

The Annual



Report

For the year ending 31st March 2009



Making every day an adventure

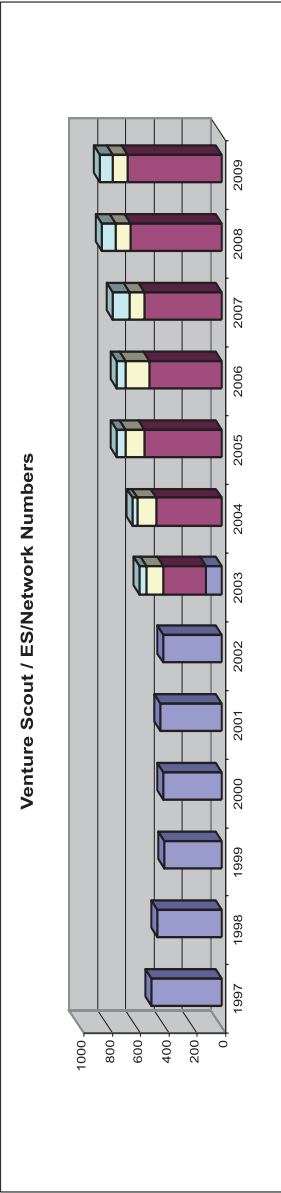
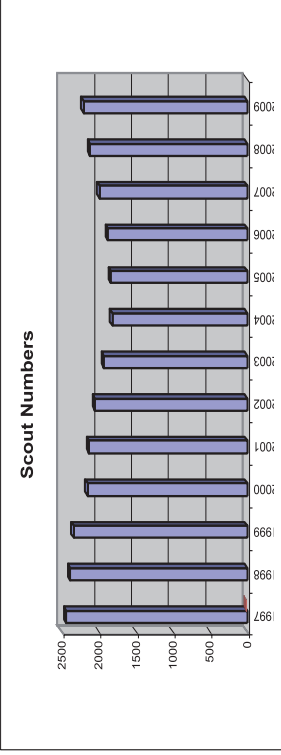
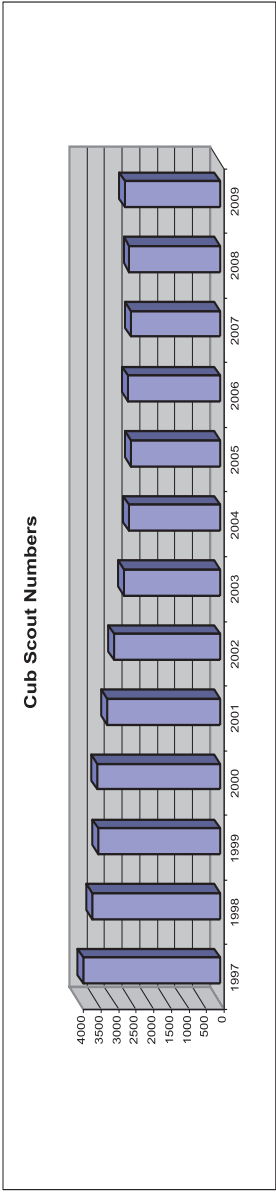
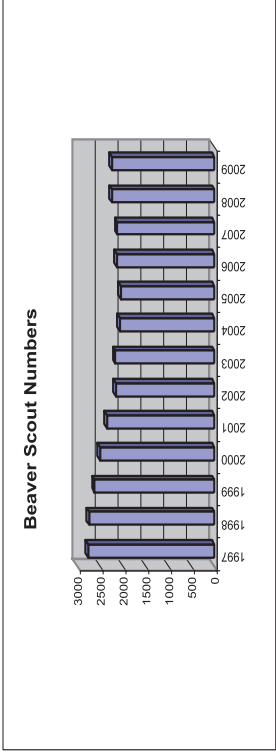


West Lancashire County Scout Council



Comparison by Year

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Diff 08-09
County only people	50	51	33	64	64	108	178	226	226	255	196	223	211	-12
Blackpool	1772	1694	1667	1489	1352	1228	1217	1097	1036	1041	989	1059	1065	6
Chorley	1147	1063	1027	1055	924	840	783	761	721	827	827	944	1023	79
Fylde	1026	956	863	918	889	865	786	764	716	716	763	784	793	9
Lonsdale	1680	1576	1532	1411	1369	1289	1226	1178	1255	1286	1299	1202	1199	-3
Ormskirk	1337	1330	1352	1338	1365	1303	1303	1279	1343	1321	1324	1456	1472	16
Preston	1615	1680	1618	1546	1458	1383	1296	1278	1249	1287	1347	1418	1462	44
South Ribble	1981	1889	1824	1824	1840	1781	1729	1661	1828	1892	1928	2015	2058	43
Wyre	1219	1265	1209	1181	1061	946	917	828	760	722	770	742	778	36
District Totals	11777	11453	11092	10762	10258	9635	9257	8846	8908	9092	9247	9620	9850	230
Number of Groups	189	185	186	182	185	178	163	158	156	154	148	147	145	-2
Beaver Scouts	2780	2748	2630	2516	2364	2167	2175	2068	2061	2134	2131	2259	2246	-13
Cub Scouts	3887	3633	3458	3495	3220	3009	2730	2600	2540	2613	2540	2578	2710	132
Scouts	2445	2388	2343	2158	2133	2053	1932	1818	1840	1882	1992	2124	2207	83
Venture Scouts	491	449	402	412	429	407	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Explorer Scouts							299	459	544	510	540	638	660	22
Scout Network							120	131	131	165	110	106	104	-2
Network Registered Elsewhere							46	37	63	64	113	98	96	-2
Fellowship	203	231	186	206	232	297	189	226	227	205	206	209	229	20
Total Scout County	11827	11504	11125	10826	10348	9742	9435	9072	9134	9347	9443	9843	10061	218



Foreword

The last annual report mainly covered the Centenary year. This report covers the start of the next century of Scouting. I am very happy to report that terrific progress has been made in securing the foundations to build for the future.

It was easy to be enthusiastic about our Centenary celebrations. It generated a great deal of publicity and provided the opportunity for numerous special events. The big test was always going to be whether we could retain the enthusiasm when we got back to providing the regular programme, and indeed whether we could build on the momentum from the previous year.

We had a strategy in place, highlighted in the 2007/8 report. It was great to see the County Team on their weekend away in January this year, tackling the detail of delivering a programme to meet the strategy with the same enthusiasm they had put into the more glamorous task of developing the strategy in the first place. It is right for the County Commissioner in his report to highlight the quality of the programme as a significant reason for the continuing growth in numbers.

The year also saw the start of a major development effort which included the recruitment of two full time Development Officers. Even with the grant from Scout Headquarters and support from elsewhere including a generous donation from our President, this project represents a major investment by the County. The project is rightly given a prominent place in this report and it is showing every sign of being very successful.

It is not just a cash investment however. The good work of the Development Officers would be fruitless without the investment of effort within the Districts and Groups. Thanks and credit must be given to all involved. Please read carefully the centre section of this report on the project. New sections within Groups and even new Groups, including at least one in an area where there has been no previous history of Scouting, will be of great value to the young people who now are benefitting from our support. Getting back over the 10,000 membership mark is an important target met, but it should only be a step onto greater things. While on numbers, do also note in the report that we now have within our County the Scout Group which is the largest in the Country. Congratulations to 5th Penwortham.

While all this has been going on however, another very important part of securing the right foundations for growth has also continued. One of the major targets of the Scout Association, along with growth and the quality of the programme of adventurous activities, is to be a well managed organisation. The County Commissioner in his report makes reference to improvements in administration. In fact he has been a driving force in ensuring that the County is not caught out by gaps or weaknesses in our management practices. Such items range from ensuring we have up to date health and safety policies and practices; obtaining qualification to British Standards on how we manage overseas trips and major events; getting up to date terms of reference for committees; to confirming we have the necessary records and documentation in place to demonstrate our

ownership or leasing arrangements on land and properties and so on. None of this is glamorous, but it is so necessary if we are to avoid being distracted from our main task by having to sort out problems arising from neglected aspects of administration.

You will see this year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), a proposal is being put forward for a specific constitution for our Scout County of West Lancashire. We have always adhered to the guidelines laid down in the Scout Association Policy, Organisation & Rules (POR) as to how we should manage ourselves, but it was recognised in preparing for last year's AGM that we had never formally converted the guidelines into a specific constitution for the County. That work has now been done and comes forward for approval at the AGM. It may appear a dry topic but it is a good example of how gaps in administration can cause extra work. The lack of a formally adopted constitution this year caused a deal of extra correspondence and explanations with the Financial Services Authority in the process of claiming back the money frozen after the collapse of the Icelandic Banks.

