



Bexley Scouts District AGM FY2019-20

24 September 2020

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Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the 2018-19 Annual General Meeting
4. The District Accounts
5. Adoption of the Chair's Report
6. Approval of District Commissioner's Nomination for Chair
7. Election of District Secretary and District Treasurer
8. Election of Members of the District Scout Council to the District

Executive Committee

9. Approval of the District Commissioner's Nomination of Members to the District Executive Committee (numbers not to exceed those elected)
10. Approval of Co-opted Members to the District Executive Committee (numbers not to exceed those elected)
11. Election of Group Scouter and 18-25 Representative to the Scout County Council
12. District Commissioner's Report
13. County Commissioner

14. Mayor of Bexley

15. Meeting close

District Commissioner's Report.

Bexley District AGM 2019-20

Welcome to the 2019/2020 annual report for Bexley District Scouts.

Well another year has passed, and Bexley continues to offer fantastic Scouting opportunities to young people and to the volunteers. As always there has been fantastic work done by our volunteers in providing skills for life for the young people in the London Borough of Bexley. Scouting changes lives and without the volunteers, we wouldn't be able to help shape the lives of the 2,000 young people in Bexley that take part in weekly Scouting activities.

A special thanks to everyone that runs a District event for young people in Bexley, from the District sectional teams and the SAS units, who have continued to organize, sleep overs, badge days, hiking competitions, patrol challenges, camping competitions, quizzes, and bowling competitions. When I have been able to attend events, the adults and the young people are enjoying the event and making the most of it. Over the coming year, I want to discuss with my fellow scouters how events are currently supported and how we can support existing events.

This year's executive has continued to work hard to ensure our financial management is focused and secure, as well as supporting groups with loans and hardship grants and investing in District halls. Our focus has been to resolve the rolling lease issues and to ensure we get a long lease so further investment can be made. We have since reviewed our financial set up and we are now in a strong position to help more groups.

This year we have again awarded and recognized more adult volunteers, through the TSA award system; it is important to recognize peoples' hard work. We have also seen people recognized in the community by the Civic Awards and it's important that this continues.

Attending a number of group AGM's and events this year, it really shows the wonderful work being undertaken in Scout Groups and Explorer Units to ensure a balanced program at a very cost-effective price is delivered. It is also very clear that those groups that are thriving are those that engage with parents/carers/guardians either via a group camp, or BBQ or Quiz with a short recess for the AGM.

To those who attended an interaction event, we are extremely proud of you all, as you go and represent Bexley at those events.

2021 will mark the 10-year anniversary of the formation Bexley District and the year will be used to celebrate the milestone with special events and activities. Black Prince SAS will be running the District camp and the St George's Day parade will hopefully be run on the same day as the Civic Parade, where we will get the chance to come together as a District and show the Borough how strong scouting is.

Although it only affected the last three weeks of the District year, I cannot fail to mention the impact of Coronavirus. This virus has impacted everyone's lives not just in the UK but around the world and we have sadly lost a number of Scouters to this virus. I have been so impressed with the resilience of a number of groups, units and leaders, who have stepped up to the challenge and have offered fantastic online Scouting. You are a credit to the organization and the community you serve.

By undertaking online meetings parents, guardians and careers have seen the wonderful work by leaders to run a challenging program, and I am sure that if approached they may be interested in becoming a volunteer.

Capers was unable to hold their show this year due to Coronavirus, I have chatted with the directors and producers and they are keen to get the show going once again, when it is safe to do so.

During these difficult times, the District is here to support where possible some groups would have been hit harder than others with financial difficulties; we are able to help if required.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the adult volunteers, for the continued dedication in providing a balanced program for all the young people. I would also like to thank the Young Leaders, who are carrying out volunteer duties, on top of their explorer scouting. Both Adults and Young Leaders are a credit to the society that we live.

I wish you all the best for the forthcoming year, let's continue to teach and learn skills for life and hope we can all meet again soon, go camping and enjoy the true game of Scouting.

