### #YouShape helping to get more Young People involved in the way their Scouting is run

Since returning from covid many groups have started face to face meeting again and are receiving positive feedback on the whole. Numbers at st Georges day were low but we are impressed given the return to face to face. We are hoping for numbers to continue to pick up at future events. Planning is under way for next years event and we hope to return bigger and better with the hood of our numbers picking up again!

We had a very successful turn out of scouts at the joint marathon event. Most participants seemed to enjoy and would like to return again next year which is a positive step in the right direction towards getting our young people back involved.

I am looking forward to the start of the new term in September and will be reaching out to groups with information about the new #youshape badges.

Lily Graham District Youth Commissioner (DYC)



### Providing Support to East Grinstead District

We are very grateful to our Scout Active Support Units (SASU)



### The Rover Scout Active Support Unit (Rover Crew)

With Covid restriction out of the way, we have got back to our normal activities, helping with the

Marathon hike for Scouts and Guides, County Beaver Fun Day at Blackland Farm, helping at a troop evening with map and compass training.

Organising St George's Day celebration, with the help of Brian Riches, Lilly Graham and the Revd Andrew Hawken, although it didn't quite run to plan, it did run, giving the opportunity for the District to come together, renew our promises and recognise the achievements of adult leaders with long service awards and a Silver Acorn. We would be happy to offer our services to the team organising next year St. George's celebration.

We are planning to run Operation Triangle the night navigation exercise for Explore Scouts on the 4th - 5th February 2023, if you would like to help and haven't before then please get in touch.

We have also had our usual mix of social events, backwood cooking, BBQ's, evening walks and our annual pitch and putt competition.

Andy Ruxton - Rover Crew Mate



### Providing opportunities for Adults and helpers to gain the information and support they need for their Role

Young people across our District have been able to gain valuable #skills for life thanks to our brilliant leader teams and new adult volunteers coming forward.

As we start to get back to proper Scouting face to face training run by West Sussex Scouts has resumed at Lodge Hill

Along with these courses there is still the option of workbooks and on-line so it is still been possible to progress with Wood badge training. We have had 5 new wood badge in the past year but still have a lot of leaders needing to complete theirs.



Mandatory training (Safety, Safeguarding, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid) renewable every 3yrs has not always been completed in time but we are making good progress

Ongoing Learning. We are very grateful for additional training support given to East Grinstead District.

First Aid: Paul Mortimer and John Railton have

carried out First Response

Positive behaviour and Scouting for all Workshops: Led by Suzanne Few (Deputy County Commissioner Diversity) has run these popular Workshops helping leaders with ways to combat some of the challenges they face in Scouting from both young people as well as adults.

I would like to express my thanks to the Appointments Advisory Committee led by Tony Harvey for ensuring new leaders have a better understanding of their role and the commitment to training they are making. It is good inline with Scouting guidelines to see we now have 2 under 25yr members of the committee

As usual I would like to thank Sue Mangan who took on the role of Training Manager for East Grinstead our team District Training advisers most of whom despite having other roles have still found time to carry out validations for the leaders on training

Nights Away (or camping as most of us call it) has steadily increased with many of our Young People being able to gain the new skills this provides. It has also been a relearning curve for many of our leaders who have not been able to run them for 2yrs.

I'm glad to say we have been able to approve some leaders Nights Away Permits so they can lead their own camps/sleepovers

**David Matthews**

**West Sussex Scouts County Training Manager**

---



### First Aid Response

**We provide the opportunity for everyone working with Young People**

Another year on, so Scouting has changed everything. There will be a new eight-hour course coming into force which this year we have been able to implement on our last weekend of courses in May.

We had a mixture of Module 10B Practical sessions for those who had completed online courses for Module 10A back in September last year. March this year we had renewals only on the Saturday and on the Sunday, renewals and new Leaders.

In May we had a Saturday for Renewals and Sunday for Renewals and new Leaders.

Over all the courses we have 77 all completed their Modules 10a & 10b training. In addition to those, we have several who have attended First Aid at Work courses and I have met with them or spoken with them and talked through the parts that are needed by Scouting and completed practical sessions on the use of the AED

A slight change to our day, now, is that we do not serve a lunch or evening meal but ask the participants to bring their own. This way every one has something they can eat and caters for all dietary needs. We do serve teas and coffees all day including cake in the afternoons.

Our next weekend will be November 26<sup>th</sup> for Renewals and 27<sup>th</sup> for Renewals and new Leaders including Young Leaders.

I can assure you that the premises and methods we will be using will still be within the COVID rules of hygiene.

Back in May, I went to visit a Cub Pack with my friend Annie with her AED. All the Cubs loved using the equipment and were very good at it. Please give me a call if you would like me to bring the equipment to your section.

