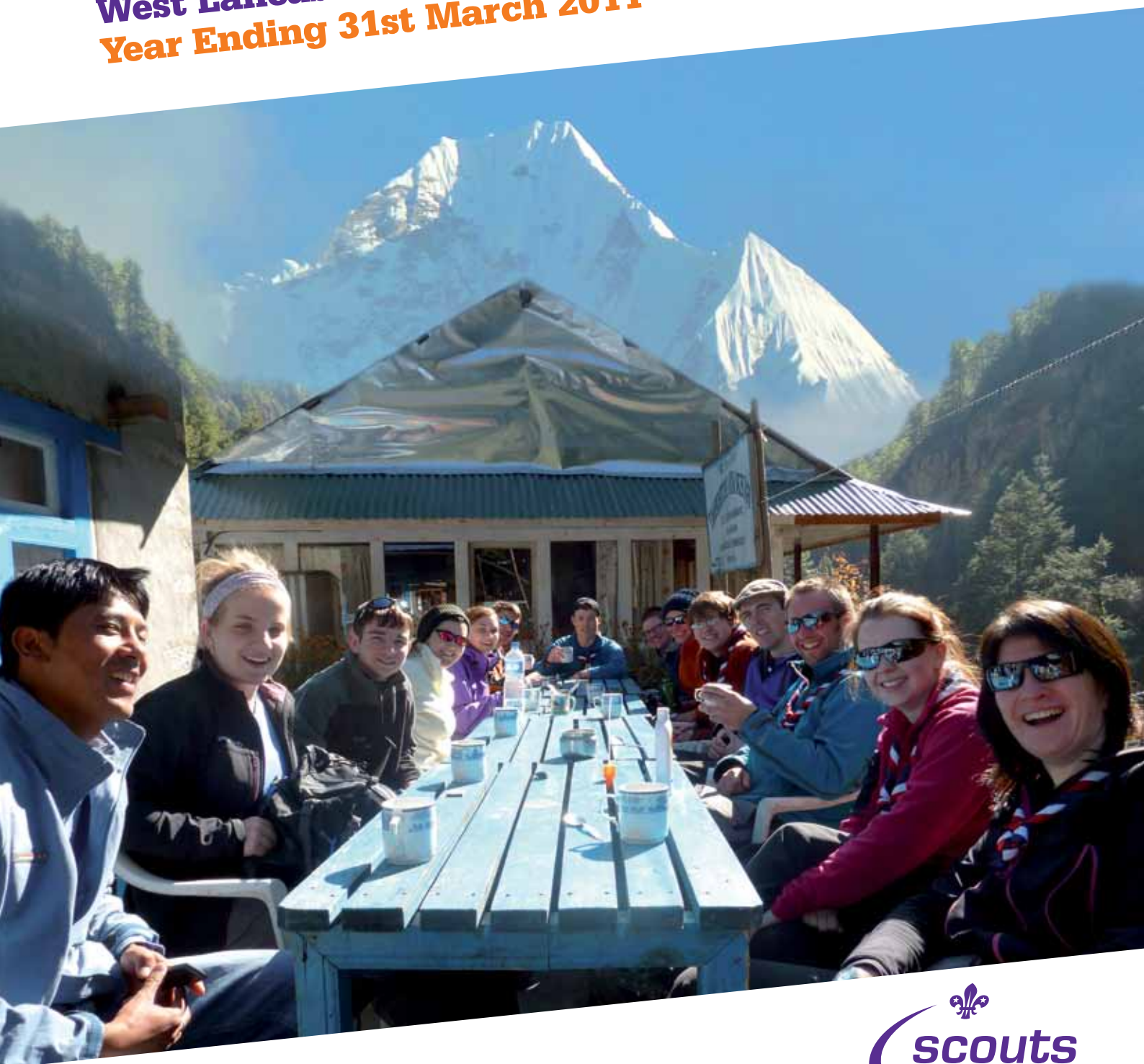
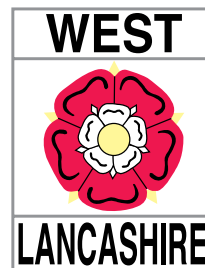


JUST LOOK AT WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED TOGETHER.