Keep Safe, keep healthy and continue to do your best.

Yours in Scouting

Lee aka Mole, Bexley District Commissioner

District Chair's Report.

Bexley District AGM 2019-20

It has been yet another strong year for the District, as we continue to build on the foundations established in recent years.

For the trustees of the District charity, our aim each year is to get the District to a stronger position than the previous one, both from a governance perspective and financially. Being stronger allows the District to support Scouting across Bexley where required, whether it be giving guidance, backing hardship fund requests, underwriting events and expeditions or financially supporting attendees at larger events such as the World Scout Jamboree.

Our increased financial control and management has placed us in a good position financially, supported by our District premises that return a profit overall. Our aim was to be in a position where we could reduce the District portion of the annual membership fee going forward, thereby supporting every young person involved with Scouting across Bexley. The work and effort by everyone over the past few years has seen us achieve this aim and the Executive Committee has approved a reduction in our fee by £1.50 per person in 2021.

However, as we neared the end of the reporting year the world and Scouting changed. Nobody could foresee the impact to everyday life that the Covid-19 pandemic would bring. It has affected every single one of us in one way or another and saw Scouting across the District come to a sudden halt. Equally our income from hall hires ceased immediately, and we reacted swiftly to reduce our outgoings where possible and prevent unnecessary overheads.

Looking ahead, we will have to wait and see how long this situation will be with us and to understand the impact on Groups and Units in terms of number of members and financial impact. While we hope all our young people return to Scouting when it does restart, at least our strong standing gives us comfort that we are in a position to support Groups and Units in a variety of ways if help is needed.

In closing I would like to thank everyone associated with the District for your help, effort and support over the last twelve months. It really is appreciated.

Stuart Sutton, Bexley District Chair

Deputy District Beavers Commissioner's Report.

Bexley District AGM 2019-20

Bexley District leaders continue to deliver quality scouting to Beavers every week. With outings and visits provided by dedicated leaders brings new adventures to some 500 children.

Beavers from 8 groups attended a great Sleepover at Chatham Docks in June. The Beavers arrived shortly after the dockyard closed for the day. The theme was 'Pirates' as was the theme at the docks for the season. Beavers were split into 6 groups making their way around 6 activities provided by the volunteers, finishing in time for a rousing Camp Fire led by Richard Gillman: 'When I was 1 I sucked my thumb the day I went to sea....'. Hot chocolate before bedtime meant we all slept well. The Beavers were up with the lark and made good use of free time on site before tucking into breakfast provided in the restaurant. This was followed by the 'obligatory spending of pocket money' in the shop. Our Goodbyes said, the dockyard was silent once again. Attending Beavers received a certificate and cloth badge to wear on their uniforms for a year. A really lovely time was had by all!

As always, Beavers continued to attend Church parade services: St. George's Day and Remembrance Services.

Various Carol Services were held by groups around the District including the Beaver Camp Fire Service. All that went enjoyed this Bexley tradition.

Usually I start my report with details of the District Easter Egg Hunt but on this occasion I will end my report with it!

We are all now all too familiar with the virus responsible for the cancelling of face to face activities as of March 2020. With a week to go, our Easter Egg Hunt was cancelled, a great disappointment for all.

As always Colony meetings continued, be it on line, via Zoom, FaceBook or WhatsApp, by email or by dropping off various badge work. I have all my fingers crossed that we will soon be able to meet again and Scouting will be able to continue as before. Thank you to all the Leaders for their continued hard work and dedication.

Maura Garrod, DDC Beavers – Bexley District

Deputy District Cubs Commissioner's Report.

Bexley District AGM 2019-20

The Bexley district Cub team meet in person or virtually every month to discuss proposed and planned future events for all the Cubs in Bexley district.

We continue to have a long list of proposed activities and events currently under consideration for the young people ranging from fun day events, sleepovers, visits to places of interest, to evenings at a cinema or theatre.

There are currently 37 groups in Bexley with 41 Cub packs.

