

Woodcraft Folk DFs

Althing 2025 Minutes

16th/17th August 2025, Biblins Youth Campsite



“The minutes summary from the Althing 2024 Zine was read out as a reminder of last year’s business. A pair of blue tits flew over the circle and perched on one of the beams overhead to listen. Althing formally approved the 2024 minutes and the birds departed, seemingly satisfied.”

Present: Aisling, Anna L, Alex T, Cherry, Esme, Eva, Eunice, Hayyel, Hazel, Suzy, Jay, Joe H, Lara, Molly, Nyx, Robin, Rowan, Seren, Sorrel, Tyler, Wilf (21)

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0 Introductions

Tyler took the chair and welcomed everyone to Althing. He ran through the agenda and explained the hand signals that would be used to run business. A count was undertaken and it was determined that the meeting was quorate. The meeting began by going around the circle allowing everyone to introduce themselves. Everyone was asked to say their name, pronouns and to give their role in DFs if they had one.

1 Ratification of Althing 2024 minutes

The minutes summary from the Althing 2024 Zine was read out as a reminder of last year's business. A pair of blue tits flew over the circle and perched on one of the beams overhead to listen. Althing formally approved the 2024 minutes and the birds departed, seemingly satisfied.

2 Annual Reports

2.1 Reports from Committee Members

2.1.1 Training Representative (Esme Thompson)

We've had a woeful lack of first aid training in the Movement recently and it was seeming pretty dire, but now things are looking better. Some DFs were trained at Camp 100, which is positive. I have now perfected the DF First Aid Spreadsheet, which will make managing the stocks of our first aid supplies much easier. I also made changes to the medical section of our standard booking form.

2.1.2 MEST-UP Coordinator (Joseph Hammond)

I rewrote the MEST-UP training and delivered some at Winter Wonderland. I made a MEST-UP Discord server to coordinate the reps and ran a successful centre at Camp 100 and the resources purchased for that centre can enter the DF stocks. I wrote a MEST-UP info book and a rough guide. My handover was difficult, and I'm hoping to do better for my successor.

2.1.3 Shadow Events Representative (Nyx Cook Hayward)

I've had a good year on coord teams for events, booking sites and supporting the events team. Looking forward to taking over as Events Rep!

2.1.4 Secretary of the Movement (Wilfred Lamont)

I'd say my second year was less successful than the first year of my term. I was generally a bit less organised, for example not publishing agendas as far in advance. The minutes of Winter Thing I took in note form were never turned into a formal document, so they have unfortunately been lost. Minutes are super important, so I would like to apologise for that. But I have really enjoyed my time in this role, putting together the framework of meetings and watching them grow into fruitful discussions and actions!

2.1.5 Shadow Treasurer (Alex Thompson)

I learnt a lot about budgeting for events this year and eventually got added as a signatory to the bank account, so I'm ready to take over as Treasurer. I would have liked to work on revolutionising the Fairer Fare system - watch this space.

2.1.6 Events Representative (Aisling Stuart)

Winter Wonderland had a good turnout and was a fun event. It made me feel a lot of confidence in the Movement. It was annoying that we had to cancel Spring awakening, but it was ultimately the right decision in terms of the use of our resources as volunteers and from a financial perspective. Booking sites has been difficult and stressful because we have ended up booking without much notice. I think we should commit to booking sites and announcing dates to the Movement much further in advance this year.

2.1.7 Chair of Committee (Tyler Eckersall)

I wasn't expecting a second term as Chair, one thing led to another and here we are! Looking back on the Althing 2024 really takes me back to what feels like a completely different time. It has been great not being Comms Rep this year, which has let me focus a lot more on chairing and facilitating Committee. The Cancellation of Spring Awakening was unfortunate because it really slowed us down and we almost lost momentum as many people were taking on roles for Camp 100 in addition to their committee responsibilities. But this coordination of this event has been a great success and I'm optimistic about the coming year. DFs really feels stronger as an organisation than it was a couple of years ago.

2.1.8 Outreach Representative (Molly Hawker)

This year I've been able to work on what we want from outreach in DFs. I didn't get a handover, so i was partly making it up, but it's been good. I've been encouraging local DFs and getting venturers in my district interested in DFs. The big success this year has been getting DFs involved in the Future Forum, which is a forum for youth reps from organisations across the UK (Me and Tyler (Chair) have represented Woodcraft). We hosted their AGM at Camp 100.

2.2 Reports from Non-Committee Role-Holders

2.2.1 Venturer Committee Liaison (Eva Buutjens-Gold)

I have had a good year and managed to attend a Venturer Committee meeting, but I feel like I could have done more to work with Vcommittee. I have got involved with coord teams throughout the year and attended Spring Thing. I had little to no handover, and the role is a little vague.

2.2.2 Big Camps Representative (Seren Waite)

Was there a big camp this year? I don't know... I hope you all had a great time at Camp 100. It is very important to have a communication link between big camps and DFs. I hope someone takes over from me as Vcamp 2026 approaches, as well as for the eventual international camp in 2030.

2.2.3 Zine (Eunice Gardham)

If I'm honest, my zine output peaked with the Althing 2024, right at the beginning of my term last year. But I have also made some other zines throughout the year and organised zine-making materials at events. I struggled with distribution and I am hoping that we can start getting zines on the website or on the mailing list. I wanted to make an info zine about DFs for distribution at Camp 100, but that didn't end up happening. But I did make a zine to explain Woodcraft to a queer youth organisation that were a guest delegation at the camp.