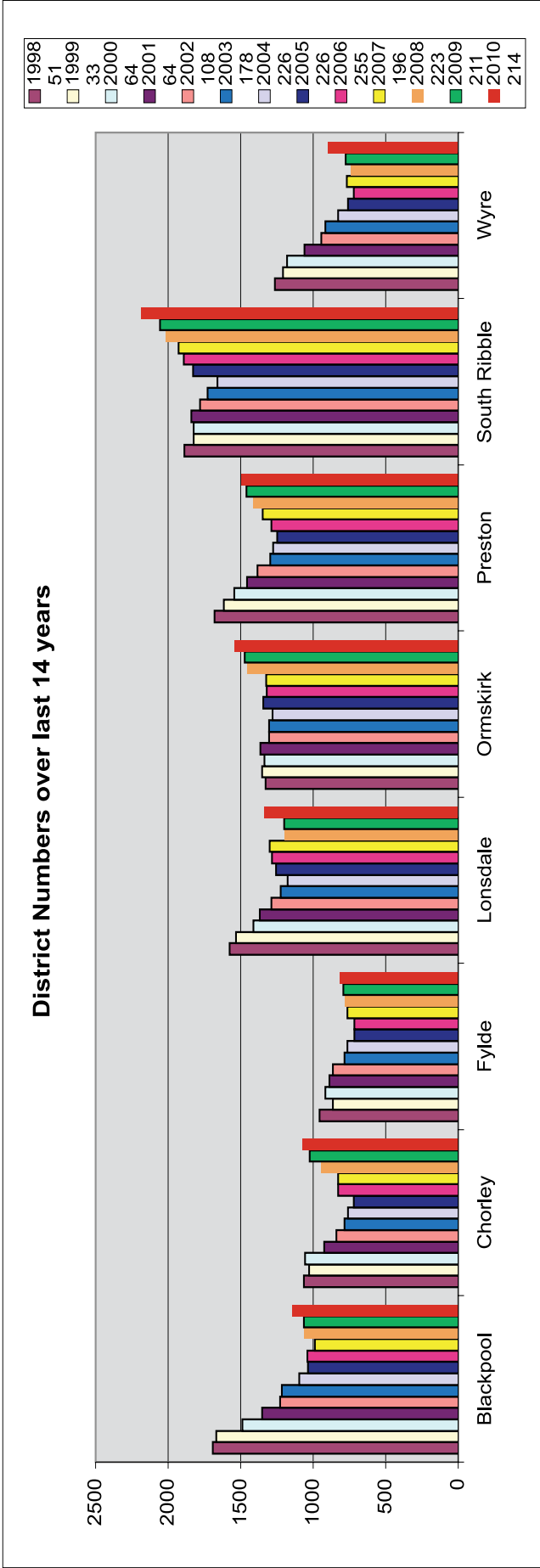
West Lancashire Scouts Annual Report
Year Ending 31st March 2011



scouts.org.uk/impact

Comparison by Year

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% change
County only people	51	33	64	64	108	178	226	226	255	196	223	211	214	187	-12.70%
Blackpool	1694	1667	1489	1352	1228	1217	1097	1036	1041	989	1059	1065	1146	1087	-5.1%
Chorley	1063	1027	1055	924	840	783	761	721	827	827	944	1023	1077	1077	No change
Fylde	956	863	918	889	865	786	764	716	716	763	784	793	817	780	-4.5%
Lonsdale	1576	1532	1411	1369	1289	1226	1178	1255	1286	1299	1202	1199	1336	1400	4.8%
Ormskirk	1330	1352	1338	1365	1303	1303	1279	1279	1321	1324	1456	1472	1544	1601	3.7%
Preston	1680	1618	1546	1458	1383	1296	1278	1249	1287	1347	1418	1462	1496	1579	5.5%
South Ribble	1889	1824	1824	1840	1781	1729	1661	1828	1892	1928	2015	2058	2186	2203	0.7%
Wyre	1265	1209	1181	1061	946	917	828	760	722	770	742	778	895	874	-2.3%
District Totals	11453	11092	10762	10258	9635	9257	8846	8908	9092	9247	9620	9850	10497	10524	0.2%
Number of Groups	185	186	182	185	178	163	158	156	154	148	147	145	150	148	-1.4%
Beaver Scouts	2748	2630	2516	2364	2167	2175	2068	2061	2134	2131	2259	2246	2486	2528	1.7%
Cub Scouts	3633	3458	3495	3220	3009	2730	2600	2540	2613	2540	2578	2710	2839	2810	-1.1%
Scouts	2388	2343	2158	2133	2053	1932	1818	1840	1882	1992	2124	2207	2277	2309	1.4%
Venture Scouts	449	402	412	429	407	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Explorer Scouts						299	459	544	510	540	638	660	690	765	10.9%
Scout Network						120	131	131	165	110	106	104	110	97	-11.9%
Network Registered Elsewhere						46	37	63	64	113	98	96	64	58	-9.4%
Act Support (Fellowship)	231	186	206	232	297	189	226	227	205	206	209	229	216	212	-1.9%
Total Scout County	11504	11125	10826	10348	9742	9435	9072	9134	9347	9443	9843	10061	10711	10788	0.77%