The progress made has not only been in filling gaps but also bringing procedures up to date. There have also been great efforts to improve our business processes; updating our computer system leading to changes in how we pay bills; how we authorise and pay expenses as well as how we record our costs and prepare accounts. We have also started on a similar process to improve our HR management processes. The aim of these changes is to make ourselves more efficient and ultimately to make things easier. As in all change however, there is no gain without pain, and it is perhaps an appropriate point to offer our enormous thanks to all our paid staff for their continued efforts to provide an excellent service and their willingness to work at and embrace the changes being made for the long term benefit of the County.

As always we are also indebted to everyone of our volunteers and offer them all our gratitude. I would make mention in particular, though, of two people. Firstly, our President, Lord Wade, who suffered a major heart attack a few months ago. He is recovering well and we offer our best wishes for his continued progress and good health. Secondly, Bernard Pendlebury to whom there was a tribute on the back page of the 2004 Annual report when he retired as our stand in County Commissioner and paid Principal Officer. When he left these roles however, he did not retire from a voluntary commitment but has continued to provide invaluable service as Chair of the Activities Centre Management Board (ACMB). In that role he has overseen a major restructuring of how the campsites have been managed and identified the challenges facing the sites and starting the process of improving facilities. He is stepping down as chair of the ACMB at this AGM and we will therefore also lose him as a member of the County Executive. He has served on the Executive for over 30 years in practically every role except Chairman and we will miss his wisdom and experience. He has been of great help to me personally with his knowledge of the County and his ability to provide background information and offer advice. I, and the County as a whole, owe him a great debt of thanks.

Mike Simpson
County Chairman

County Commissioners Report

Well what a year. In the past couple of reports I have led with commentary about National Scouting milestones and the green shoots of growth and success that have followed. It's heartening this year to be able to speak about some milestones of our own.

- Our membership grew for the 5th successive year to 10,061 which is our largest number since 2001.
- We have more young people in the adolescent age range, our Explorer Scouts, than at any time since 1998.
- We opened 18 new sections and one new group, more than in any year since 1993.

I'm very comfortable to talk about our actual membership so early in this year's report. These are firm indicators about the quality of what we do and the progress we are making, not to mention the underlying health of our Scout County. Of course, Scouting if it is anything is an organisation about people. Young people and adults alike vote with their feet. If they do not enjoy what they are doing or feel the time spent is not valued, we've always found that they leave, or reduce the overall commitment to Scouting. It's therefore very pleasing to see the numbers of adults committing to Scouting grow, and enquiries increase from people interested in joining "The Adventure".

We are not immune to what is happening in society. There is no doubt that there is less money around, and families have to struggle in ways not seen in recent years. A mixture of less disposable income, a litigious society

and a general reluctance to allow young people to learn to manage risk has generated what in some ways I would say is a sad situation. Yet against this backdrop, Scouting is flourishing in a way not seen for some time. Many families have to make choices as to what clubs and activities they can afford for their children, and Scouting offers the very best value for money programme. It's not merely the depth of what we do, and do well, but rather the breadth of opportunities to be experienced in Scouting. We have something for everyone and all of this takes place in an environment designed to encourage young people and instill in them self belief and self discipline. Our support structures ensure that we create a safe environment with adult role models that lead young people by their own example. Our procedures ensure that everything we do is done well, and properly, and with good humour. I'm always delighted to receive comments from community leaders or family members when they speak with genuine pride about "the Scouts" or how impressed they always are about the activities we do and the professional approach we take. I still get asked, "how much do the leaders get paid?" and never cease to take a little pleasure in answering that question. Often the genuine surprise that we are volunteers then leads to a blend of humility and respect from the questioner.

Those of you who know me well will not be surprised that even though I am delighted by what we've achieved over this past few years I remain restless. I've always believed that our movement should have ambition. We have much to be proud of but yet we can do more. When we provide better quality programmes, more adventurous activities, and additional support to our volunteers Scouting flourishes.

Over 10,000 is good, but its high time we breached the



11,000 level, and it mustn't take us too long either. We now have momentum, and enthusiasm, and a desire to offer more young people the opportunity of Scouting. I urge you to reflect on the centre five pages of this report and read about the redoubled efforts we have made to offer more Scouting. This tremendous volume of effort is taking place in all communities across our County. Scouting is returning to places once more, and young people are willing and excited to join whenever we offer it. We've already opened a further 19 sections this year, and more are planned this autumn. We are benefitting from the excellent national media efforts and of course, the profile and enthusiasm of our new Chief Scout, Bear Grylls. It is clear that adults also want to give their time and enjoy Scouting by leading young people. We need to welcome these excited new recruits, and redouble our efforts to make it easy for them to join, and grow into the role they agree to do.



Throughout this year's report you will read detailed and specific examples about the good work we do. Whilst our objective to accelerate growth is clear, our day to day efforts are broad and reflective of the needs to operate our organisation. You will read about some first class work being undertaken to deliver our programme, but also be comforted by our deliberate efforts to concentrate on supporting our adults. I've highlighted the more litigious world



we live in, and to respond to this a considerable amount of work has been completed to strengthen our trusteeship and governance. This broad spectrum of effort continues to be vital to ensure we have a sound operating environment, an ability to retain adult volunteers and a platform from which to offer the very best activities we can. These combine to create a culture where we can grow sustainably. In doing all of this, we have given ourselves a further challenge over these next 24 months. Simply, we must cease to be as insular as we have become and reach out and forge links with other voluntary youth organisations, all faith organisations, statutory authorities and community leaders in Lancashire to shout about what we do, and ask for help. We are, as I've said, not immune to what happens in the world and must ensure we remain relevant and appreciated by society. By building recognition of our work in this way we also believe this will lead to our adult volunteers feeling proud to be in Scouting and the time they give being recognised as valuable to the community which we live in.

I always finish with a word of thanks and this is a tradition I wish to continue. I said last year that West Lancashire Scouts is one very big team effort. Over 2,000 adults give freely of their time, skills, often money, and always their good humour. Family time is sacrificed, other interests are neglected and the housework piles up. I can only hope that all of you take sincere satisfaction that you are giving your time not just to an organisation, but a set of beliefs. You have stood up and are prepared to be counted as someone who wants to see our young people get a better start in life than we did. Rather than just put some money in a collection tin, you give yourself which is far more valuable. A simple word of sincere thanks seems hollow in comparison so as well as saying thank you I offer you this; next time you are at an event take a moment to stand back and look and listen. See the smiling faces and hear the sounds of laughter. After all, that's why we do it.

Carl Hankinson
County Commissioner
West Lancashire Scouts

Our Programme

All too often when speaking externally about Scouting in our County there is a danger that we can undersell the tremendous programme we offer. Audiences are left in no doubt about the endeavours and opportunities young people can enjoy. Terms such as adventure, fun, outdoors, nights away and exciting go some way to describe the reasons why we are successful and the relevance this has to the wider community. All that we do underpins the "Every Child Matters" objectives laid out by Government. Our programme teams strike a noteworthy balance in the activities we offer. They maintain some tried and tested activities, yet seek to tweak them to ensure their relevance. In tandem they are also innovative and try some new ideas, often suggested and delivered by young people themselves. Once again we held a very successful County Programme Team weekend in late October and this gives a key opportunity for sections to plan for the future and ensure some consistency across all of our age ranges.

Cath Hargreaves has just completed her first year as ACC Beaver Scouts and in her usual style has approached the role with enthusiasm and drive. The **Beaver Scout** section has been concentrating on increasing the number of Chief Scout's Bronze awards



Beavers Scouts is the section for boys and girls aged 6 to 8. In West Lancashire we have 2246 Beavers in 143 Colonies

and in this last year 390 of them have been awarded. There is no doubt that this will increase over the coming year as the programme teams seek to support leaders in offering a balanced programme that leads to young people earning this award. It's a delight to see more Colonies offering Beaver Scouts their first opportunity to experience a "Night Away". This is now seen as integral to a successful programme and is a major area of work over the coming year. The

new Beaver Scout Leader training course has received very favourable feedback and this early success is to be built upon over the coming year. Our first joint Beaver Scout & Cub Scout activity – Waddecar Wet and Wild - took place this year and sets an example in encouraging the movement of Beaver Scouts to the Cub Scout section. By the end of 2009 we will have opened 8 new Beaver Scout Colonies in the County and many colonies report an increase in membership. These are exciting times for our Beaver Scout section indeed.