2.2.4 "Manchester Leiasgon" (Alex Thompson)

I have been sh*t talking Manchester all year.

2.2.5 Welsh Liaison (Lara Sayers)

This role has been quite difficult because there are so few Welsh DFs. There wasn't anyone in the role before I took it on and I don't think anyone has nominated themselves for it this year.

2.2.6 General Council Representative (Even) (Alex Thompson)

My year on GC has been great. I'm looking forward to welcoming three new DFs to the board this autumn.

3 Treasury Reports

3.1 Annual Financial Report

Alex (Shadow Treasurer) delivered the annual financial report in the absence of the Treasurer.

DFs have about £14,000 in our accounts, comfortably over the £10,000 reserves threshold that we maintain in order to be able to finance a full week-long camp at a complete loss if we ever have to kickstart the organisation after a disaster (This kind of rescue operation would cost about £8,000). We have been running on a regular break-even, balancing the profit generated at social events and the expenses that come from running Things.

NatWest and Unity bank have been annoying to deal with this year in the extended handover between Treasurer and Shadow Treasurer, but we have managed nonetheless.

We are still owed about £400 from unpaid camp fees (that's about four people). Maya did a lot of chasing of these people, without success.

Action #1: Alex to redouble efforts to chase non-payers for camp

3.2 Treasurer Performance Report

As required by the Constitution, Committee submitted a report on the success of the Treasurer in order to inform elections for this important role. Wilf (Secretary) delivered the report.

Committee is very satisfied with the performance of our Treasurer, Maya, who is leaving DFs when she steps down at the end of the month. We would like to thank her for all the work she has done for the Movement. I am looking forward to working with her as she takes on the role of Treasurer for Venturer Camp 2026.

Concluding the reports section of business, Tyler noted that it was 11:11am, which was surely a good omen with which to begin a 20 minute break.

4 Motions

4.1 Motion 25-01 (First Aid Fairy)

Proposed By Wilfred Lamont

Seconded By Esme Thompson

BODY This Althing amends section B.3.3.2 of the Constitution to remove First Aid Fairy as a Non-Committee role. This Althing amends section B.1.4.1 to rename the Training Representative to Training and First Aid Representative.

RATIONALE The majority of the Training Representative's role is organising first aid training. It makes sense to combine this role with the first aid fairy, who is in charge of the logistics of first aid resources at events. Esme has held these two roles simultaneously for the past two years and it has been helpful to have a single person with oversight over both of these areas.

Esme introduced the motion. It was clarified that the motion as written would leave the new combined role as a Committee Role.

Amendment: Change the motion to remove the Training Representative and redesignate the First Aid Fairy as the First Aid and Training Fairy (non-committee).

Alex suggested that the 100 smackeroons that it costs to expense a committee member to come to Things was not worth it for a training and first aid role (it was clarified that the Smackeroon to Pounds Sterling exchange rate is 1:1). The Movement should prioritise spending on central organising roles, which is why there is a distinction between Committee and Non-Committee roles. However, training has to be closely organised with the Events Reps and coord teams. Furthermore, it is important to keep the circle of voices wide at Things The unamended motion would also not increase the number of roles that would have to be expensed.

The amendment falls

Amendment: Name the new combined Committee role First Aid and Training Fairy anyway

The 'fairy' title is a fun DF quirk, but it is consistently used for small helper roles, either non-committee or secondary committee roles (small roles that Committee appoints its members to).

The amendment falls.

The meeting moved to take a vote on the motion.

For: 16; Against: 0; Abstain: 2
Motion passes

4.2 Motion 25-02 (General Council Term Length)

Proposed By Wilfred Lamont

Seconded By Tyler Eckersall

BODY This Althing amends section B.1.4.2 of the Constitution to increase the term length of General Council representatives sent from Committee to two years, with one appointment each year. A person who is elected to committee for a one year role may be appointed to a two year GC term and may remain on GC even if they do not remain on Committee in their second year.

RATIONALE DFs currently have four reps on GC. Two are elected for two years, one each year, at Althing. Two are selected from among Committee members and appointed for one year. General Council has been concerned about a high turnover of its membership. They submitted a motion to the Woodcraft AGM in 2025 to increase the term lengths of the members elected by the whole organisation to three years, and this motion passed.
A three year term for a DF role is too long, but the learning curve on GC takes a while so they really don't want people who are only around for a year. At Winter Thing 2024, the DF Movement agreed in principle to GC's suggestion that we increase the terms of DF Committee's representatives to two years. We need to pass a motion to make this happen.

Wilf (Secretary) introduced the motion. There was a question as to the benefits of increasing the term length. Alex (Even GC Rep) clarified that there is a steep learning curve that comes with GC membership. It is almost not worth joining for one year only because in that time you will just be learning how the council functions and observing proceedings.

The meeting moved to take a vote on the motion.