Annual Report 2010

Foreword

This annual report gives what has become the usual good account of another excellent year of Scouting activities. But it was also a momentous year for other reasons. For the last 25 years Great Tower has been an integral part of life in West Lancashire. Since taking over the management of the site from the Scout Association it has both been the focus for numerous activities and has absorbed a great deal of management effort both paid and volunteer. For many currently in Scouting in West Lancashire it just was part of West Lancashire. For those with longer memories (and there are also many of those) it represented a great achievement to have taken over a site the Scout Association were finding difficult to manage and to have made a success of it.



So when the Scout Association made a fresh approach to take back the management of the site, it was clear we were being faced with a major decision which would impact on the direction of Scouting in West Lancashire. The investment of both time and money in Great Tower was not something to be given up lightly. There were implications for staff and possible disruption of volunteer involvement to consider. At the same time however, as we entered into the second half of the lease period, there were difficult decisions facing us. The site had provided income as well as a location for activities but that was at a cost both financial and as a distraction from other management tasks. We could see major capital investment was needed. Was that investment worth it with a limited period of the lease to run? Could the investment of time and money be better spent elsewhere?

A small negotiating team was formed led by the County Commissioner. A range of options were considered from buying the site from the Scout Association, through a partnership, to allowing the Scout Association to buy out the remaining part of the lease. In the end it became clear that the last option was the way forward, and it was then a matter to negotiate the price. It is of great credit to the negotiating team that in the end a settlement was reached that was satisfactory to both parties and the County owes them a debt of thanks.

Of course the Great Tower site is not lost to West Lancashire. It is still on our doorstep and available to us. Indeed if the Scout Association can fulfil their ambition to make the sort of investment in the site which we would

have struggled to make, then it should mean that we have an even better asset to make use of and we wish the Scout Association success in their venture.

The hardest decisions we had to make though were related to staff. We negotiated that the Great Tower staff would transfer with the site to the Scout Association but then were disappointed that it proved not to provide the security of employment for them that we had hoped for. We also had to face the hard decision that, with only Waddecar to manage and having lost the GT income, we could not justify the number of staff remaining with us. It is a measure of the character of the people involved that all accepted the decisions which were made with great dignity and I would thank those who have left for their efforts while they worked for us. In particular I would record the thanks for the County for the efforts of Pete Sturgess for his time as Principal Officer. Those who have had contact with him know that he was unfailingly cheerful and always had the interests of Scouting at heart. I am delighted that he has committed to taking a volunteer role in the County and so will continue his involvement with West Lancashire.

The change also affects our committee management structure. Rob Woodhouse who succeeded Bernard Pendlebury as Chair of the Activities and Campsites Management Board (ACMB), gained Executive approval for a simplified committee structure with a single Waddecar Management Committee replacing the previous pyramid of three committees. Again this had implications for people and we thank those who had served on the previous committees for their time and efforts and welcome those who have accepted to serve on the new one.

Another person leaving employment with us, this time on retirement, is Carolyn Kirkham. She has worked for the last three years alongside Barbara Hughes as a Development Officer. The development project has proved to be a success both from census numbers and from the reaction from the Districts and the Sections which have been helped and great thanks to Carolyn for her contribution to that success. The Executive have decided that it will be worthwhile to continue to invest in this effort even without the Scout Association grant which we received during the first three years, and we welcome Andy Marsden to the County to replace Carolyn.