You could hear the shouts of joy from our ACC Cub Scouts Paul Harris when this year, the **Cub Scout** section recorded a near 5% growth in membership, the largest for over 16 years. The County Cub Scout team are delighted that the vibrant programme they



Cub Scouts is the section for boys and girls aged 8 to 10.5. In West Lancashire we have 2710 Cub Scouts in 155 Packs

are encouraging is showing results. This has been a year where outdoors and adventure have been central to the work in the section. Cub Scouts tell us they want to camp, and do outdoor activities. Where these opportunities are offered the section does well. Over 1700 Cub Scouts have taken part in the "Join In Malaysia" Award and the Outdoor Adventure Day held at Great Tower proves to be more popular than ever. To respond to the needs of leaders the Cub Scout Training team has extended the training course for leaders to a full weekend and are considering a further extension to cover more in depth subjects to support our leaders. A tremendous 12 new Cub Scout Packs will be opened in 2009 which demonstrates what an exciting section this is. A key opportunity over the next year is for our existing Cub Scout Packs to find ways of growing their numbers by working towards packs of 24 or even 30 members. Many of our very best Packs operate at this level and find the programme planning actually easier!

After leading our Scout section for 7 years Bill Roberts stood down as our ACC and returned to run his own Troop. We thank Bill for his dedication, flair, leadership and drive that have placed the **Scout**



Scouts is the section for boys and girls aged 10.5 to 14. In West Lancashire we have 2207 Scouts in 138 Troops

section in very good shape. Perhaps it is a fitting testament to him that the 5th year of consecutive growth has resulted in the Scout section having more young people than at any time in the previous decade. Nearly half of the section camped at County Rally where 1,100 Scouts spent an excellent weekend at Waddecar. The Bowlander Hiking competition saw a surge in entries and this has



grown into a major event in recent times. Bill was one of the architects of the Commissioners Challenge so it is no wonder that over 1,000 Scouts have taken part in this year's "Join In Malaysia" Award which offers additional material and ideas to every Troop that takes part. Our Backwoods survival weekend has been revamped and this has proved more popular as a result. Effort has been made right across the County with many Districts improving the programme they offer. Over 120 Chief Scout's Gold Awards have been awarded in the year and this number continues to grow. The very successful County Presentation evenings have been a great occasion for both the Scouts and their families. We have been lucky in attracting some high quality presenters to join us on these occasions. Bill hands the section over to Dave Marsh, our new ACC Scouts and this next year should be more exciting than ever. Dave already has in hand plans for an overseas trip for the section. The momentum is building and 4 new Troops are being opened this year.

Anyone needing an injection of enthusiasm needs to look no further than the **Explorer Scout** section. This section grew by 3.3% last year and this year will open a further 8 sections. Adolescents are joining this section directly, having never been involved in Scouting before. It is the range and variety of opportunities that attract them. Our activity camp in Belgium was well supported once again. The annual mountaineering activities in the Cairngorms & Wales are key on many Explorer Scouts' calendars. Our summer 2008 trip to Canada was an experience many will not forget and as this report is being written, we have Explorer Scouts mountaineering in Italy, departing for a Community Project in Borneo and preparing for an immediate departure on Explorer Belt expeditions to the Baltic States. The programme is first class, there is a healthy social element to the section and we are seeing an increase in Explorer Scouts wishing to complete Chief Scout's Awards. A major note of success is the ever increasing number of 14-



Explorer Scouts is the section for young people aged 14 to 18. In West Lancashire we have 660 Explorer Scouts in 37 Units. Of those 133 are in the Young Leaders scheme



18yr olds who wish to commit more of their disposable time to Scouting by being a young leader with other sections. Over 200 Explorer Scouts choose to do this in addition to other commitments. Our ACC Explorer Scouts Hugh Miller is ambitious and is planning the next challenges. If he can't think of any the County Explorer Scout Forum can, as the Explorer Scouts themselves have great influence over the priorities in this section.

As our **Scout Network** Commissioner, Ian Lonsdale has responsibility for this section and works in partnership with the County Scout Network Committee. We are proud to have so many young adults who still maintain a commitment to Scouting. Many of them are leaders for other sections, and offer some of our very best Scouting. Others live away, and we see them infrequently yet they still wish to be a "Scout". Whichever commitment is made this section offers a blend of adventure and social activities each week. They organise nearly all of these themselves. The largest national event for this section, "The Gathering" is organised by West Lancashire and this Easter over 600 Scout Network members based themselves at Great Tower Scout Camp. Our own Scout Network returned to Linnet Clough last September for their annual Scout Network camp, "Connected" and Park Hall in Chorley played host to the annual Scout Network



Members aged 18 to 25 can opt to join the Scout Network. In West Lancashire we have 112 Network members in addition to the 88 having adult appointments as leaders or assisting in Groups.



Ball in early January. Ian and the team are also concentrating on assisting members to achieve the Queen's Scout Award, our highest training award. Our Scout Network section was given the opportunity to be involved in a national initiative to increase the number of students volunteering with Scouting. After much preparation an open day was held at UCLAN in Preston followed by an activity day at Great Tower. There was much interest and we have recruited some Scout Network members and leaders from this activity. This is now to be rolled out nationally and our Scout Network aim to repeat this in 2010.

It's been a very busy year for Steve Morton, our **ACC International**. Over 200 members of the Scout County travelled abroad, 100 of these as part of our County expedition to Canada. A group of Explorer Scouts attended the National Dutch Jamboree, and planned this entirely themselves. Members of the Scout County visited Kandersteg and others completed their Explorer Belt in Tunisia. Preparation begins early for overseas expeditions and support has been given to various Groups and County trips and in 2009, over 300 people will attend a Scout event overseas. The popular International evening held each September continues to be an opportunity to work with other



organisations such as Save The Children in promoting opportunities for West Lancashire young people. It also acts as a one stop shop for any adult leader or young person who is interested in becoming involved in this exciting aspect of Scouting. To encourage more involvement in Global Activities Steve and the International Team have improved the training module for leaders and this is now being offered on all section specific courses.

Young people tell us that they join Scouting to do **outdoor activities**, so it is encouraging to know that we have a first class activities team in West Lancashire. The usual programme of ski-ing, mountaineering, sailing and all forms of canoeing activities happen annually. We have come to expect a staple diet of these events in our County, and yet many of them are the envy of other Scout Counties. Joe Ashworth has also concentrated on embedding the permit scheme, encouraging the use of the newly launched personal activity permits and strengthening our team of activity assessors. The regular Activities Team meetings are well attended and a good opportunity for all areas to help each other. This in turn has led to more weekly and weekend adventurous activity sessions being held by more Groups and Districts and an ever increasing number of young people participating in these sessions.

Adults in Scouting

In varied ways we have continued to support all adults in our Scout County. The Centenary “bounce” has continued and in recent months this has been replaced by the “Bear bounce” as we are finding more adults wanting to join Scouting in response to the public comments by our new Chief Scout.

Liz McDermott has led our work with adults as our Deputy CC responsible for Adults in Scouting. This wide ranging aspect of our support is vital to the success of Scouting in our County and by combining the various support areas we have seen more consistency in our approach.