For: 19; Against: 0; Abstain: 1
Motion passes

4.3 Motion 25-03 (Establishing A MEST-UP Committee)

Proposed By Joseph Hammond

BODY

This Althing moves to:

Remove MESTUP coordinator and shadow MESTUP coordinator roles and replacing them with the following roles: non DF committee roles:

- MESTUP safeguarding lead (liaises with DF safeguarding team, coordinates training and shifts) - Keeper of the MESTUP space (plans the MESTUP space at camp, brings the MESTUP duffel bag and information book to camps, keeps the duffel bag stocked and info book up to date)
- MESTUP programme coordinator (plans any programme MESTUP runs at events)
- MESTUP Centre Coordinator (coordinates MESTUP at big camps and V-Camps. Wouldn't be needed every year) DF committee role:
- Chair of MESTUP committee (coordinates the MESTUP discord server, Chairs MESTUP committee, liaises with DF committee)

RATIONALE

The current MESTUP coordinator role functions as head of MESTUP, they have near total authority over what MESTUP does. this motion would make MESTUP more of a communal project and give no one person total authority over it. Additionally, there is too much for MESTUP coord to do for a single person to take it all on and do it well, there aren't enough clear and easy opportunities for other people to get involved, and there is nothing really for shadow-MESTUP to do beyond taking on small admin tasks delegated to them by MESTUP coord. With the creation of the MESTUP discord server and enthusiasm to get involved shown by soon-to-be DFs at the camp-100 MESTUP centre, the infrastructure is already in place to expand MESTUP from a single committee role to a DF-led, semi-independent organisation

Joe (MEST-UP Coordinator) presented the motion and opened discussion. An important aspect of MEST-UP is that it is a collaborative project, run by and for DFs. The trained MEST-UP reps should decide as a group how they want to run the programme of their project. Joe has worked to make this more of a reality by organising the Discord server for MEST-UP. The MEST-UP Coordinator is not the head of MEST-UP, and MEST-UP is not just a rota on camp, but this has not been clear in our culture in recent years.

It was questioned whether improvements to MEST-UP required an entirely new committee. However, Althing agreed that there were tasks that the MEST-UP Coordinator should delegate. It was proposed that MEST-UP work more closely with event coord teams, particularly Programme coordinators, and that an expected part of event preparation would be the delegation of tasks by the MEST-UP Coordinator to a team of MEST-UP reps. This team should be organised into a MEST-UP Moot, which would work closely with Events and contain MEST-UP reps with specific responsibilities for upcoming events. This would have a voluntary rotating membership, rather than elected fixed terms. It would be important to write guidelines in order to shape an improved participatory MEST-UP culture.

Amendment: Retain MEST-UP and Shadow MEST-UP, instead establish a moot chaired by MEST-UP and with Shadow MEST-UP as a member. Instruct them to write their own terms of reference, considering the roles laid out in the original motion.

Amendment passes.

The meeting moved to take a vote on the motion amended motion:

This Althing establishes a MEST-UP moot, chaired by the MEST-UP coordinator and with the Shadow MEST-UP Coordinator as a member. The moot is instructed to decide its own terms of reference, taking into consideration some or all of the roles described below:

- MESTUP safeguarding lead (liaises with DF safeguarding team, coordinates training and shifts) - Keeper of the MESTUP space (plans the MESTUP space at camp, brings the MESTUP duffel bag and information book to camps, keeps the duffel bag stocked and info book up to date)
- MESTUP programme coordinator (plans any programme MESTUP runs at events)
- MESTUP Centre Coordinator (coordinates MESTUP at big camps and V-Camps. Wouldn't be needed every year)

For: 12; Against: 0; Abstain: 6
Motion passes

4.4 Motion 25-04 (10-Day Booking Deadline)

Proposed By Alex Thompson

BODY This Althing believes there here should be a mandated (at least) 10 days - ideally 2 weeks - before a non-business event where the standard booking form is closed (this shouldn't affect cancellations)

RATIONALE This is because it is standard for sites to have a 2 week agreement on numbers, it reduces the risk of losing money on an over/undersubscribed event, allows for a second info pack to be sent out and be accurate, give first aiders time to create health forms and check the information is relevant and accurate, it would put less stress on coord teams as there are less last minute jobs, it would make it easier for people to book transport / orchestrate transport with others to challenging venues, I personally believe it would grant us more legitimacy in the eyes of others. (This does have the downside of putting more pressure on the events team and coord to be more organised further in advance, but that is going to be a necessary change at some point to organize training anyways so i think this issue is mitigated)

Alex (Shadow Treasurer) presented the motion. Although the motion does not make changes to the Constitution or write policy, it is still important as a commitment as a Movement to make a positive change.

Amendment: Set the deadline at 14 days.

Amendment passes

The meeting moved to take a vote on the amended motion:

This Althing believes there here should be a mandated (at least) 14 days before a non-business event where the standard booking form is closed (this shouldn't affect cancellations)

For: 17; Against: 0; Abstain: 1
Motion passes

4.5 Motion 25-05 (Removing the Laymember Role)

Proposed By Wilfred Lamont

Seconded By Sadie Lamont

BODY This Althing amends section B.1.4.1.3 of the Constitution to remove Laymembers from Committee

RATIONALE There are currently two laymembers on DF Committee who are meant to act as extra members without a specific role who can assist with the running of the Movement. In theory this is a useful resource which can help to ease the burden of work on committee. In reality Laymembers very rarely take on responsibility as laymembers (They sometimes volunteer on coord teams for DF events or at national big camps). Neither of the current laymembers have attended a DF social event or Thing since their elections. It does not seem like the elected committee laymember is an effective method for supporting committee members' workloads. I would welcome discussion on how we could make volunteer support on committee better in a different way. I appreciate the nomination received for a new laymember at this Althing, but I'm still not sure about the long-term future of the role.

Wilf (Secretary) presented the motion and explained that he wrote the motion before any nominations for Laymember had been received. Tyler (Chair) that the responsibilities of the laymembers often fall to the Chair. There is a broader cultural issue of volunteers taking on too much labour and not seeking the help of laymembers, so the solution must go two ways: committee members should give laymembers tasks to do and get them involved in their discussions, while laymembers must also be active in offering help and keeping on top of developments on Committee and check in with members.