So what now for the future? We were already fortunate as a County to have strong reserves. We now have the payment from the Scout Association on top of these. We are at a point which could prove pivotal in the history of the County. We have the opportunity to make significant investments which could shape how we operate for many years to come. Indeed we have an obligation to all those who invested so much in Great Tower to ensure that the fruits of their efforts are re-invested wisely. These are not decisions to be taken lightly nor can they be taken quickly. The Executive are concerned that there be as wide a consultation as possible on ideas for the future and have put arrangements in place to develop a new strategic plan for the County which takes full account of those ideas. This also fits with the timing of a new Strategic Plan from the Scout Association. Our target is to be in a position to start to implement our plan by this time next year. Don't just watch this space however, get involved in the process in the meantime and help shape the future of the County.

Mike Simpson
County Chairman

County Commissioners Report

Success breeds success, someone once said. It's certainly true that when enthusiastic people enjoy each others company and work well together, more is accomplished. We enjoy celebrating our achievements and are ambitious enough to look to the future and ask, "What next?"

With such a good atmosphere it's little wonder that more people wish to be involved. We've witnessed the seventh consecutive year of growth across West Lancashire. Particularly pleasing is the significant rise in Explorer Scouts; our provision for 14-18yr olds. Traditionally this is an age range where all youth organisations struggle to attract membership, whereas we grew by nearly 10% in a single year. This is testament to an excellent set of Leaders and the first class programme they offer. It's enjoyable, safe, and at the same time young people achieve awards and have experiences they would struggle to find elsewhere.

We've also concentrated over the past 12 months on working with a large number of Scout Groups. Our Development Project is in its 3rd year and the work continues to flow in. We know that by stabilising Scout Groups with more Adult Leaders and a Group Committee we can provide a foundation to build from. This work is vital

for our continued success and will be continued over the coming years. It's particularly pleasing to note that some of our Groups that have grown their membership the most over the past year have been those we have worked with directly. Long may this continue! Our thanks go to Barbara & Carolyn for the marvellous support they give to those they work with. More is written about our project in the body of our report.

I never tire of enthusing about the growth in our membership. People who know me well know I believe that more young people should get a great start in life by experiencing Scouting. However I'm equally keen to ensure that when they join, they experience a first class programme. With this in mind we've concentrated on two areas over the past year. In November we brought together our programme team from across the County to debate just this topic. We continue to encourage all Sections, including now our Beaver Scouts, to have "Nights Away." Experiencing Scouting only in the meeting is somewhat hollow compared to the outdoors; the fun to be gained by camping, the skills learnt and the friendships made. This





is central to the programme we offer and our focus on supporting adults and encouraging these activities will continue into the next year and beyond. Our second area is that of achievement of Awards. The five Chief Scout's and Queen's Scout Award remain our top awards in each of our training sections. Our ambition is to see more young people earn these awards and so we are working with our Leaders to offer a balanced programme and greater opportunities for all young people to fulfil their potential and gain an award with society wide recognition.



A highlight of our Scouting year was our International Camp held at Great Tower, Red Rose 2010. 1789 Scouts from all around the UK and overseas enjoyed an adventurous and varied programme which made the best of the Lake District and surrounding areas. The Scout County benefits enormously from events such as these. Many adults work together as staff on the event which builds teams and expertise

for the future, we look forward to Red Rose 2014.

Our work is wide and varied. To provide the strength of support we believe our Groups and Districts need, a number of key roles have been identified in the County and these are filled by people who use their professional expertise in a voluntary capacity to our benefit. We are grateful to them. Equally helpful has been work undertaken to build our profile in the wider community. Our media team grows, and with the added inclusion of many "Young Spokespeople" our message is conveyed in a fresh and innovative way that connects with many in our target audience. Over the coming years we need to capitalise on this work and ensure Scouting reaches all areas of the community in the West of Lancashire.

Much of our work is underpinned by many supporters who undertake a range of duties to "keep the ship afloat" - administration, supporting events, training new adults or being an extra pair of hands when needed; we couldn't run our County without them. Many are in our new "Active Support" section which succeeds Scout Fellowship. We do thank them and our only hope is their ranks continue to swell.

We've had a great 12 months and our next year should be even better. Thank you to all our adults, our supporters, the wider community who value us and importantly, the young people in Scouting who make it all worthwhile.

