

Clerk

Subject: RE: Annual Parish Meeting 14 March 2024 - Agenda and invitation to submit a report to Willand Parish Council

For Willand Scout Group:

Willand Scout Group remains a thriving Scout Group in the Tiverton District now being one of the largest Groups. Our catchment far exceeds the bounds of Willand Parish. We are at capacity in all three of our sections, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, and we have a considerable waiting list for children wishing to join our Group. We are looking to establish a Young Leader section for 2024, with the aim of growing the future generation of leaders. We have managed to run a whole Group camp in 2023 thanks to Muddifords, and have offered a wide range of activities for our Young People from adventurous activities such as climbing, boating, archery, shooting, skiing. Community activities such as litter picking, being mascots for Willand Rovers, collecting for the Poppy Appeal, supporting Devon Historical Churches, decorating the war memorial for Remembrance Sunday, and spring cleaning Sampford Peverell church, as well as working on badges and awards. We are very excited to be entering 4 teams for this year's Exmoor Challenge. We have once again presented members with Chief Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, which is the highest Award for member of each age group.

We have had a highly successful fundraising year, and on top of our usual successes of linking up with the Methodist Church, and our annual cake auction and beetle drive, we have secured funds through the Tesco blue coins, and are currently the sponsored charity of Willand COOP along with the Pantry. This funding has been invested in upgrading our camping equipment.

The only weaknesses/ issues to overcome are, we have a shortage of camping permits which is limiting opportunities to camp, unfortunately this is still a byproduct of Covid and will take a number of years to resolve. We have a strong leadership team and committee, but like all organisations we are always on the hunt for new volunteers; and finally, we have outgrown the Tiverton District HQ in Halberton, and with the success of the Village Hall Bookings we would ideally seek to establish a bespoke venue for the Scout Group as a longer-term project.

Willand Scout Group is in a strong position, and is providing a wide range of activities, and opportunities for young people to develop whilst demonstrating good citizenship.