Amendment: This Althing notes that Laymembers have been underutilised in recent years. Althing calls on DF Committee to improve its use of Laymembers and integrate them better into its processes. Althing also calls on Laymembers to engage actively with and support their fellow volunteers.

The amendment passes

The meeting moved to take a vote on the amended motion.

For: 15; Against: 0; Abstain: 2

Motion passes

5 Hustings

Nominations for 2025-2026 Committee and Non-committee roles were closed. The list of roles remaining to be filled can be co-opted after Old/New.

One-by-one each person standing gave their short hustings speech, which had been written in advance and published for the benefit of online voters. Candidates running *in absentia* had their speeches read aloud by volunteers present at the meeting.

5.1 Committee Roles

5.1.1 Activism Representative

Stella Azurdia-Fraser (17)

I have experience with activism within Woodcraft as I helped to organise and facilitate Scotland's Move for Palestine fundraising event last year. The Kelvingrove branch seems to be activism-focused in a way that should be spread across Woodies, so I would love to work in DF committee to turn general consensus into action.

Sumi Inglis (18)

I would like to use this role to increase DF presence in non-Woodcraft organised activism by contacting organisations such as Extinction Rebellion and Palestine Solidarity Campaign, and providing an official DF presence at protest/campaigns. As national Woodcraft is setting up a 'campaigns' team, I would try to get a DF presence in any forms of activism put forth by them. I would also like to use the role to help DF groups, or any individual DFs that want to organise their own protest/activism both logistically and by providing resources involving: safety in protesting, rights, and methods of activism that could be effective for their cause.

Rowan Hawker (18)

I would like to bring back and reinforce the core values of woodcraft of action and activism. I would talk to GC to get a clear view on what we can do to get our voices heard whilst respecting and discussing the boundaries of being a charity. I believe that I would be good at this role as I have experience in leading activism groups and an understanding of how important and vital this is to every person.
Vote for me
Rowan Hawker pleeeeeease
Blue skies

5.1.2 Chair of DF Committee

Aisling Stuart (19)

Hello! My name's Aisling and I am running for chair in this year's election. You may already know me as the current co-events representative or maybe you've seen me around at events. DFs is such an important part of my life and I have had the pleasure to see the movement grow and shape since I joined woodcraft, this has been a large motivator for me to run for chair. Since the pandemic, DFs has struggled but I've seen first hand how we have recovered as an organisation and I believe that we can continue along this path of success to revitalise and improve our movement. If I am elected I want to bring back much loved events, such as: Span That World With Music, which has previously been incredibly well received and provides an invaluable opportunity to showcase talent from both DFs and other music artists whilst raising money for the movement. Your vote would allow me to coordinate these events and continue to pave a new future for DFs. Thank you.

5.1.3 Communications Representative

Lizzie Cadoux (17)

Hi everyone! I've been a part of DFs now for two years and I now want to give back and make wider change by being on committee. I'm running for Communications Representative because I've got experience running my college's Instagram page, I've done my own online archiving project of DF material from the Wayback Machine and I've been the primary editor of the DF Wikipedia page (rip), therefore I feel very equipped to make information about DFs fun, accessible and accurate. I'm also objectively qualified via an A-Level in English Language, which, as many of you who've had to listen to me complain about my English class on camp, also shows incredible resilience as an individual in general.

I help run Red Kite Elfin in Leicester, which has helped me expand my creativity, consistency and patience, all necessary skills for this role. On the topic of my Elfin group, if I was elected to committee, I'd love to support more DFs to volunteer in local groups, as well as facilitate projects linking the DF movement to wider woodcraft. There was a beautiful article on the Wayback Machine about this called 'All Trees Need their Roots' that even 15 years later rings so remnant. Thank you for reading!

Angus Crocker (17) (with Caitlin Small)

DFs have a reputation of being disorganised. This is not a fair reputation; it's clear that hard work, care, and many hours of careful planning are given to the ambitious projects that the DF movement prides itself on. But the reputation remains. Why?

It's because there is no transparency: events such as 2025s "The Everything" are sprung upon the membership at short notice, leaving people confused and not allowing them to plan for these events in advance.

As a younger DF, I often get the impression that the older DFs have some understanding of how the movement is run, that they assume everybody just knows. This is not true, we must explicitly explain how DFs works to new members.

For 16 and 17 year olds, DFs is the first time that they are directly responsible for organising their own membership, their own booking for camps, their own transportation. That is a daunting prospect for many, and is a huge factor as to why so many young people leave Woodcraft after Venturers.

As Communication Rep, I would ensure that our messaging is Clear, Friendly, Welcoming, and Useful. We must have easily accessible information in plain language about how to become a DF and how to get involved with the movement. This would allow us to retain members, gain new ones, and have them more invested in the movement.

On our website, I would:

1. Create an easily understandable guide for how to become a DF.
2. Introduce a map showing the positions of DF groups around the country for new members and people moving across the country for university.
3. Add a simple form for people interested in starting up an active DF group, so we can create connections between DFs in nearby areas.
4. Simplify minutes of meetings into an updated blog format, similar to the existing "news" tab.

On our Instagram, I would:

1. Create a less formal atmosphere, using it as a window into the DF process instead of an announcement board.
2. Collaborate with the active DF groups around the country to showcase how different groups are run.

And finally I would use the DF mailing list more, to give updates, details of camps and other events directly to members who may not be actively seeking them out.