Liz also agreed to be our **County Training Manager** for 2 years and during this time has managed to build a complete team of Local Training Managers and Course Directors, a first for us for many years. Our courses have been overhauled and the content and delivery methods on nearly all of them have been updated. Work has begun to recruit a full team of Local Training Administrators. This will ease the maintenance of our training records and ensure the completion of modules is accurately recorded so adults receive their Woodbadge as speedily as possible. A further element of work has been in the area of validating training. Some excellent evenings have been held to validate leaders, and work with Training Advisors to ensure we maintain quality whilst assisting new leaders with progressing through our modular scheme. She leaves our Adult Training team in the capable hands of Fiona Jackson who succeeded Liz a few months ago. Thanks to Liz for all the excellent

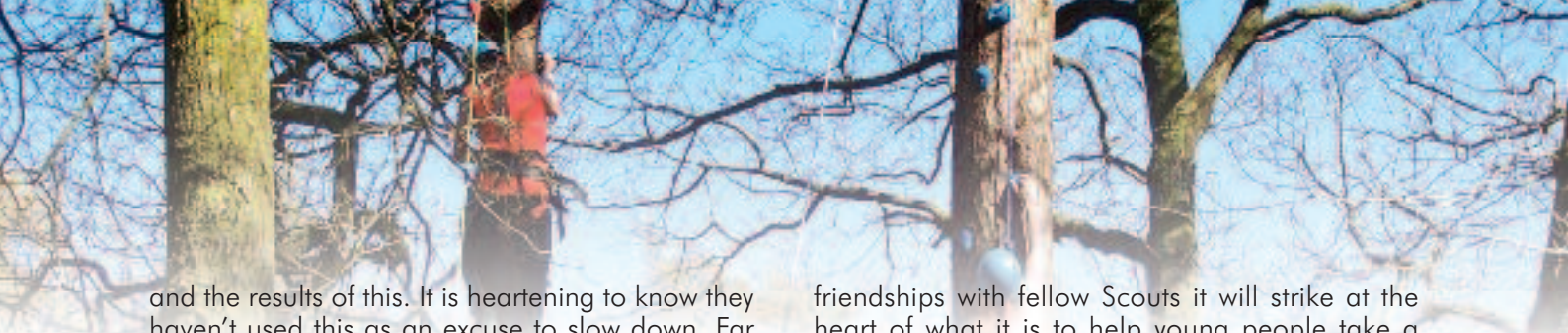


work
she has
done for us.

Val Holland joined the Adults in Scouting team last September as our **Safeguarding Training Manager**. A team of trainers has been recruited within each District. Last September we were pleased to welcome members of the HQ Safeguarding Team who provided a one day course for our new team. This enlarged team allows us to respond more flexibly to the demands of training courses and ad-hoc requests. This is an approach we aim to build upon whilst maintaining good consistency in both the training and advice provided.

We are ever mindful that supporting our adults is more than the required Scout training courses. Ray Hardman has completed his first year in the role of **ACC Adult Support**. The launch of the new Appointments Process nationally has required the delivery of a new module for committee members. Whilst a slice of this concentrated on the requirements of the process, it also presented an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the feel of the appointment committee meeting. For most new adults it is the first occasion they interact with Scouting outside the Group. All DCs have taken an eager interest in the new process to ensure it is relevant and meets the needs of the District. Ray has also concentrated on supporting the key role of the GSL. A series of 12 GSL Masterclasses has been designed for experienced GSLs and every month a topic will be dealt with by an expert in that area. Work has begun to collate relevant resources to provide specific support for GSLs and over this new year this will include a dedicated area on our website. The final area of work occupying time this year has been to revise and expand the MSS training course, specifically designed for managers in Scouting. It has always received good feedback but certain topics have not been delved into enough given time constraints. The improved two weekend course will be launched this autumn. Many Districts have been very successful in recruiting GSLs and so the requirement for this support has increased tremendously.

As this report is being written the **Scout Fellowship** are eagerly awaiting news about the national review



and the results of this. It is heartening to know they haven't used this as an excuse to slow down. Far too many events in our County would not happen without the dedicated support of Scout Fellowship members. In a desire to build on success the County Scout Fellowships held a Development Day at Myerscough College in October. Over 50 Scout Fellowship members from all eight Districts and the 1st Waddecarr attended. Views and ideas were shared, as were offers of help and skills. It provoked thoughts about actively supporting front line Scouting and welcoming new members to enjoy the friendship and fun that is clearly alive and well in Scout Fellowship. After 6 years at the helm David Wilkinson stands down as our ACC. He has done a tremendous job and we thank him. Pleasingly he will not be lost to Scouting as he continued as a DDC in Lonsdale. Given the impending news and expected changes to this section it did not seem sensible to replace David and we are delighted that Cyril Crossley has agreed to lead Scout Fellowship as our County Scout Fellowships' chairman.

Thankfully not all of our efforts have been to support uniformed adults. A small team led by Tony Andrews has begun to offer **Trustee Training** and ad-hoc sessions for Group committee members have been held by various Districts and supported by County members. Where we work with Groups to develop them it is clear that a functioning Group Committee is vital to allow the GSL to concentrate on the Scouting. With this in mind, this area of our support will grow over the coming years.

We are proud of the work we do to support our adults but in tandem with this we are always keen to ensure we show we value our adults. The 2nd Founder's Feast was held in February where over 280 adults enjoyed an excellent meal and swing band. Many Districts hold a form of social event to thank people and enjoy each other's company. A significant number of our adults have been recognized by the Scout Association for their length of good service. There is no doubt that Scouting is a great hobby for us all and West Lancashire is a tremendous place to enjoy it.

Major Events Group

Some time ago we reaffirmed our belief that being part of the largest youth organisation in the world provided us with an almost unique opportunity to encourage our members to travel and meet Scouts in other Countries. We believe that if we can celebrate what we have in common and build

friendships with fellow Scouts it will strike at the heart of what it is to help young people take a constructive part in society. Over the past two years under the leadership of our ACC Expeditions Dick Griffiths we have developed a Major Events Group. This small team has devised a long term overseas expedition programme which has been approved by the County Team. This allows us to offer a potent mix of adventure, Global Scouting, Cultural and Community Opportunities. In recent times they have acted as both the catalyst and governance for our expeditions to Greenland, Canada, the Ardennes, the Dutch Explorer Belt and this year's Dolomites Expedition, Community Project in Malaysia, and the Baltic Explorer Belt. The first few months of effort for Red Rose 2010 were led by this team. A further innovation in April was our first support day held for leaders of overseas trips. 25 people spent the day at Chorley Dist HQ and were provided with needed guidance and encouragement to ensure more Groups and Districts seek to lead their own trips to complement the ones already offered by the Scout County. These trips carry with them potential associated risks and to reassure our Executive, the families of participants and to provide the best quality, our County decided to work towards BS8848, the Overseas Venture Standard. This has required a tweaking of our procedures in preparation for the assessment. I'm delighted to say we passed and West Lancashire is now the only area of Scouting in the UK that complies with this nationally recognised industry standard.

Media Development

Often in West Lancashire one of our failings is that we are so busy delivering Scouting that we forget to shout about it. Our Media Development Manager, Debbie Mather, has been carefully putting together a team to ensure our good work does not go unnoticed. Thanks must also go to the DCs for the work they have done to find a MDM in the Districts. The first meeting of Young Spokespeople was held in January and a weekend in September is planned for them. Two of our young spokespeople, Andrew King & Jade Whittle met Bear Grylls in April at Youldbury Scout Camp. Debbie has also been working to achieve a rolling list of press releases that will provide media contacts with high quality stories. Our improved links with radio stations have resulted in many requests for us to be involved with programmes. The appointment of the new Chief provided us with a golden opportunity to raise the awareness of Scouting and this was embraced right across our County.

Supporters of Scouting

One of our main goals in Scouting is

“to help young people to get the most out of life to become better citizens”

Although we are one of the largest voluntary uniform youth organizations both nationally and here in Lancashire, we could never achieve as much as we do unless we work as part of the community in partnership. Business, industry and Charitable Trusts are the main groups we thank for their support which ranges from free use of facilities, to professional advice and expertise either at no charge or at discounted rates. We thank particularly Charitable Trusts for the grant aid they have provided which has been used to help the young people whilst they are in our charge.



We wish to acknowledge publically all these bodies for their support in the past which we hope will continue in the future. They include:

Lancashire County Council

Lancashire Police

Masonic Province of West Lancashire

Garfield Weston Charitable Trust

Enterprise Ventures Ltd

High Adventure Ltd

Young Explorer Trust

Charles Parker Bennett

Hothersall Lodge

Myerscough College

Kirkham Grammar School

Salvation Army Citadel at Blackpool

for grant funding and use of facilities

for use of facilities

for grant aid

for grant aid

for grant aid and expertise

for use of equipment & provision of instructors

for advice and encouragement

for discounted property management

for discounted use of facilities

for use of facilities

for use of facilities

for use of facilities

Finally, we would like to thank all our local **Members of Parliament** in supporting us so actively in the Scout Associations' campaign known as "Stop the Rain Tax". This relates to the regulator Ofwat's attempt to change the method of assessing surface water drainage which would have had significant adverse financial implications for churches, community centres and Scout huts. Whilst we have had some limited success, the campaign goes to ensure the original assessment based on rateable value remains and our MP's have pledged their continuing support.