A little reminder to everyone, carry a **Mask** (if you are able to wear one) **and gloves** in your First Aid Kit **and or pockets**, and do not be afraid to stop and help someone in trouble. Remember the golden rule for CPR ....**NO KISSING!!**

I would like to say '**thank you**' to Paul Mortimer our Paramedic Tutor from East Anglia Ambulance Service; and David Matthews our CTM for updating Compass and informing me of those who need to renew their tickets and to Lynda for making the teas and coffees.

**JOHN RAILTON - DISTRICT FIRST AID ADVISER**

---

**WANT TO JOIN?**

**A system to help parents find Scouting in their area.**

**First introduced by Scout Association and adopted in our**

**District in 2013.**

Some of you may be asking what W2J is. ....it is a process set up by Head Quarters some fifteen years ago which of course included 'Training' for the role. Parents log into the Scout site and

complete a W2J form. HQ forward the request to the designated co-ordinator for your District, in East Grinstead this has been me since the scheme was set up.

I receive requests mostly by HQ, through our own web site or quite frequently by our designated telephone line 0845 475 5378 This not just for young people but I have had a couple of adults come through and are now in post with Groups. More especially this year we have two Ukrainian Cub Scouts and one Scout.

### **How can you help me to help you grow?**

Firstly how long is your waiting list? Do you have any spaces? Let me know if you have any changes in the group, such as section days of the week and times of meetings. Change of Leadership in the sections. One question I get asked a lot by Parents, especially those that phone me, is how much are the Subs? Please can you send me an update for each section in your Group? Once you have made contact with the family, please let me know, so that I can close my file, keeping within the GDPR guidelines.

Now we are out of lock down we have been busy with people wanting to join, not just Beavers but several for the cub, scout and explorer sections. In total I have processed 116 requests and still have a few outstanding who have not replied when I have asked for further information or which night or the week suits them best, or for Beavers a Saturday morning. Instead of the requests coming in for the rising 6's I am getting quite a few who are already 7.

All section Leaders are fantastic at responding to me and the Parents, however, it is frustrating when Groups have Membership Secretaries who do not respond to me or ask the Parents for the details already sent to them. Under GDPR, I do not keep details once the young person has been placed on a waiting list by the group or offered a place this is why I need a response from the Leader or Group Secretary. Some new Parents do not understand we are all volunteers, they expect a place immediately. I do politely explain we are not a 'club' and we do have waiting lists some longer than others.

I am working to the way that HQ expects; I try to respond to Parents within a 48 hour window.

I would like to finish my report by saying 'thank you' to those Leaders who really engage with W2J, you know who you are and long may you have full sections and long waiting lists.

**Lynda Railton – Want to Join Co-ordinator**

---

### **The Last word(s) (As always) comes from our District Commissioner**

It has been a real honour and privilege, as well as being a huge responsibility, to have been your acting District Commissioner this past year. My ultimate thanks, as always, goes to Mel and David for their sound, valuable support and guidance who along with Robert Sawyer our County Commissioner have freely given words of wisdom, patience and reassurance particularly during the first few months following Mel's departure. Gentlemen I simply could not have done it without you.

Much of my year has been taken up with recruitment campaigns, with the rapid realisation, that holding more than one role is simply not sustainable! I am delighted to be able to report that we have collectively filled many of the roles that left huge gaping vacancies in our teams following Covid.

1<sup>st</sup> EG. We were so very sorry to see the departure of Maggie Goodbrand, Sue Williams and Jeff Dyson which simply left a huge void at the 1<sup>st</sup>. My personal thanks to Vicky Crawley who stepped up for 6 months to the GSL role and to welcome Simon Rogers who took on the role of Group Chair. I am delighted to report that a new GSL and DGSL have been identified and are looking to take on these roles from September.

4th EG. David Covell stepped down as GSL after many years and handed over to the very competent Chris White who along with his experienced Leader team and Executive have made great progress with some very new and excitable Beavers and a significant increase in Executive members. There are not many AGMs you go where you are successful in recruiting new parent representatives for all Sections. The Scout Association recognised the Leaders achievements



with the awards of a Silver Acorn to CSL Jill Beckingham, and a medal of merit to Claire Gould SL, along with

awards to Tony Parsons Chair and Alison Bentley Treasurer.

6th EG. GSL Tony Baulch has made great strides with identifying more adult leaders particularly in the Beaver and Cub sections Tony continues to work now on increasing the numbers on the Executive Committee. Tony's vast experience of Scouting and his feedback are also welcomed by me as I have struggled along, thank you.

8th EG. Immeasurable progress here too with impressive additions to the strong and experienced Leader teams. John Bason the new GSL along with his brother David have turned the Groups finances around from impending catastrophic disaster to success after so very many hours of work. Thank you both.