Why should you trust that I can fulfill my promises?

I've been a member of the Woodcraft Folk my entire life. Its values are deeply rooted in me. At a District level I've been involved in planning and running our camps through my role as District Equipment Officer since I was 13, including on Camp 100 recently. Furthermore, I restarted the Exeter DFs when I moved up -

leading to us becoming one of the most active DF groups in the country - and have since become the de facto spokesperson for the group at District meetings.

Open communication with our membership is the best way to gain trust, drive engagement and get people excited about the ambitious projects that DFs are known for. We live in an exciting time where our movement can drive change, make impact. We must be open and honest with our members, keep them informed and make being in the DF movement an obvious choice. Our movement is stronger together.

Caitlin Small (17) (with Angus Crocker)

I know first-hand that the DF age range includes a lot of life changes for a lot of people, such as going to university or moving away from home. I would therefore like to add more content onto the website about individual DF groups, as well as setting up a communication line between people interested in continuing with weekly meetings in a new place, and those groups themselves. I believe that this will encourage more national connections, as well as supporting individuals to build community and feel more welcome. Additionally, this will help people to stay engaged and involved in Woodcraft beyond their home district and camps. I am also aiming to uphold the standard of our social media, as well as including more posts after camps to show people what we have done.

Hazel Willis (18)

I have always had a vision for it since my first few camps. I feel we should expand our communications past what they are now, interact more with woodcraft at large, create more ways of letting people know about camps that just insta. I also feel that there is often a disconnect once people leave camps, the community of DFs is spread out across the country and I think that community often loses contact outside of events.

Some ideas I have for this are:

Adding a mailing list for DFs, to email people when camps are on. This in theory already exists but isn't used?

Trying to get information about DFs and our camps to local districts and groups and keeping communication with woodcraft at large, our presence on venturer camp 2023 was a great example and I believe many of us can see the impact of it.

Attempting to expand DF come to WhatsApp discord or both, something that has been mentioned before I believe (*this is logistically difficult however*)

These are the sorts of things I want to do

I will not tell you that I WILL do them

Honestly I have no idea how possible they are

And I will disclose that I am struggling with my mental health which could get in the way *(this is not supposed to get a pity vote or anything, I just feel you should know the reality of who or what you're voting for)*

But I can tell you that I will absolutely try to do these things

To the best of my ability I intend to try and make them a reality

George Baker (19)

Communications is an important role. We are in the Information Age, where everything you would ever want to know is on the internet. This information needs to be easily accessible, reliable and regularly updated. With me as the DF communications representative I will guarantee these 3 key points will be fulfilled to ensure woodcraft DFs and any other inquisitive individuals will be able to easily comprehend what events are approaching, as well as how they can get involved.

I help run my works instagram, posting media and captioning posts with relevant information. I intend to keep DFs social media presence louder, making fun and engaging posts, to keep woodcraft on people's minds and part of their community.

Xoxo, the pizza guy

5.1.4 Shadow Events Representative

Eva Buultjens-Gold (17)

Hey! I'm Eva, I'm 17 and from Hackney District. Having been involved in the coordination of several DF and general Woodcraft events; with my standout roles being Admin Coord of the 2025 DF Everything Camp (!!!!!) and co-MEST UP coordinator at Camp 100, I feel as though I possess the skill set needed to fulfil this role and understand how to put together events in a way that benefits DFs nationally. Having completed a year as Venturer Liaison, I think that I would slot in well as a member of committee and am aware of the expectations and actions required of me in this role. I am really organised and work best in a team which I feel really suits the DF way of arranging camps and events. I'm confident but (hopefully) not bossy, which means I'm able to organise those I'm in a team with to ensure things actually get done. I have a few ideas of how to improve the DF events calendar if elected, such as defunding and shortening Spring Awakening and upfunding Autumn Nocturne to suit the popularity of each event, and you can hear more about that and all my other great ideas if you vote for me! I have so much respect for the hard work and efforts of the past Events reps and hope that if I am elected I can honor this organisation and assist in bringing forth THE NEW DAWN OF DFS!!!!!!

Jonah Yudkin Dibdin (18)

As shadow events rep, my main goal would be to ensure spring awakening 2026 happens! As well as facilitating the events reps ideas, I would especially focus on

ensuring individuals can make personal arrangements to attend . I have organised local and regional camps and events my group and district which has meant I will have a familiarity with the requirements of this role despite being new to the committee. I am passionate about ensuring transport is as easy as possible for as many potential attendees as I can make it. I am prepared to be working with the events rep throughout the year to make being at a DF event enjoyable for all.

5.1.5 Events Representative

Nyx Cook-Hayward (18)

I have been the shadow events representative for the past year, so have learnt much about how the role works. In this role, I was key in supporting the events representatives when they were busy with other commitments- for example, booking the site and doing the site visit for winter wonderland. Additionally, I have been a part of many coord teams for different events, and have managed to do all four roles (*admin, programme, KP, KE*) within these teams, giving me a greater depth of understanding as to what these roles require, which will mean that I am better able to organise the coord teams for future events. In sum, my prior experience with DF Committee and coord teams will mean that I am well equipped to carry out this role well.

5.1.6 Odd Laymember

Meli Wallbank (20)

Having been a part of DF committee as MEST-UP coordinator I've seen first hand how stressful having a role can become, having to balance duties with everyday life. As well as already having experience on committee I feel as though I'd be a great choice. Becoming Lay member would mean a lot for me, meaning I could help my fellow DFs when they are feeling overwhelmed or need a little bit of extra help!