Across the County, the last year has certainly been an exciting time for development. We have seen our membership numbers rise steadily in the last few years and this year, we exceeded 10,000 members. This is a great achievement and only possible because of the hard work, commitment

Developing Growing on

and dedication shown by our adults. We shouldn't be complacent however, with nearly 400 young people recorded on our waiting lists at census – there is still much to do to accommodate the demand for Scouting in West Lancashire.

There is no shortage of young people who want to join Scouting with 400 'Want to Join' enquiries received in 2008; and the demand continues to grow in 2009 with 329 enquiries received in the first 7 months of the year

Welcome to Scouting in West Lancashire...

In 2008, we opened 18 new sections across the County, including a new Scout Group.

Chorley

Trinity Methodist – NEW Scout Troop

Fylde

7th Lytham St Anne's – NEW Beaver Colony

17th Lytham St Anne's – NEW 2nd Cub Pack

Fylde District –

NEW Explorer Scout Unit (Lytham St Annes)

Lonsdale

1st Halton - NEW Beaver Colony

1st Overton (St Helen's) - NEW Cub Pack and Scout Troop

11th Morecambe & Heysham – NEW 2nd Cub Pack (Morecambe Road School)

23rd Lancaster (Christ Church) –

NEW Scout Troop

Ormskirk

9th Ormskirk (3rd Aughton) –

NEW 2nd Beaver Colony

46th Ormskirk (Mawdesley) - NEW Scout Troop

55th Ormskirk (Skelmersdale Ecumenical)

NEW 2nd Beaver Colony (Little Digmaor)

60th Ormskirk (St Stephen's in the Banks) –

NEW Scout Troop

Preston

Avenham Central –

NEW Group – Beaver Colony and Cub Pack

1st Broughton - NEW 3rd Cub Pack

South Ribble

1st Hoghton (Holy Trinity) –

NEW 2nd Beaver Colony

Wyre

Wyre District –

NEW Explorer Scout Unit (Myerscough)

In 2009, so far we have opened 14 new sections across the county, including 3 new Scout Groups and we have another 19 new sections planned by the end of the year.

Blackpool

56th Blackpool (Park School) –

NEW Group - Cub Pack

Chorley

Chorley District – NEW 2 Explorer Scout Units (Eccleston and Euxton)

Fylde

1st Lytham St Anne's (Sea Scouts) –

NEW Beaver Colony

Lonsdale

Lonsdale District –

NEW Explorer Scout Unit (Scotforth)

Ormskirk

17th Ormskirk (1st Skelmersdale) –

NEW Beaver Colony

51st Ormskirk (Upholland St Thomas) –

NEW Beaver Colony

Preston

1st Ashton – NEW Group – Beaver Colony

1st Barton – NEW Group – Cub Pack

South Ribble

1st Walton le Dale (St Leonard's) –

NEW 2nd Beaver Colony

South Ribble District –

NEW Explorer Scout Unit (Leyland)

Wyre

1st Pilling –

NEW Group – Beaver Colony and Cub Pack

Wyre District –

NEW Explorer Scout Unit (Stalmine)

Thank you to everyone involved in getting these new sections up and running – it's a tremendous achievement!

Development Our County

alone. And it's not all about youth membership with 21% of the enquiries received from adults who were interested in volunteering. In part this may be due to the increased publicity Scouting has received, both locally and nationally, since the announcement of Bear Grylls appointment as the new Chief Scout. In fact, almost half of this year's enquiries have been received in the 2 months since the announcement. So it's vital that we find ways to involve these youngsters, and adults, in Scouting as soon as we can to ensure we continue to grow.

Our County Development Officers, Barbara Hughes and Carolyn Kirkham have completed the first year of



In October 2008, we opened a new Group in the Avenham area of Preston. This is a culturally diverse area of the city, with no other Scout Groups in the local area. With the support of the local community and the commitment of the new leaders Beavers and Cubs have been established and numbers are steadily growing. So far in 2009, we have opened 4 new Groups across the County with Beavers established at 1st Ashton, Preston; Cubs up and running at 1st Barton, Preston with Beavers opening in the autumn; Beavers and Cubs in Pilling, Wyre, and Park School in Blackpool opening a Cub Pack. There are also 3 more new Groups in the pipeline for the autumn in Blackpool, Chorley and Wyre.

Throughout the County in 2008, we opened 18 new sections which included 6 Beaver Colonies, 5 Cub Packs, 5 Scout Troops and 2 Explorer Scout Units. This was a tremendous result and my thanks must go to everyone involved in getting these sections up and running. 2009 continues these fantastic results, as we have already opened 14 new sections and have a further 19 planned before the end of the year. It's exciting to see that our growth isn't just at Group level with 5 new Explorer Scout Units opening in Chorley, Lonsdale, South Ribble and Wyre, and a further 2 units planned for Lonsdale before the end of the year.

We have also seen an increase in Groups establishing multiple sections in 2008 / 2009. At census we had 13 groups in the County who



their contract. It's been an interesting journey for them and the project team, as the project has evolved to meet the needs of the individual Districts and Groups they are supporting. We now have 5 clear goals for what we want to achieve by the end of the 3 year term and after what seemed to be a slow start, projects are (in most cases) flying along. The work they do is complemented by the work of our District Teams who have played a vital part in helping new adults find their feet and ensuring new sections are up and running as quickly as possible. In addition, some Districts are busy driving projects of their own and this has boosted the number of new Groups and sections opened this year.

Goal 1 - to open 74 new youth sections across the County

This can be broken down into a number of different areas from establishing new Groups and Explorer Scout Units where there is no existing provision; opening new sections where there is a gap in the 6-14 provision in a group; and opening multiple sections within a Group to increase the opportunities available for young people to join us. Already we are seeing a big impact in this area and are well on the way to achieving the target.



had at least one or more second sections in Beavers, Cubs or Scouts, and this has increased since the start of the year. I must give a special mention to two of our Groups who continue to go from strength to strength. 1st Broughton in Preston opened their third Cub Pack at the start of the year; and plan to open their third Scout Troop in the autumn. Well done to David Simpson and all the leaders at the Group who have worked so hard to make this happen.

Congratulations go to 5th Penwortham Scout Group in South Ribble who became the largest Scout Group in the Country in 2009. With 250 young people recorded at census, across 3 Beaver Colonies, 3 Cub Packs and 3 Scout Troops, 76 adult leaders and supporters, and 24 young leaders working across the Group. What a fantastic achievement by Mike Sullivan and his team. So what is their key to success? Mike's approach is simple - providing great Scouting, never turning young people away and asking each and every adult how they can support the Group.

Goal 2 - supporting 30 Groups, where support is vital for the Group to grow

Development is not all about growing Scouting in new Groups, units and sections. It is also vital we support existing Groups to ensure they grow and continue to provide Scouting in our local areas. There are many reasons why we might need to support existing Groups, they may not have the skills, experience or more importantly the time available to carry out school recruitment; they may have suddenly lost adults leaders through retirement, change of circumstance or ill health and have no idea how to go about asking people to help. Whatever the reason, sitting down and sharing the problem with someone who can help is often the first step to fixing it.

This is what one GSL had to say about the support she had been given:

"The Development Officer has been a star and without her help and support we wouldn't be this far along, her people skills are excellent as she puts people at ease and encourages them without being full on. She has helped me with every step of the open night and put my nerves and worries at ease, and it has worked. Her quiet encouragement and support are great and any struggling Groups should not be embarrassed about asking for help."

Goal 3 - creating a lasting legacy of development in the County

A key part of the development project is to ensure that all our leaders can share the knowledge and best practice approaches that are established in the 3 year term. George Lowe and Jim Hunter are leading a new development forum that will bring together District, County and Regional Development Officers to share their experiences, resources and knowledge and ensure local



volunteers have all the information they need to progress their own projects. In addition, Barbara and Carolyn have supported a number of workshops at District and County level designed to share development ideas and approaches with our adults.

A new development website has also been launched (www.development.westlancashirescouts.org.uk) and already contains a wide range of material to support development work from: downloadable posters, leaflets and flyers; development planning tools and tips on how to use them; and development funding application forms. We have invested in County banners, sails and play parachutes to use at local recruitment events and these can be booked online. Barbara and Carolyn also share project updates on the website and quarterly newsletter. These show the planning and groundwork they undertake, approaches to recruitment and a review of how successful the approach has been. As we move forward, these will be used to create case studies to help Groups with their own development plans.