This has been another great year for our Cub Scouts. The district team put on a number of events throughout the year including a district quiz, an all-day badge rally and a Covid19 lockdown badge design competition.

Bexley District Quiz

We held a Bexley district quiz on the 8th February for the Cubs at St. Johns church in Welling, which is the home of the 2nd Welling Cub pack. It was a great quiz and was well attended with 12 Cub packs being represented. Chris Harrison did the creative work in putting the questions together, so a big thanks to him. The winners were the team from the 1st Welling Cub pack, a trophy was awarded to the winning team and certificates were awarded to all the teams who entered.

Badge Rally

On the 7th July we held a Cubs badge rally at 1st Baldwyns Park Scout hut in Joydens wood. This was another great event with Cub scouts being able to achieve the Astronomy, Cycling, Backwoods cooking and Pioneering activity badges. They were also able to achieve the Collectors and Air activities badges if they had time between the above 4 activity badges and had brought in their collections.

Environmental Awareness Day

For some time now we have been planning and organising an Environmental Awareness fun day for the Cubs of the district. This was planned for July 2020, however these plans have been put on hold due to the current global pandemic. We hope to hold this event in the summer of 2021.

Covid19 Lockdown badge design

The district Cubs were invited to design a Bexley District Lockdown badge for our Cub scouts, we received many entries with many of the designs being top class. So the competition was tough but after a final decision by Mole our District Commissioner the winner was Stan Kamande from the 3rd Welling Cub pack.

None of the above events or activities could have been put on without the tireless help from the Bexley District Cubs team, without whom none of the district communications, help and events could have happened.

In fact I would like to thank the following members of the team personally and by name, they are:

Mel Jepson

Sue Forward

Sharon Amass

Anne Rickson

Chris Harrison

We are still considering other future activities for the Cubs, including a Sixers and Seconders hike along the Thames path and a weekend camp.

If you have any suggestions or feedback for the Bexley District team please don't hesitate to let me know.

YIS

[Steve Metcalfe - DDC Cubs Bexley District](#)

Deputy District Scout Commissioner's Report.

Bexley District AGM 2019-20

The Scout section has again had the opportunity of taking part in a wide variety of district activities during the year.

In April we had 'Capers' Gang Show which was again, a great success and was very well supported by groups in the district. While the cast consists of mainly young people and adults from the old Erith & Crayford heritage district, it is open to the whole of Bexley district so please encourage your young and not so young people to apply for the next show.

Later on in the month the 'Evade & Capture' event was held in and around Broadstone Warren campsite near East Grinstead. This year's event was won by the 1st Baldwyns Park.

The annual Super Patrol event was held as usual at Downe campsite over the early May bank holiday weekend. This is a great event with challenges around basic camping standards. Teams are marked on many aspects from basic hygiene to gourmet cooking and all the teams told me they were having a great time. The majority of teams taking part in this event are from the old East Wickham & Welling heritage district but this event is open to all troops in Bexley so, put the event in your programs for the next event during the May bank holiday.

In June, the Howard Morgan patrol hike challenge took place in the Eynsford area. Congratulations to the 4th Barnehurst Impesa & 1st Baldwyns Park who won this event.

In September, the 'Be a Scout Day' event took place at Thriftwood Camp site. This was planned as a 'linking' event to give the Cub and Scout sections a taste of the kind of activities that they could look forward to when they progressed to the next section. The activities included: Kayaking, Rafting, Water Roller, Pioneering, Axe Throwing, Aerial Runway, and Chariot racing. The weather was very kind to us and all those taking part had a great day. My thanks to all the leaders who helped with the bases and clearing up.

The annual Hazelhurst Hike took place over the weekend of the 19th/20th October with the senior competition won by 5/7th Bexleyheath and the junior competition won by the 1st Footscray.

In January, the annual Armageddon Hike took place in and around the Shorne Park area. This is a short day hike with incident checkpoints and is ideal for younger inexperienced Scouts.