5.1.7 Safeguarding Representative

Caitlyn McArthur (18)

I'm running for Safeguarding Representative because I am passionate about promoting the safety and well-being of all young people. I studied safeguarding at college and am currently training to be a Primary School teacher. This means I have done a lot of safeguarding training already. I have also done multiple safeguarding courses through Woodcraft. I am currently the leader of my DF group and I help run our Woodchips group. I am always looking out for the young people in my district and helping where I can. I would love to help DFs

remain an awesome and safe environment for all young people across the nation.

Nuala Doak (20)

As a previous Events Representative on committee, I feel well equipped to handle safeguarding issues as they arise. In my term I will also work on how we can better prevent certain issues and how we can react better when they occur. I would also use this role as an opportunity to expand pastoral care for volunteers in DFs, hopefully collaborating with other committee members to create solutions and strategies to improve the issue. We consistently see too much strain on volunteers and not enough in place to support them. Electing me as safeguarding representative would see more support being brought to the table all across the DF movement and some lasting structures of support that we can hand on to future DFs!

5.1.8 Secretary of the Movement

Lara Sayers (18)

Woodcraft has always been a huge part of my life ever since I was a woodchip. Being Secretary of the movement would give me a chance to help support and build on the movement which has always meant so much to me. I am a reliable and responsible person, with vital skills that I have developed through previous secretarial roles. Writing and organisation have always been my strong suits, and I am trustworthy and efficient when it comes to the “behind-the-scenes” work involved to ensure that everything runs smoothly. As secretary I would hope to be a supportive force in keeping the movement organised and supporting other members of the committee in their roles. I will aim to help make DFs remain a joyful and accessible place for all young people, creating an inclusive space where everyone can feel comfortable in themselves. I have always wanted to take a more active role in woodcraft, and I hope this role will give me the opportunity to do so in a way that best caters to my own skillset.

5.1.9 Shadow MEST-UP Coordinator

Hazel Willis (18)

Honestly the biggest motivator for me running for a role is that I want to be more involved in DFs. I want to give back to this beautiful amazing thing and these wonderful people that has given so much to me

I want to help and be useful and effective positive change and I will try my level best in that regard *(Also not insignificantly I wanna spend as much time as possible in DFs and being on the committee means grey area ages :P)*

5.1.10 MEST-UP Coordinator

Anna Lennon (19)

I have been very involved in the running of mestup this year as my partner has been mestup coordinator. I've been coordinator of the very successful mestup centre at camp-100 at which I ran several workshops and took on multiple stewarding shifts. I am familiar with the topics mestup covers, calm and empathetic in stressful situations, and passionate about the DF movement. I believe this experience makes me uniquely suited to coordinate mestup.

5.1.11 Shadow Treasurer

Larry Goodwin (17)

Hi I'm Larry, I've been at woodcraft for 8yrs now and have loved being part of DFs for the past yr and a half. DFs are so unique and I want to continue to make our camps and getaways available to all DFs, regardless of financial status or location in the uk.

I hope to bring my experience dealing with finances on the youth board of the Jack Petchey Foundation and fundraising within my local community to this role and pledge to work hard with the current treasurer to ensure that I have the necessary skills when my time as treasurer comes.

5.1.12 Treasurer

Alex Thompson (18)

Hello, I'm Alex and I am running for treasurer. I have worked as the shadow treasurer for the past year, and while granted have done almost nothing for it, I do believe I have learned our systems well enough. I also have a background in maths and law, and so already have a rough idea of what to do. I have spent the last year in DFs grafting to make the next event happen as part of the dream team. People have already seen the way I expertly handle the budgets, and I never make any errors by misreading the websites - I'm sure literally everyone will attest to this. Ignoring this slight blunder, I am ready to take on the role, keeping our books in order and making sure everyone is paid promptly. Also people please vote me, its litch already on my CV and personal statement so you would actually be f***ing me in the ass backwards if i'm not elected.

5.2 Supervisory Roles

5.2.1 Sustainability Representative

Rowan Hawker (18)

I believe I would be good for this position as I am extremely passionate about the environment. I have been in many groups related to sustainability, including Youth Strike For Climate, Stop Ecoside and many more. I would ensure that any decisions that are made do not harm the environment. In addition, I would like to make our camps more environmentally friendly to reduce our impact as much as possible.

Blue skies

Rowan Hawker

5.3 Non-Committee Roles

5.3.1 General Council Representative (Odd)

Eva Buultjens-Gold (17)

Apart from being an involved DF, I am a really passionate member of Woodcraft as a whole. Having been part of Woodies since I was 6, and from Hackney district where we've always been really united and organised, I've had nothing but the utmost respect for this organisation since I was a little kid. I hope that being elected to General Council will provide me with the opportunity to give back to Woodcraft and DFs, as it's a space that I owe so much to, where I've met some of the best people and had some of the best times of my life. I think that I would be a good GC representative as again, I'm organised and confident. I'm absolutely able to express my views to, and even counter those already elected on GC, all of which are older and wiser than I, which is undeniably important in a democratic organisation. Furthermore, as I'm 17 and objectively at the start of my DF projectory, having a 2 year role will allow me to learn and grow within the role and I will finish my term with several years left of DFs in which to impart my learned GC- knowledge and make DFs better than ever before! Most importantly, I would be a good General Council rep because I love Woodcraft so much, and I want the best for this organisation; for my friends and for my younger siblings. If elected, I promise to do everything in my power to ensure that that happens. Thanks! Vote for me please!