You can also view a Google Map of all our Group and unit locations on the website. This will help potential members identify where and when we provide Scouting in their area. We are also working with other organisations such as Lancaster County Council and the volunteer service to see how they can use the maps when talking to potential adult volunteers.

Goal 4 - undertake and develop 3 strategic projects that support the recruitment of adults in the County

Adult recruitment is the key driver to the County development project. We have identified 3 areas of focus: recruiting parents into Scouting; recruiting ex-leaders back into Scouting and recruiting from large employers, where we plan to test approaches and establish a successful process that can be used by Groups and Districts across the county.

Goal 5 - recruit 200 new adult leaders across West Lancashire

We hope that with the combined approach of recruiting adults through the local projects, as part

of one of our strategic approaches, or even through targeted recruitment events that we will exceed our goal of 200 new adult leaders. This much needed boost will support our existing leadership teams, allow us to grow our Scouting in new places and continue our journey to bring 'better Scouting for more young people'.

The Year Ahead

Our challenge as we head into 2010 is clear, we must maintain the drive and enthusiasm to grow that we are seeing across our 8 Districts. It has been amazing to see the positive response each District has had to the County Development Plan. This has been demonstrated in many different ways from Districts driving their own development plans to our adults pulling together to support projects at neighbouring Groups. With the passion for



Scouting that exists among our leaders and supporters, 2010 promises to be another exciting year.

17th Lytham St Anne's Scout Group (Fylde)

The 17th Lytham St Anne's was a thriving Group with 2 Beaver Colonies (52 Beavers) when Susan Beardwood (GSL) spoke with Les Martin (DC) in October last year. Their only problem was they were unable to offer places for all the Beavers moving up into Cubs, as numbers were already healthy with 27 regularly attending.

The existing Cub Scout leadership team, 5 leaders and 2 pack assistants met with the GSL and decided that the best approach to resolve the issue quickly would be to run 2 Cub Packs back to back. They were unable to run on any other night as there was no availability at their HQ. The leaders met with Mike Smith (ADC Development) and Carolyn in November to talk through the suggested approach and examine the pros and cons of how it would work. The main concern was the extra work for the same leaders, but they decided to continue with 1 Akela and 1 team, who split between early and late Pack meetings or do both if they wish.

In January, the second Cub Pack opened and the Cubs divided quite naturally between the 2 packs with approx. 15 Cubs in each. Numbers continue to rise in both Packs as the Beavers move up. The Packs meet one after the other with one starting at 5:00pm and the other at 7:00pm, with a short break in between. They use the same programme for both sessions, although they do slightly adjust it as they go along.

The leadership team are excited they have been able to offer Scouting to more young people, by running the second Cub Pack in this way. However, regular reviews are in place with the team to make sure they stay happy with this approach.

1st Walton le Dale (St Leonard's) Scout Group (South Ribble)

When Mark Bamber (GSL) and Tony Dunne (AGSL) first contacted the project team last October the Group had a thriving Beaver Scout Colony with 20 Beavers and a waiting list of 17 young people, who were all already 6 years old. The existing BSL ran a very good programme, but only had support from a parent rota and a couple of young leaders. The Group's priorities were twofold, first to recruit an additional leader for the existing Colony and then to recruit leaders to open a 2nd Colony.

Barbara met with the Group and agreed an approach of inviting all the waiting list young people to the Group's Carol Concert in December, followed by an invitation to an Open Night in January. Barbara contacted all the parents on the waiting list to check address details and let them know what was being planned, during each call every parent was asked if they would be interested in helping out with the Group. Initially 10 parents said they would help out in some way, from occasional helpers to 3 people who were interested in being leaders.

At the open night in January, Mark welcomed everyone, told them a little bit about the Group and what we were hoping to do. The potential new Beavers tried out some games and simple craft activities with the existing leaders from the Group. The parents were asked to stay for the night, some mucked in and

helped out and others just had a good look at what Beavers was all about. By the end of the night, 4 adults had committed to being a leader, including 1 with the existing Colony. Another had committed to being a Colony Assistant and we had interest from a few others in being part of the parent rota.

The following week, a meeting was held with adults interested in taking an appointment, paperwork was completed, welcome packs given out, training discussed and a date was set for the first Colony meeting.

The new Colony opened at the beginning of February, it has 17 regular Beavers, 4 leaders and a team of 7 parents on a rota. They have been supported by the ADC BS and the new leaders have completed the Getting Started training and have been validated. Their enthusiasm for running Beavers is amazing and the Beavers have even completed several badges.

1st Pilling Scout Group (Wyre)

The Scout Group in Pilling closed some years ago and one resident Elaine Robinson (President of Girlguiding in Lancashire West) felt it was time Scouting was available to young people in the village once more. Elaine had spoken to Carl on a number of occasions and by the time the County Development Officers had been recruited, Pilling was on the list of things to do! Carolyn met with Elaine in December 2008 to agree a way forward and work began on getting ready for the project. The local Minister agreed the new Group could use the Church Hall and Carolyn began work promoting Scouting in the local schools and inviting adults and children along to an open night in March.

At the open night, 48 young people came along to see what Scouting had to offer them and 7 adults came forward to be leaders. Elaine's husband Rod even agreed to be GSL! Beavers and Cubs started in April, with numbers steadily increasing each week. The Group have a Scout Troop planned for 2010 and they already have a waiting list to join.

1st Forton (Duchy) Scout Group (Lonsdale)

Scouting in the village of Forton, south of Lancaster has been in decline for many years. The Group consisted of a fairly small Cub Pack when Barbara first met with them, Beavers having closed 2 years ago and Scouts last meeting in 1999 due to a lack of adult support. Despite their size, the Pack was very active under the leadership of Cub Leader, Christine Dickinson and a very effective parent rota.

Barbara met with David Wilkinson (DDC), John Nelson (GSL) and Christine back in April to discuss how the project could help them. Priorities were agreed as: additional leaders for Cubs; establishing a Group Exec; opening a Beaver Scout Colony; with plans for a Scout Troop further down the line. The Group agreed to run an open night at the end of June with support from the District Team and Barbara would take on the promotional work needed to get people to come along.

Claire Hill (ADC BS) and Pat Armstrong (ADC CS) met with the Group to plan the activities for the open night. Craft, face painting, musical instrument making and tin can cooking were just some of the activities on offer and leaders from around the District were recruited to come and run the activities on the evening. Meanwhile, Barbara visited 7 rural village schools in the area, where pupil numbers ranged from 21 to 182 and told the children about Scouting and the open night. Articles were placed in village newsletters and websites and posters displayed in the area. Ex leaders and members were also approached to see if they would consider getting involved again.

At the open night, 60 children came along with their parents to see what Scouting had to offer. The heavens opened, activities were confined to the small Scout Hut but everyone managed to squash inside (just!). While the children took part in the activities, parents were approached to see how they would be able to support the Group.

The night was a tremendous success and so far, paperwork has been completed for 3 new Cub leaders, 2 Beaver leaders and a Scout leader. 18 new Cubs start in September, taking the pack to 28 Cubs; plans are underway for Beavers to open by the end of September and there are already 28 children registered to join; and with 11 young people registered for Scouts and another potential leader in the wings, Scouts won't be far behind. In addition, many parents have offered to support the Group as part of the Exec, looking after the building and fundraising. It's early days yet for this project, but things are really beginning to look good for Scouting in Forton.