Carl Hankinson

County Commissioner
West Lancashire Scouts

Training Sections



Beavers Scouts is the section for boys and girls aged 6 to 8. In West Lancashire we have 2528 Beavers in 151 Colonies

Another great year for the Beaver Scout Section, with the accent on activities. **Cath Hargreaves**, our Assistant County Commissioner (ACC), reports that Beavers enjoyed visits to the Science Museum and Gulliver's World, and took part in many

competitions such as Sports Day, a marble competition, Challenge Badge days and particularly enjoyed the Zodiac Challenge.

Sleepovers are very popular, and this year saw the first County Sleepover at The Fire Service Training Centre at Washington Hall, Euxton, which was a great success, and may well be repeated.

Beaver Scouts continue to impress with the number of Chief Scout's Bronze Awards gained, a fine reward for all the hard work of the Beaver Scout Leaders and Supporters.



Camping and Nights Away have also formed a large part of the Cub Section activities over the last year. **Paul Harris**, ACC, was delighted at the response to the National Giant Sleepover, which attracted over 1000 campers.

More Chief Scout's Silver Awards were earned this year than ever before, and many Districts

organised special awards evenings to celebrate.



One of the focus areas is the link between the Sections. Beaver and Cub Leaders are already working together to organise a joint event, and a similar event between Cubs and younger Scouts is likely in the near future. In the meantime, the Region is focusing on the use of the Moving On Award to help with the linking of the two Sections.

Cub Scouts is the section for boys and girls aged 8 to 10.5. In West Lancashire we have 2810 Cub Scouts in 161 Packs



Scouts is the section for boys and girls aged 10.5 to 14. In West Lancashire we have 2389 Scouts in 143 Troops

The Scout Section continues to go from strength to strength.

Dave Marsh, ACC, tells us that County Rally, held at Waddecarr, our camp site near Beacon Fell, and The Bowlander Hike continue to be

popular, and that the number of Chief Scout's Gold Awards earned has increased dramatically.



Following discussions with Patrol Leaders Forums, the Section was able to introduce a new activity programme called 'Reach Out and Go 4 Gold', aimed at increasing opportunities for Scouts to undertake sections of the Chief Scout's Gold Award, not always available within their own Troops or Districts. To this end the 'West Lancashire Scouts Road Map to Success' was launched in the form of a pocket-sized booklet of information. A huge thank you to all the Patrol Leaders who



The Explorer Scout programme continues to keep its members busy, with international expeditions, adventurous activities and County Explorer Camp the highlights. The Young Leader's scheme grew by an



Explorer Scouts is the section for young people aged 14 to 18. In West Lancashire we have 765 Explorer Scouts in 43 Units. Of those 327 are in the Young Leaders scheme

impressive 37% in the year, with over 350 Explorer Scouts supporting other Sections on a regular basis.

The 10th anniversary of Scout Network was celebrated in style, with a cake and ten candles. **Ian Lonsdale** (ACC) and his team took this milestone as an opportunity for a review of all aspects of the programme.



NETWORK

Network members had many opportunities to take part in activities and international events including an expedition to Nepal, and Red Rose International Camp at Great Tower in the Lake District. A visit to the Isle of Arran provided an opportunity for prospective Queen's Scouts to complete their expedition, for many the most challenging aspect of their top award. Congratulations to the seven Network members who gained their Queen's Scout Award this year.

Members aged 18 to 25 can opt to join the Scout Network. In West Lancashire we have 97 Network members in addition to the 58 having adult appointments as leaders or assisting in Groups.

take part in forums across the County - what you have to say helps us to deliver the best programme for our young people.

November saw the first international expedition for some time, take place in Denmark, and the next expedition is already in the planning stages.

Linking projects continue to be a focus, with a noticeable increase in Explorer membership.

Hugh Miller (ACC) credits the close co-operation with Scouts and also with Network Section for this increased membership.



Support Sections

Fiona Jackson, our County Training Manager, is full of praise for her County Training Team. Thanks to their enthusiasm and hard work, 258 participants have completed modules 5-9 and 11-26 from across the County and elsewhere.

The Courses are regularly reviewed to identify where improvements can be made, and include module changes from Headquarters, together with suggestions from the participants. So much is gained in the way of practical skills and tips that our Leaders are bursting with programme ideas for their Sections.