5.3.2 London Liaison

Hazel Willis (18)

This role seems complimentary to DF comms which I am also running for. If another person is voted in for comms I am equally happy to be liaison on its own.

5.3.3 “Manchester Leiasgon”

Angus Crocker (17)

I live about as far away from Manchester as is possible and I would do absolutely nothing with this role if I were elected other than enforce the air quotes.

Alex Thompson (18)

Right guys, buckle up. I still hate Manchester, and Bristol is still a btr city. Here I have composed a list of comments and thoughts from those around me about what they honestly think about this city:

- Daniel / Merlin: he thinks the city is too far away (*agreed*)
- Esme's boyfriend: the physics department is apparently bad
- According to the boyfriend of one of the 2030 organisers - this person claimed that they heard word on the street that the people are nasty
- Prof brian cox is there (*eww cringe*)
- Mother says that it rains to much (*unlike in shef (up the shef)*)
- It's hard to spell (*when compared with better cities such as bristol*)
- Apparently the microscopy department smells bad
- It's tylers spawnpoint (*love the guy and the fruit shop, but does kinda make the city a bit of a strange place*)
- Chatgpt thinks its getting too studenty
- Daniel / merlin was in Manchester and emerged from a nightclub into a minor bottle fight
- Name is to long and its shortening are cringe (*manny ewwwwww*)
- Tomorrow (*a bristol associate*) says "the people..." (*this is presumably an insult on all of the people, thought hopefully not all of them are bad apples*)
- It has manchester city football team in it (*need i say more*)
- Stella: thinks its like liverpool but s**t and man united havent won the champions league for 17 years
- It has a lot of traffic

As you can quite clearly see, these testimonials all come to the same conclusion, that Manchester is mid af. Please now read this list of 10 cities that I honestly believe are better than Manchester. This list is in no particular order.

Hull	Slough	Blackpool
Stoke-on-Trent	Bradford	Milton Keynes
Luton	Scunthorpe	Grimsby
		Bristol

If elected, I will continue to beef this f***ing awful place, and I will start a submovement within DFs where we can have a safe space to beef manchester (the city not the people).

PS. Anyone that disagrees with this message can lvl me in a game of cookie clicker for all the marbles.

Hazel Willis (18)

"Run for this one. I dare you."

Jonah Yudkin Dibdin (18)

As a newcastle resident, I have only ever been to manchester in order to get a train somewhere else. However I am hoping to use this role to encourage more north of england groups to be involved in DF events and planning.

Eunice Gardham (19)

I am also running for "Manchester Leiasgon". I was there when this role was created. I voted for it. And now I think it is my time to put on the clown nose and become part of this legacy. I am from Manchester, I have a strong interest in news articles about the Mayor of Manchester, I know too much about the Bee Network, I love the Manchester Museum giant spider crab deeply. I think this role really fits me. Further, I would love to make a zine documenting this history to prevent its loss to time, and I think I could do this much better by embodying the role. Also I know of a few new DFs (*and a fair few will age up soon*) in Manchester, so I suppose I could also do Leiasgonly duties and make sure they have the support to get involved in DFs. Maybe. Thank you :) - Eunice

5.3.4 Scottish Liaison

Stella Azurdia-Fraser (17)

I really love being in Woodcraft, and would love to give back as Scottish Liaison. I've put a lot of time into Woodies over the years as Kelvingrove coms, and want to continue to be an active part in the movement, and to make sure Scotland are involved in the organisation of events.

5.3.6 Venturer Committee Liaison

Suzanna Lloyd (17)

I have been on venturer committee since it's revival in 2023 and would like to continue to play a part in ensuring it's continuation, particularly in the run up to V Camp next summer, where venturer input is particularly important.

As someone who struggled with the jump from venturers to DFs, I also want to help ease the transition for other young people, particularly those who may not have very active DF groups in their district, so they feel more confident in knowing what DFs does and how we operate, and in getting involved themselves.

Hazel Willis (18)

This role seems complimentary to DF comms which I am also running for. If another person is voted in for comms I am equally happy to be liaison on its own.

5.3.7 Zine

Lida Agarwal (18)

Hello! I would like to run, or co-run for Zine. I have a big love for collaging, zineing, and all things zine related. I also volunteer at the zine library in glasgow so I have a bit of experience with zine archiving ect. My vision for the DF zine is like a regular newsletter that is both informative and entertaining. With regular sections, a bit like the camp100 newspaper except with less big blocks of text. For instance there could be a woodcraft munch section, a horoscope section, an agony aunt/advice column where people could write in. It doesn't have to be rigid, and should very much encapture the messy, DIY spirit of both DF culture and Zine culture. I said co-run because I think Eunice might be running again and they were really good at it last year, but I would really like to be involved. Also I don't think I could manage to do the whole zine myself. But yeah. Please vote for me xx

Eunice Gardham (19)

Hihi! For the last year I have held the DF zine position, and I would really like the opportunity to continue. I have made a strong start in reviving the zine, making an Althing zine, a zine about helping make the DF zine (*meta*), an Autumn Nocturne zine, and a zine to DF age campers from an external queer org at camp 100, to help them feel prepared and welcomed in advance. I have also run workshops on events, and put together a DF zine library with curated sections by other roles, which I continue to collect for, and am eager to get more woodcraft history in (*see newer additions from camp 100*).