Adult Awards

(1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009)

Congratulations to all the following who's outstanding service was recognised

ST GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS - APRIL 2008

SILVER WOLF

Anthony Andrews	County
Stanley Hockney	Fylde
Barrie Bevan	Wyre

BAR TO THE SILVER ACORN

John Lawson	County
Christine Fitton	Blackpool
David Hunter	South Ribble
Dorothy Hunter	South Ribble

SILVER ACORN

Bill Davison	County
Ray Hardman	County
Carolyn Kirkham	Blackpool
Irene Wheatley	Blackpool
Philip Wheatley	Blackpool
John Barnes	Fylde
Kenneth Cunliffe	Ormskirk
Susan Goldstraw	Ormskirk
Derek Rigby	Ormskirk
Monica Holdsworth	Preston
Margaret Allison	South Ribble
Delia McMahon	South Ribble

OTHER AWARDS DURING THE YEAR (1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009)

SILVER ACORN

Frank Barlow	Preston
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BAR TO THE AWARD FOR MERIT

Anthony Pilling	County
Cecil Barker	Fylde

AWARD FOR MERIT

Joe Ashworth	County	Norma Bracegirdle	Blackpool
Phillip Mather	Blackpool	Agnes Wilson	Blackpool
Christine Byers	Fylde	Ivy Cooper	Fylde
Geoffrey Currie	Fylde	Denis Harrison	Fylde
Jean Draper	Ormskirk	Annette Marshall	Ormskirk
Ann Molyneux	Ormskirk	Elizabeth Roberts	Ormskirk
Andy Acklam	Preston	Alan Campbell	Preston
Brenda Hall	Preston	Andrew Angus	Wyre
Sharon Campbell	Wyre	Allan McNeal	Wyre

Activity Centres Management Board (ACMB)

2008 – 2009 has been an excellent year at West Lancashire's Camping and Activity Centres despite some awful weather during the main summer camping season. One consolation of the bad weather is that we were all able to appreciate the true value of the wet weather facilities we have built up over the last twenty years. However many young people who had been looking forward to spending their main summer camp outdoors were somewhat disappointed.

The overall number of people using our Centres has increased largely due to some very well organised major events. These have attracted large numbers of participants and the quality of these events bodes well for the future. A further trend has been the steady increase in the number of day visitors attending events which have not entailed sleeping overnight. A few years ago we carried out some work to encourage this type of use based on good information received from one of our volunteers who had spent a summer in the USA as a staff member on what they describe as "day camps". We have developed these by building round a number of themes and although this trend has been welcomed we are still pleased that a good number of groups continue to organise their own Cub Pack holidays, Troop camps and Explorer Scout expeditions using our Centres as the venue. Beaver Scout sleepovers are a marvellous experience for the young people who are given the opportunity to participate however the growth in this type of activity has slowed.

This last year has seen some much needed updating of the infrastructure at our Centres. Some of this has been due to facilities approaching the end of their sell by date but a good deal of renovation is being carried out in preparation for 2010 when Great Tower in particular will be hosting a number of major events. The numbers being bandied about would without doubt push our facilities to the limit. A huge part of this work along with a good level of involvement in the development of our Centres is being carried out by our various teams of volunteers. West Lancashire has been unique over many years in attracting a steady flow

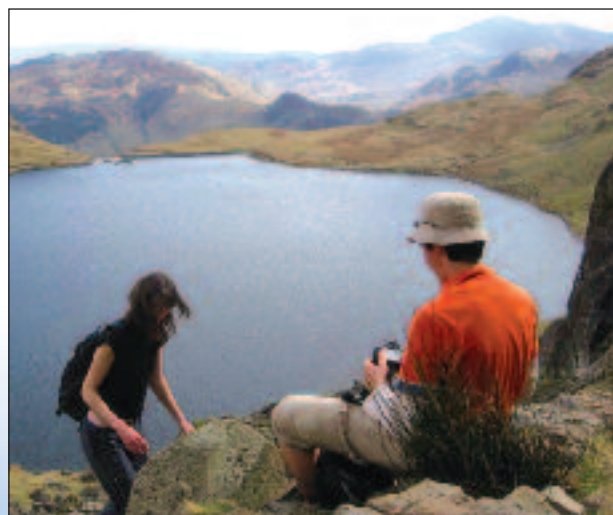
of people prepared to give freely of their time and talents which has allowed the speed of development to proceed much faster than it would have done if we had found it necessary to bring in contractors on every occasion. Our thanks go to these people and hopefully an initiative to reform 99th Waddecarr to help staff courses and activities at the Centres will be met with the same enthusiasm.

The office and its staff has continued to be central to the smooth running of the sites from the initial enquiry to the final thank – you. The office staff has provided a first class service which has gone way beyond the 9 – 5 Monday to Friday commitment that society tends to expect from employees in other situations; that is definitely not the case with our staff and the County Office serves the County Scout Council well.

At the time of writing this report we are looking forward to yet another busy season. The good weather we enjoyed at Easter this year has allowed preparation work to proceed in restoring the sites to a good standard following what was by any measure a poor winter as far as weather was concerned.

Bernard Pendlebury

Chair Activity Centre Management Board



General Purposes (GP)

In the Information Technology (IT) sphere, much effort has been devoted to resolution of the broadband service to the County Office. The reliability problem was resolved by changing from a fixed land line to a satellite based system which increased the previous access speeds. There has been a significant increase in demand for broadband services because of accountancy links with banks and also more personnel operating in the office. In the future there is a prospect of an 'on line' booking system which will mean more development is needed in this area. Over the past year we have updated the County's IT equipment to enable the successful introduction of the latest SAGE accountancy package.

The Asset Management system is essentially complete and operational providing a useful tool for insurance valuations as well as identification of the location and availability of, for example, activity and camping equipment owned by the County. This will allow us to monitor the useful life of such equipment identifying write offs and budgeting for replacements. It is hoped that general access via the web site will encourage wider use of such assets.

Archive rationalisation is ongoing as is the close monitoring of our insurance needs. A County based policy to cover un-named casual helpers has been identified and is available to District and Groups. Work has just started on a "business continuity" plan intended to give solutions and actions to allow County and Campsite operations to continue should any incidents such as a major fire, power failure or loss of phone access occur.

It would be wrong not to include in this report our thanks to the members of this committee for the hard work and commitment which is in addition to their other Scouting roles and full time employment. Although not in the mainstream of recognised Scout activities, their efforts have helped to keep the administration systems working well.

Roger Mason

Chair of General Purposes

Treasurers Report

It has been a dreadful year for financial markets, one of the most turbulent periods on record during which the entire banking system at one point stood on the verge of near collapse. Over this disastrous period the portfolio fell back by 23.5%, against a 31.1% fall in the FTSE 100 and a 17.6% decline in the FTSE APCIMS Balanced Index.

Although the portfolio has a broad spread of assets

no amount of diversification would protect against the scale of selling that occurred in the final four months of 2008. We should also remember that at our year end of 31st March, the FTSE was at one of its lowest points and since then has begun its recovery. This gives a little confidence that over the coming few years we will recover some of these paper losses on our portfolio.

During the year WLCSC purchased the 15% share of the properties previously owned by Cumbria County Scout Council for £119,250. This amount was agreed based upon the valuations conducted by the County's property advisors, Charles Parker Bennett, in February 2008.

By completing this "buy-out" the County has been released from a cumbersome trust arrangement and this places us in a much better position as we are now sole owner of the properties. This leaves us free to make our own decisions with regard to the properties, whilst acting in the best interest of the County. Now we are sole owners we are currently in the process of registering all of the properties with the Land Registry to remove any future complications that could arise. These properties still remain a sound investment for the County and generate solid returns. Certainly in the current economical climate the returns we enjoy from them exceed what could be achieved in either investments or cash at the bank.

The Charity has once again received significant grants from various sources including Lancashire County Council, The Scout Association and The Forestry Commission. The Trustees would like to express their thanks to these and all the other grant donors as they are providing the necessary funding to maintain the current activity levels.

The County had £144,356 on deposit with Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander Limited, a UK subsidiary of an Icelandic banking group, which went into Administration in October 2008. The County has lodged a claim for the full amount with both the Administrators and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme ("FSCS"). WLCSC has received subsequent correspondence from both of these bodies and the trustees are responding to requests for further information as appropriate. As at the date of signing these financial statements no monies have been received from either the Administrators or the FSCS in respect of the claim.

The Trustees value the contribution made to the Charity by both its paid and volunteer staff and considers that good communications and relationships with its people and its members to be very important and makes relevant information available to all. The success of the Charity can only be put down to its people, uniformed and non-uniformed leaders, supporters and of course its young people. THANK YOU ALL.