The DNAA team is kept busy with a steady flow of Nights Away Permit renewals within the district. Please note; The Permit holder must ensure that a Nights Away Notification form is submitted for all overnight activities in the UK, (POR Rule 9.57m).

In April, during the lock down, we were advised that the Nights Away Process had been significantly changed by H.Q.

When submitting the NAN form, you now need to:

- Provide details of how the In Touch system you are using at the event will work and the main contacts in the case of an emergency.
- Confirm you have shared a written Risk Assessment for the event with the responsible Commissioner or their delegate.
- Confirm you have communicated the Risk Assessment with all adults and young people attending the event so they understand the risks and how they will be managed if an incident occurs.
- Your GSL/DESC is aware of the event taking place.

You should now submit the on-line NAN form a minimum of **21 days before** the event is due to start.

The updated NAN form can be found, together with a simple flow chart of the Nights Away Permit process and the contact details of all the current DNAA's, on the district website at: [HYPERLINK "http://www.bexleyscouts.org.uk/"](http://www.bexleyscouts.org.uk/) <http://www.bexleyscouts.org.uk/>. 'Nights Away' is found on the drop down menu under the 'Useful' heading.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the teams for their hard work putting on a wide range of exciting events and activities for the Scout section.

Geoff Amass, Deputy District Scout Commissioner

geoff.amass@bexleyscouts.org.uk

Deputy District Explorer Scout Commissioner's Report.

Bexley District AGM 2019-20

We continue to have an exciting and varied Explorer Scout programme within the Bexley District, with 13 units spread across the district. Focusing on the period between April 2019 to March 2020 a number of events have been completed.

This includes the successful completion of the first Super Duper Dora district camp in April 2019, a challenge camp which was well attended. Congratulations to the Black Prince who were winners from the weekend. County events including the magically themed MESH in June 2019 and Young Leader Training in March 2020 continue to provide challenges and opportunity to learn new skills.

The District was excited to send people as both Participants, Unit Leaders and members of the International Service Team to the 24th World Scout Jamboree held at the Summit Bechtel, West Virginia, America. A fantastic opportunity to meet other Scouts from around the world.

2019 focused on being 'The year of the Dora' finishing with supporting the Be a Scout Day in September 2019. We hoped to run the water activity focused 'Back to School Blast' camp during the period in 2020 but unfortunately the COVID events have put these on hold.

Recent events cannot be ignored and I want to say a huge thank you to all Explorer Leaders, occasional helpers and parents across the district for their continued support to our young people. The versatility and dedication has ensured units are still meeting virtually, providing young people with different opportunities. Please contact me if you need any support and I look forward to working with you all next year.

Yours in Scouting

Clare Amass, District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Deputy District Network Commissioner's Report.

Bexley District AGM 2019-20

Having only been appointed Bexley Deputy District Network Commissioner a couple of months ago, Covid has restricted my ability to hit the ground running as fast as I would have liked! That said, over the last couple of months I have been able to gain contact with many of those aged between 18-25 within the District. As a result, plans are in place to form three Networks across the district in various locations. I hope to get these all fully up and running in the coming months.

I am excited for the challenge of trying to get those in this age group involved in Scouting and not only in leadership positions. Events and ideas are all in the pipeline and I look forward to an exciting year for 18-25 Scouting in Bexley.

Thank you.

Luke Cashin, Bexley Deputy District Network Commissioner

Adult Appointment Committee Report.

Bexley District AGM 2019-20

Between March 2019 and March 2020 in Bexley District we are fortunate to have the Adult members roles maintained by 4 appointment secretaries, a panel coordinator and a number of panel members to assist in the appointment of new members, review of existing members, confirmation of new and changes in roles, and the maintenance of the Scouts database. In addition to carrying out and guiding other members through the Disclosure and Barring System (DBS).

Our thanks to all for their work during the year in looking after one of the largest Scouting Districts in the country. One of the secretaries, Geraldine, has decided that she is no longer able to be effective as a secretary and has therefore stepped down from the role that she has held for the last 12 years in both the new and old District. Our thanks to her for all her hard work over the years.