I think I still have more to bring to this role creatively, having learnt new skills working at the camp 100 printing press, and have many more zine ideas. I want to make more event based zines, work with other roles more (*maybe activism?*), and document more DF culture and stories. I also really want to put more focus on the future of the role beyond me. A second term would let me make lots of resources, and fine tune some of the things I struggled with. Distribution was tough for me and I only did it on events, but I have plans to get it online too, working closer with comms. I want to leave behind a clear model of doing things and support for any future zinester to build on, making it much easier, and hopefully reducing the chance of the zine dying again.

I am open to co-running if anyone wants to reach out, but equally I am open to DFs contributing as much as they want to the zine, whether they share the role or not - they could just email to get involved. If I am re-elected my next zine would be 'DF summer 25' and you could send any photo, art or written contributions on that theme to zine@spanthat.world.

Thank you :) - Eunice

6 Musings

6.1 Spring Awakening: Deal or Repeal

Alex (Shadow Treasurer) and Eva (Venturer Committee Liaison) led a discussion on the future of the Spring Awakening event, and how it relates to the new event in October, Autumn Nocturne which ran for the first time in 2023. Spring Awakening was cancelled due to lack of bookings in 2025 and cancelled due to an electrical fault on site in 2024, while Autumn Nocturne has been oversubscribed two years in a row. Althing agreed that we should plan for Spring Awakening to be small - only 20-30 people - so that an appropriate site can be booked and the event is viable.

It was noted that short, large events like Winter Wonderland are consistently our best performing, and this year, the Events team would like to try scaling up Autumn Nocturne. There have been concerns raised that a small event which is oversubscribed is uninclusive, so this change would alleviate that issue. The complex meal that is the centre of Autumn Nocturne programme is only practical at a small scale, which is why Autumn Nocturne has had a limited size, but if the emphasis is instead put on 'ball' programme, the popular formal fancy dress element could be retained.

6.2 50 Miles for 50 Years

This was a new musing which developed over the course of Althing, which discussed an event to mark the 50th anniversary of the DF Movement in 2027 and proposed a 'travelling camp', or one where the participants hike every day and make a new campsite each evening. Participants would travel in small groups and complete a 50 mile route, starting and ending at a base camp. This more adventurous kind of event could function as a fundraiser for DFs. There were suggestions for ways that the wider movement could be encouraged to get involved in challenges around the hiking theme.

6.3 Camp 2027

Later, a musing on DF involvement in a planned anniversary camp in the summer of 2027 was begun. The proposal from former DF Chair Delilah Wallbank was to run a kinsfolk camp inviting many generations of former DFs to celebrate the anniversary. This would be accompanied by a DF-only camp, with an as yet undetermined amount of overlap between the two. Althing was friendly to this proposal, but it was decided that a dedicated meeting with Delilah should be

arranged to discuss the full breadth of plans for the anniversary, including new ideas generated in the musing '50 Miles for 50 Years'.

6.4 Reviewing DF Shift Practice

Wilf (Secretary) introduced a musing to review changes to the way shifts run on DF events over the past year. At all times a number of people on a DF event are designated as responsible people 'on shift', who are identified by hi-vis jackets. They include qualified first aiders, MEST-UP representatives and additional volunteers. The musing focused on these additional volunteers.

They used to be known as 'on-shift coordinators' because they were drawn from the coord team of the event. Since DF Camp 2024, any DF has been able to take on this responsibility. They were temporarily known as 'Orange', after the colour of their hi-vis, and Althing looked for a new name.

'Facilitators of Event Direction and Safety' or 'FEDS', was considered, but rejected because of Althing's discomfort with the reference to policing. The DF movement does not want to integrate the language of anti-democratic and violent institutions into its practices.

'High Vizards' was the proposal ultimately accepted. Althing stressed the importance of induction meetings for High Vizards at the start of events to make their responsibilities clear.

Action #3: A tick box to agree to the On Shift Code of Conduct to be added to the booking form for those who have signed up for shifts.

Action #4: A Rough Guide to Shifts to be written, including full role descriptions for First Aid, MEST-UP and High Vizards

7 Election Results

Nominations were gathered in the week leading up to Althing and nominations closed on Thursday the 14th of August (according to Motion 2023-03). Some nominations were withdrawn and one pair of candidates opted to combine into a joint ticket before voting opened on Saturday the 16th of August. Over 80 votes were cast, approximately three quarters online.

7.1 Committee Roles

Activism Representative – Sumi Inglis
Communications Representative – Angus Crocker & Caitlin Small
Shadow Events Representative – Eva Buultjens-Gold
Events Representative – Nyx Cook-Hayward
Odd Laymember – Meli Wallbank
Safeguarding Representative – Caitlyn McArthur
Secretary of the Movement – Lara Sayers
Shadow MEST-UP Coordinator – Hazel Willis
Training Representative – *Position Removed (See Motion 2025-01)*
Shadow Treasurer – Larry Goodwin
Treasurer – Alex Thompson

Not up for election: Outreach Representative

Vacant: Fundraising Representative, Training and First Aid Representative

7.2 Non-Committee Roles

First Aid Fairy – *Position Removed (See Motion 2025-01)*
General Council Representative (Odd) – Eva Buultjens-Gold
London Liaison – Hazel Willis
Scottish Liaison – Stella Azurdia-Fraser
“Manchester Leiasgon” – Eunice Gardham
Venturer Liaison – Suzanna Lloyd
Zine – Lida Agarwal & Eunice Gardham

Vacant: Big Camps Representative, International Opportunities Representative, Podcast Coordinator, Welsh Liaison

7.3 Supervisory Roles

Sustainability Representative – Rowan Hawker

Vacant: Accessibility Representative