Cath Joyce

County Treasurer

Summary Financial Statement

Summarised Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2009

	2009 £	2008 £
Incoming resources		
Donations and grants	71,561	17,702
Activity centres income	502,289	465,948
Surplus on membership subscriptions	3,550	3,674
Expeditions & Adventurous Activities	87,535	209,392
Scouting activities, training & sections	89,451	82,968
Other income	3,356	2,368
Rental and investment income	76,835	64,419
Interest	12,220	23,663
	<u>846,797</u>	<u>870,134</u>
Resources expended		
Staff costs	181,397	142,859
Costs of generating funds	11,110	20,846
Activity centres operating costs	280,302	233,999
Depreciation and profit on sale	28,427	22,656
Expeditions & Adventurous Activities	87,300	209,576
World Scout Youth Event and other events	8,000	7,000
Scouting activities, training & sections	102,659	95,928
Management, administration and other costs	59,356	42,908
	<u>758,551</u>	<u>775,772</u>
Net incoming resources for the year	88,246	94,362
<i>Revaluation of investment assets:</i>		
Gains on investment properties	-	103,700
(Losses)/gains on listed investments	(259,153)	(104,708)
	<u>(170,907)</u>	<u>93,354</u>
Net movement in funds	(170,907)	93,354
Total funds brought forward	2,565,263	2,471,909
	<u>2,394,356</u>	<u>2,565,263</u>
Total funds carried forward	2,394,356	2,565,263

Summarised Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009

	2009 £	2008 £
Fixed assets (inc rental properties)	1,296,213	1,077,018
Listed investments	721,788	967,199
	<u>2,018,001</u>	<u>2,044,217</u>
Current assets	591,079	657,244
Less: Current liabilities	(214,724)	(136,198)
Net current assets	376,355	521,046
Net assets	<u>2,394,356</u>	<u>2,565,263</u>
Funds		
General	70,715	81,004
Designated	2,306,411	2,467,553
Restricted	17,230	16,706
	<u>2,394,356</u>	<u>2,565,263</u>

Statement of the Trustees

The Trustees report and financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 16 July 2009. They will be submitted to the Charity Commission after the Annual General Meeting.

The full Trustees' report, audit report and financial statements, which contain the full details of the financial affairs of the charity as at 31 March 2009, may be obtained from;

The County Secretary
West Lancashire County Scout Council
Waddecar Scout Activity Centre
Snape Rake Lane, Goosnargh
Preston, Lancashire, PR3 2EU

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

CA Joyce ACCA
County Treasurer

MA Simpson
County Chair

Independent Auditor's Report

We have examined the charity's summary financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2009. This report is made solely to the trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act and SORP 2005. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report or the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees report and annual financial statements. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statement with the annual financial statements.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with bulletin 2008/03 "The auditors' statement on Summary Financial Statements" issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the UK.

Opinion

In our opinion the summary financial statement is consistent with the trustees report and annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2009 and complies with the applicable requirements of the Charities Act and SORP 2005.

McMillan & Co
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors
28 Eaton Avenue, Matrix Office Park, Buckshaw
Village, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 7NA

1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009

COUNTY PRESIDENT

The Lord Wade of Chorlton KT

COUNTY VICE PRESIDENTS

Baroness Josie Farrington of Ribbleson

Roy Fisher MBE, JP, DL

Mrs Jean Frew

Mr Tom Frew

Mr Bill Hargreaves

Mr Colin Ovenden MBE

Mr Eric Thompson Dip Arch, RIBA

Mr Brian Woodburn

Mr Rex Wolstenholme

COUNTY TRUSTEES

Mr Carl Hankinson

Mr Mike Simpson

Dr Tony Andrews

Mr David Thornton

Mrs Cath Joyce

Mrs Kerry Houghton

Mr Bernard Pendlebury

Mr Roger Mason

Mr Ian Lonsdale

Mr Martin Wells (to the 18th September 2008)

Miss Charlotte Watkinson (from 18th September 2008)

Mr Sam Booth

Mr Steve Williamson

Mr Chris Moss

Mr Michael Smith

Mr George Long

Mr Peter Smith

Mrs Judith Jamieson

Mrs Susan Sullivan

Mr David Baker

County Commissioner & Chair of the County Team

County Chairman

Deputy County Chairman

County Secretary

County Treasurer

Chair – Finance & Fund Raising Committee

Chair – Activity Centres Management Board

Chair – General Purposes Committee

County Scout Network Commissioner

Scout Network Representative

Scout Network Representative

Scout Network Representative

County Trustee for Blackpool

County Trustee for Chorley

County Trustee for Fylde

County Trustee for Lonsdale

County Trustee for Ormskirk

County Trustee for Preston

County Trustee for South Ribble

County Trustee for Wyre

OTHER OFFICIALS

Mr Chris Creelman

Ms Lynn Oldham

Mr Peter Sturgess

Regional Commissioner (North West England)

Regional Development Manager (North West)

County Principal Officer

West Lancashire County Scout Council

Legal and Administrative Details

Registered Charity Number	521712
Tax Exemption Number	X89058
Governing Instrument	The Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association by authority of a Royal Charter dated 4th January 1912.
Aims	<p>The Aim of the Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.</p> <p>The method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.</p>

Principal Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
97 Fishergate, PRESTON, Lancashire PR1 2DP

Investment Managers

James Brearley & Sons
7 Grimshaw Street, BURNLEY, Lancashire BB11 2AS

Property Advisors

Charles Parker, Bennett & Co
17/18 Cannon Street, PRESTON, Lancashire PR1 3NR

Legal Advisors

Napthen Solicitors
7 Winckley Square, PRESTON, Lancashire PR1 3JD

Auditors

McMillan & Co
28 Eaton Avenue, Matrix Office Park, Buckshaw Village, CHORLEY, Lancashire PR7 7NA

Principal Address

West Lancashire County Scout Office
Waddecarr Scout Camp, Snape Rake Lane, Goosnargh, PRESTON PR3 2EU
Email: countyoffice@westlancashirescouts.org.uk
Web site: www.westlancashirescouts.org.uk
Phone: 01995 61336 Fax: 01995 61978

Current County Personnel - as at August 2009

EMPLOYEES

Principal Officer	Pete Sturgess	Activity Centre Warden	Bill Davison (South Lakes)
Administrative Officer	Maggie King	Activity Centre Warden	Mick Lovatt (Waddecarr)
Assistant Admin Officer	Sheila Steel	County Development Officers	Barbara Hughes
Finance Officer	Sandra Sowerbutts		Carolyn Kirkham

VOLUNTEERS

COUNTY OFFICIALS & COMMISSIONERS

County Commissioner	Carl Hankinson	County Treasurer	Cath Joyce
Deputy County Commissioner	George Lowe	County Archivist	Michael Loomer
Commissioners	Liz McDermott	Scout Network Commissioner	Ian Lonsdale
County Chairman	Mike Simpson	Organising Commissioner	Pete Sturgess
Deputy County Chair	Tony Andrews	County Administrator	Anne Clark
County Secretary	David Thornton		

ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ACC Beaver Scouts	Cath Hargreaves	ACC International	Steve Morton
ACC Cub Scouts	Paul Harris	ACC Development	Jim Hunter
ACC Scouts	David Marsh	Media Development Manager	Debbie Mather
ACC Explorer Scouts	Hugh Miller	ACC Adult Support	Ray Hardman
ACC Activities	Joe Ashworth	ACC Expeditions & Projects	Dick Griffiths
County Fellowship Chairman	Cyril Crossley	County Training Manager	Fiona Jackson

COUNTY ACTIVITIES TEAM

Activity Registrar	Ash Green		
Air Activities	Ian Grace	Shooting	John Lloyd
Archery	Ron Chattington	Snow Sports	Dick Griffiths
Caving	Les Sykes	Swimming	VACANT
Climbing / Abseiling	Geoff Lyons	Walking	Geoff Lyons
Fencing	Phil Fairclough	Powerboat	VACANT
Lancashire Heritage	Roy Smith	Riding /Trekking	Katharine Edwards
Land Activities	Geoff Lyons	Paddlesports	Stuart Dean
Orienteering	Bob Nash	Sailing	Dave Walton

COUNTY ADVISORS

Asset Manager	Roy Chadwick	Fundraising	John Lawson
Building Regulations	Ian Holland	Information Technology	Peter Willingham
Faiths & Beliefs	Richard Charnock	Insurance	Colin Monks
Safety in Scouting	Richard Craig	County Safeguarding	Val Holland
Diversity & Inclusion	VACANT		

COUNTY SCOUTERS

Beaver Scouts	Pauline Taylor	Explorer Scouts	Jon Abbey
	Fiona Jackson	Scout Network	Sarah Martin
Cub Scouts	Tom Gibson		Julie Paton
	Paul Britton		Phil Wells
	Ruth Abbey		Emma Hardacre
Scouts	Nick Kasmir	Scouting Skills	Mick Harvey
	Pauline Worthington		
	Matt Spencer		



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