1st Forest Row - Grant Hume the new GSL and Sarah Hume new DGSL have also made huge progress. You can now actually get into the QM stores! We were sorry to see Robert Freeman, the Chair, depart after lengthy service but here too Sarah has successfully recruited a new Group Chair and Treasurer - well done. The link with Step by Step has also returned.

1st Turners Hill and Crawley Down - so very many thanks to Suzanne Few - who took on GSL, in addition to her very demanding County role, for



what was to have been 3 months now rapidly approaching 12. Again, her experience proved invaluable and after much shuffling of roles now steers a very

workable Section Leader team and Executive. Congratulations to Vicky Teesdale on her recent appointment to DGSL and to Denise Baulch for her tremendous recruitment efforts within the Group. The Group is now looking forward to having not one but two Scout Troops. Of course, it goes without saying how grateful we were to Bob Atkins, John Hitchcock and Diane Ward for providing such firm foundations after so many years of great Troop Scouting, enabling this transition to happen and taking on different responsibilities within the Group.

1st Copthorne - Undoubtedly the Group with the most Scouting experience in our District who are simply thriving and should be seen as the Group

who now manage succession training so successfully. New young adult leaders prosper under the skills and experience of their former peers and is a credit to GSL Owen and Esther Cheesmur. Notable adult awards for the Group this year was the recognition of the hard work done by Jill Creek on the executive with the award of Medal of Merit. Also the tremendous work completed by one of the newest young Leaders in the Group, Hannah Few, who took on much of the pre- work and responsibilities for the organisation of the hugely successful GO Beavers this year. Not many young adults can stay they played such a huge part in the organisation of an event for 1000 plus participants.



1st Ardingly - yet another successful year for the Group under the very experienced Brian Sawyer with new Leaders recruited in both the Beaver Colony and the Cub Pack. Whilst we do not hear much from you your efforts are truly appreciated and I have had the absolute privilege of presenting several long service awards and attending the Cub and Beaver castaway camp always a highlight in my Scouting year.

1st West Hoathly - are still struggling on. This group desperately need a GSL to steer direction, more executive members and a Beaver Scout Leader. They now have the support of the regional service team who are working hard with the Group to address their concerns. Our huge thanks to Tricia Hughes Chair, to Simon Hasan who stepped up as Beaver Leader to just keep the Group going and to congratulate Jaime Reed for the enormous strides he has made with the troop as well as achieving his Wood badge and nights away permit. The Group boasts its own newly refurbished HQ with land at the rear and a good membership in all Sections but do desperately need your help.

District Sections continue to function well. Explorer unit Griffyn is looking for a new ESL to support the newly appointed AESL Tony Weller and our thanks must go to Nigel Williams who stepped down as ESL after many years and Brian Riches who is on sabbatical following a change in career. Warreners are also looking to recruit new Leaders and Explorers to support Forest Row and West Hoathly Scout Troops. Membership to our



young leaders unit continues to grow under the watchful guidance of Mel and Andy and their efforts in the various Scout groups are greatly valued too.

SASU unit Meridian currently has plenty of willing members but need a Chair to replace Jeff Dyson who stepped down last year. Thank too to the Rover Crew who organised this year's St George's day service it was great to be back. Next year's event will be different and is already in the diary for Saturday 22nd April.

The District team - well Lily Graham is our newly appointed DYC and is up and ready to go with many exciting ideas and challenges to develop Youth Shaped Scouting following on the great work done by her predecessor Miles Price who now works with County. Adam Raynor is the newly appointed District Network Commissioner who is currently leading a very successful Section with almost every member committed to assisting other Sections in the Group. Holly- Mae Robinson we were sorry to see you go and hope that your University studies are going well. Our thanks to Peter Few who has now left us as DESC - again we wish you well with your new International Appointment and are actively seeking the appointment of your successor. And finally, to Andy Ruxton ADC Scouts who has simply been my right arm, always willing to support and deputise for me and I know has visited many of our Troops this last year and finally to Nick Hills our District Chair for his invaluable guidance on areas of governance.

If I still have your attention and in summary, we are recruiting now for A GSL at TH and CD and 1st WH A chair at the 6th and the 8th EG and for the Meridian SASU A BSL/ ABSL at West Hoathly an ESL for Griffyn ADC Beavers and an ADC event A DESC A District Treasurer and Secretary and of course a new District Commissioner!

I am very conscious of the fact that the GSLs have not been given as much support from the District that both Robert and I know you rightly deserve.

I have made many mistakes along this steep learning curve this year as I have come to terms with understanding the full responsibilities of a District Commissioner. I hope to do better as I embark on this new and exciting year of change confident that our tremendous District have so

much to offer. Thank you to each and every one of you for whatever part you have played large or small in making our District great - I for one are extremely proud to wear the East Grinstead District badge.

Heather Furminger

Acting District Commissioner for East Grinstead