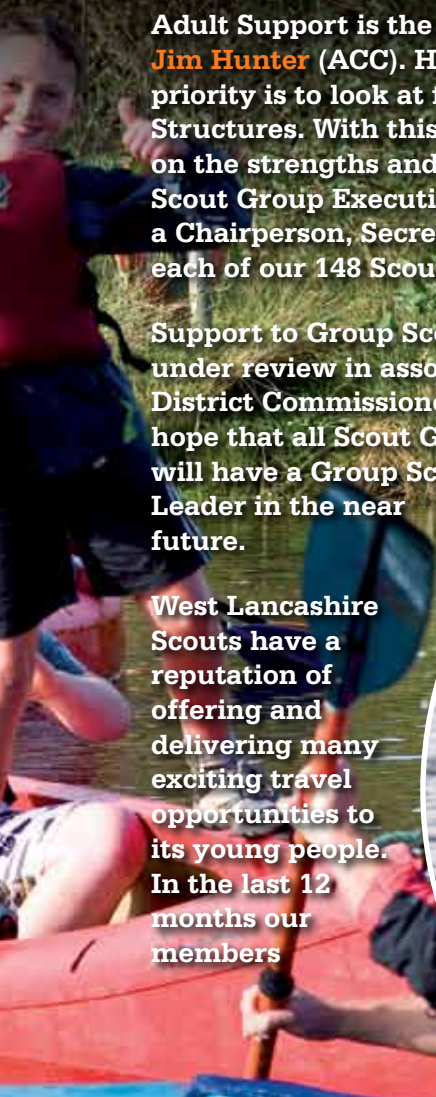
145 Woodbadges were awarded this year so congratulations to the Leaders concerned, and thanks also go to Local Training Managers for their part in making this happen.

The year ahead will focus on support for Training Advisors and the validation process, and we look forward to the award of many more Woodbadges.

Adult Support is the responsibility of **Jim Hunter** (ACC). He tells us that his priority is to look at filling gaps in our Adult Structures. With this in mind the focus is on the strengths and weaknesses in the Scout Group Executive. The aim is to have a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer in each of our 148 Scout Groups.

Support to Group Scout Leaders is also under review in association with District Commissioners, with the hope that all Scout Groups will have a Group Scout Leader in the near future.

West Lancashire Scouts have a reputation of offering and delivering many exciting travel opportunities to its young people. In the last 12 months our members



have spent 3655 nights abroad, says **Steve Morton** our ACC International. Destinations included: Denmark, Nepal, Switzerland, Ireland, Holland and France, members of these expeditions shared their experience with us by delivering several very good presentations.

The County partnership with International Relief organisation has proven successful in raising funds for 20 Shelterboxes.

Events like World Wide Waddecar for Beavers and Cubs proves there is no minimum age to enjoy Global Scouting.

Our new Section, Active Support got off to a flying start in December with many members of Scout Fellowship making the transition into one of the numerous Active Support units across the County. **Ian Lonsdale**, our ACC Active Support is eager to dispel the notion that this Section is all about brewing up and parking cars.

Since starting, over 1000 adults across the UK have joined Active Support units as their first foray into an adult supporting role in Scouting.

Together they are out to prove that the 'Active' in Scout Active Support is a reflection of the



fact that there are hundreds of able and willing volunteers backed by skills and experience just waiting for the call to help out wherever they can.

Ian says that in the short time he has spent in the role, he has been impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the active Unit Members in West Lancashire.

Safeguarding and Awareness is the responsibility of **Val Holland**, who reminds us that it is the policy of the Scout Association to

safeguard the welfare of all Members by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

With this in mind, as Safeguarding Co-ordinator, it is her responsibility to ensure that there is up to date, appropriate training available and delivered throughout West Lancashire giving additional support where necessary. It is now not enough for adults to attend Safeguarding training just once in their Scouting career; it is a requirement that it must be updated and refreshed at regular intervals.

In September 2010 members of the District training teams were invited to a Safeguarding update training session. This new training material could then be cascaded locally to all adults. All Districts were represented at this training session and it proved very useful and prompted much discussion. It is with confidence that all Districts are now delivering the up to date material to adults. The dates of such training are widely available throughout the County.

Safeguarding has moved on considerably over the last 5 years, not least because of the changes in technology. This has led to further training being available to our young people based on the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) programme. CEOP is a Government law enforcement agency focused on child protection and aims to protect young people from the fear of sexual abuse both in the real world and online. Within West Lancashire there are 4 CEOP Ambassadors who are willing to arrange appropriate training for young people or adults as required.