Whilst there were some 137 additions during the year, however, at the end of the year there were only an additional 40 roles added to the membership. As at March 2020 there were 944 adult members within Bexley District, including Occasional Helpers.

The role of Occasional Helper is designed so that adults may obtain a DBS without becoming a member of the Association. Any adult who is liable to have unsupervised access to our youth members or who is involved with finance requires a DBS. The main use of the Occasional Helper role is for those adults staying overnight at any Scout camping event including family camps. All other helpers should be encouraged to become sectional assistance. This does involve a small amount of training which may be completed online, with the exception of First Aid, should they wish to complete it.

All leader assistants and manager roles have a requirement for training which comes in two parts: getting started and wood badge training. Getting started is to be completed within five months of the appointment and wood badge within three years. The executive members have a similar training programme but do not partake in the wood badge training programme.

All members are required to undertake regular reviews to ensure that they are in the right role and are happy to continue. The majority of these reviews are adhoc as part of the normal running of the group. The Scout Association require formal reviews for all new starters at the end of the getting started period and then at the end of wood badge training. In addition, all members should receive a formal review at a maximum of 5-year intervals with recommendations which are passed to the AAC for consideration and action.

TSA have indicated that a number of changes are to be introduced into members training during 2020. From the information available, this would include all members to have a current first aid certificate at all times; Safety and Safeguarding renewals to be reduced from 5 years to 3 years; updating of module 1 and the introduction of Trustee training that will be undertaken by all executives.

As we right this report, all face to face Scouting has been suspended due to the Coronavirus and the AAC have started carrying out panel meetings online rather than face to face and this will continue for the foreseeable future. We all belong to a movement and as such, we will adapt to the situation and continue in the best way that we are able to so that Scouting may be offered in some format to the youth members.

John Baxter, AAC

Award Advisory Group Report.

Bexley District AGM 2019-20

Congratulations to the following members of the District who received awards during the past year:

Bar to the Silver Acorn – Geoff Amass; Oscar Gould

Silver Acorn – Pat Riddle; Brian Walls; Ian Hulf

Bar to the Award for Merit - Bernadette Foskett; Debbie Cooney; Jackie Webster; John Taylor; Len Warren; Paul Cooper; Sue Vidler

Award for Merit - Irene Holliss; Jane Medland; Viv France; Andy France; Caroline Drummond; Antoinette Norman; Lisa Hawkins; Matt Walsh; Robin Cussens; Jonathan Harding

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service - Richard Newson; late Derek Harmer

Chief Scout's Personal Award - Scout Lily-May Lillington; Scout Harriet Lillington

Commissioner's Commendation Award - Beaver Scout Harry Sampson

Bexley Council Civic Recognition of Voluntary Service by Adults (external) – Murray Smith; Karen Smith; Chris Hayes; Claire Summerfield; Sharon Amass; Geoff Amass; Gary Say; Jackie Douglas; Allan Harding; Bill Gunn; Phyllis Gunn; Keith Stephens; Wil liam Harris; Iris Vidler; Roger Chase; Karl Cantwell; Bernadette Foskett; 1st North Cray Scout Group

British Empire Medal - Roger Chase

It was particularly a great pleasure to see that Roger Chase received the BEM in the New Year's Honour's list. Whilst this recognised his 'voluntary service to the community in Sidcup', this was primarily for his services to Scouting over the past 65 years or so and continues to day in his role as President of the 4th Sidcup.

Once again some of our young members have been recognised for their actions with Scouts Lily-May and Harriett Lillington stopping on their way home from school to assist with an elderly lady who had fallen. And Beaver Harry Sampson showing great initiative in raising funds for his Group.

With these in mind, it is worth mentioning that you may wish to consider whether there are any youth or adult members of your Group or Unit who perhaps could be recognised for similar actions, whether it relates to a third party or themselves. It doesn't have to be Scouting related, but, as a member of the movement, Scouting may want to recognise what they have done or how they have coped in unusual or difficult situations.

It is also good to see that some Executive Committee members have also received awards during the year.

Group Executive Committees do a superb job supporting Scouting – helping with fund-raising, maintaining property, purchasing equipment and much, much more. There may be someone on your Committee, or in fact a former member who still helps you out, who you feel should be recognised for the contribution they have made to Scouting, especially if this is unique in any way. Or perhaps they have done something dynamic or inspirational from which the Group has benefitted. Maybe they have just been there to keep things going during a low period.

All these awards were due to be presented at the County Awards evening which had to be cancelled. Similarly with the Civic Awards, but arrangements are now in hand to present these at the Civic Offices in a more socially distanced way.

You may want to visit the awards Roll of Honour on the District website - bexleyscouts.org.uk/useful/awards-recognition.

The Awards Advisory Group has considered a number of people for awards for approval by the DC, and these have been applied for but with Scout Headquarters closing down when the pandemic hit, these have not yet come through.

If you would like to propose a Leader, other adult or young person, for any Scouting award please send to me at richard.willgoss@bexleyscouts.org.uk preferably using the appropriate form, which together with further information, is on the District website bexleyscouts.org.uk/useful/awards-recognition.

However, as well as submitting a name for consideration we also need to have an appropriate citation highlighting the reason for the nomination. We need sufficient information to enable us to understand the individual's contribution to Scouting and assess whether we can advise the DC of an award.

Please remember we cannot consider anyone for an award if they have not completed formal training for their current role in Scouting, as well as being up to date with their mandatory training.

For guidance about writing a citation and what is required, together with more information and advice, please go to the District website bexleyscouts.org.uk/useful/awards-recognition.

Our youth members also have the opportunity for their outstanding or unique achievements to be recognised with the Commissioner's Commendation Award. It is the only one in Scouting's national award scheme which recognises good service or achievement for both youth and adult members.

May I thank Pat, Nigel, Fred, Peter and Luke for their invaluable contributions to the Awards Group over the year, their knowledge and wisdom are both fully appreciated and respected in our decision-making process. Once again special thanks to Nigel for his hospitality in allowing us to meet in his house.

[Richard Willgoss, Chair District Awards Advisory Group](#)

DDC Group Support and ADC Recruitment Report.

Bexley District AGM 2019-20

The Group Support Team has worked hard over the year. Each member has made contact with “their” Groups to offer support, complete a Group Review, offer a listening ear and/or shoulder to cry on and generally act as a link between the Group and the District. We get together termly to share information.

GSL meetings have been held termly and have been well supported. These offer an opportunity to share information, pass on news and network with colleagues AND there’s tea and biscuits beforehand.

As is usual some Groups have had a really good year with increases in Adult and Young People numbers while others are going through a bad patch. We congratulate the former and remind the latter that we are here to help in whatever way we can – just ask!

Young People Recruitment has been an ongoing activity with many parents contacting the info@bexleyscouts email. Many are easily and quickly placed but there are a number of parents who do not respond to the reply to their initial email and so are left in limbo. Also it is requested that GSL and/or Section Leaders let Di Spowles know when they have made contact with new Parents so that the name can be moved to “sorted”.

Adult Recruitment has been slow and varied in success - Volunteers who come via the HQ joining page rarely get “signed up” despite numerous contacts but those that come direct to me are more successful. Groups must take care to nurture those new Volunteers that we do get so that they do not feel ignored, overwhelmed or otherwise put off before they have started.

Covid-19 is going to bring up challenges for us all - I’m sure we are up to it!

Many Thanks must go to my Team for their efforts in their additional role. - I couldn’t do the job without you.

Di Spowles, DDC Group Support and ADC Recruitment

Premises Report.

Bexley District AGM 2019-20

Bexley District own two properties: the District HQ at Mayplace Road and Christian Grey Hall (aka 5th Erith). We also lease two properties: 6th Sidcup (aka Warwick Road) and Cheviot Close in Erith, plus lease land known as Royal Park. The District also manages the 2nd Sidcup Hall (aka Grassington Road).

Mayplace Road

This site is managed by Greg Moore. While this hall does not have a functioning Scout Group, it is used for a variety of Scouting purposes. The DofE Explorer Unit use it as their base; it is the home of the Scout and Guide shop and is used for a wealth of Scouting meetings for the District, Group Support, AAC, SAS and much more. The hall generates income for the District through its use by a number of external groups, including a thriving pre-school play group, Slimming World, an art class, a community church and for adventure games. The hall remains in a good state of repair and this is achieved by being well run and maintained by the hall manager. No major work is foreseen in the near future. The attic above the shop has been cleared of obsolete junk and inventoried and is used to hold archived district records, including the former Bexleyheath, Sidcup and, Erith & Crayford Districts.

Christian Grey Hall

This site is managed by Fred Vidler. No Scout section occupies the hall following the closure of 5th Erith, and Tomahawk ESU.

As with Mayplace Road, the hall generates income for the District through its use by external groups. It has a successful pre-school playgroup in residence who are joined by dog walkers (but not at the same time), line dancing and Force Five Taekwondo in addition to a number of private hires. The hall is in a good state of repair, having had some repairs done in the last year, and is well run and maintained by the hall manager. The hall remained in use by the playgroup during Covid, catering for the children of key workers.

6th Sidcup

6th Sidcup Scouts and K2 Explorer Unit occupy, and manage, the hall. No external groups use the hall but other Groups in the District use it due to its extensive grounds.

Use of the property is impeded by some lease anomalies, making it difficult for the premises to reach its full potential. Efforts are being made to renew the lease without these conditions. K2 and 6th Sidcup look after the day-to-day running and maintenance of the hall and grounds, while any major works is the responsibility of District in conjunction with K2 and 6th Sidcup. The hall is in a reasonable state of repair. Work has been undertaken during the year to replace the external fire doors and upgrade the lighting, being completed in June. This was financed partly by district and partly by the group.

Cheviot Close

This hall and grounds are leased from Orbit Housing Association and is home to 1st Erith Scout Group, a local explorer unit and the Capers Gang show.

1st Erith make good use of the hall, and undertake the management of the site. A number of other Groups also use the venue and it is used as a training venue and a few private functions. Discussions are still ongoing with Orbit, concerning the development and relocation of the site. District and the group are looking at plans for what would be required at the new site.

Royal Park

This land is leased from Bexley Council and was the former home of, the now closed 5th Bexley Scout Group. Here is an excellent opportunity for a District hall, or opening a new group. Located in St Andrews Road, Sidcup and backing on to Footscray Meadows, it is in a prime location but without any services or buildings. As the crow flies, it is very near to 1st Footscray and 1st North Cray, but quite a long way if travelling by road. The land is managed and maintained by myself, mainly cutting grass, removing dead trees and the occasional rubbish fly tipped over the fence. The site is used very occasionally by units who have nowhere to pursue activities such as lighting wood fires. Research is being carried out with a view to installing toilet facilities pending other decisions over its use. It can be slightly difficult to access the site, from the road, but once in, it has the opportunity to be anything that we wish it to be - providing we can finance and maintain it.

2nd Sidcup

This site is managed by Peter Whelan. Again a closed group, the hall has three buildings, all in a reasonable state of repair. This includes a modern brick built block containing a meeting room, store and toilets. The building is well used by the District for meetings, AAC panels and adult training of adults. County also use the hall due to its central location between Bexley and Bromley. The potential of the hall is restricted, due to parking difficulties, although we should be able to attract external groups to increase its use. The kitchen requires updating in the near future to make it more appealing to those wishing to hire.

All sites have seen a drastic reduction in use during Covid, and we have been looking at the facilities which need to be put in place to safely reopen. My thanks to all the premises team and Groups for all the work you put in to maintain our premises.

Dave Floyd, Premises Committee Manager (& District Quartermaster)