Thanks must be given to our Safeguarding presenters without whom the task of delivering appropriate training throughout the County would be an impossible one.

Let's not forget that the majority of people enjoy





their Scouting with no Safeguarding issues at all – let’s keep it that way.

The Major Events Group (MEG), chaired by **Dick Griffiths**, continues to develop as the conscience of the County with regard to events that could generate either a financial or a reputational risk. The Group is there to act as a “wicketkeeper” or “watchdog”. In addition it acts as an advisory body, a catalyst for planning future events, and ensuring that appropriate Leader Teams are recruited for those events. In essence, the remit covers all County-sponsored overseas events and any major UK undertaking by the County that isn’t under the direct responsibility of a Sectional ACC. In the year under review, the only UK event that came within MEG’s purview was, of course, Red Rose 2010 at GT, which is reported elsewhere.

MEG met on four occasions during the year during which 4 previous year’s overseas events received post-audits, and Red Rose and thirteen current and future overseas events were continuously monitored. Another role that

MEG undertakes is to consolidate an annual report of incidents and near misses on major and overseas events, to share with the County Team in order to learn for the future.

An important element of MEGs’ remit is to maintain the County’s conformity with British Standard 8848 (Specification for the provision of visits, fieldwork, expeditions, and adventurous activities, outside the United Kingdom). This is the standard to which many major commercial providers of overseas adventure for young people conform and West Lancashire Scouts is the only Scout County to have been independently audited as corporately conforming to the standard, such conformity being subjected to an annual review. This gives reassurance that our processes operate to a recognised high standard of safety and operational management. Our processes continue to develop, and we are pleased that they are now more readily accessible on the new Major Events Group website (<http://majorevents.westlancashirescouts.org.uk/>)

Activity Centres Management Board (ACMB)

The past 12 months have certainly been a year of change for our Activity Centres. Once the Executive was informed that Headquarters would not extend the current lease for GT, it was inevitable that we would have to negotiate for compensation for the surrender of the current lease. It would have been impossible to invest in the site with no prospect of West Lancashire getting any return for any investment in the site. We all share the aim to improve the facilities of our sites to the benefit of our Scouts and therefore the only sensible option was to allow Headquarters to retake control of GT.

With these negotiations in mind we agreed to postpone any new projects at GT and concentrate on completing any ongoing projects. The major project to complete was the extension to Moor Crag which had been delayed the previous year due to legal issues with United Utilities. Fortunately, the legal issues were resolved at the end of last summer and the extension has been completed in time for the coming season.

At Waddecarr the Kinleside project (a new activity base for Bill's Meadow), has been completed and this will be a useful addition to our facilities, especially for large groups camping on this site.

The loss of GT to West Lancashire meant that the management structure of our campsites needed to change. There was no longer the need for a

management board, together with two operating committees. A simplified management system was proposed and accepted by the County Executive in April. The final meeting of the three former committees was held in May and the new Waddecarr Management Committee commenced in June.

I would like to thank all those willing volunteers



who over the years have supported West Lancashire by serving on the ACMB and the two Operating Committees. I am sure many of these volunteers did not join Scouting in order to spend dark winter evenings ensuring that sewage systems, fire risk assessments, activity procedures and health & safety issues were addressed. However, unless these issues are addressed our campsites will not function. There has always been a team of dedicated supporters who have fulfilled this role over the years and I thank them most sincerely for their efforts.





I would particularly like to thank Frank Rice - Chair South Lakes Operating Committee, Keith Jamieson - Chair Waddecar Operating Committee and Bernard Pendlebury - Deputy Chair ACMB for their work over many years and in particular for the support they have given me in my short time as Chair of ACMB.

The new Waddecar Management Committee is now in place with a mixture of new and old "faces". However, those not actively involved in the new structure will not "escape" and I trust they will continue to support Campsites with their expertise when needed as part of the voluntary service team.

We have also had to make changes with regards to our employees due to the changes at GT. The number of staff has been reduced and those remaining have changed their work pattern. These have been very difficult decisions for all

concerned and to those leaving us, we wish you well for the future. I am particularly pleased they have indicated that they will continue to help us in a voluntary capacity.

The number of people using our campsites was well up on the previous year. The increase in camping numbers was helped by a successful Red Rose Camp, the Guide Centenary Camp and Ham Jam at GT and District Camps held at Waddecar. Venture Forth Base numbers were down as in the recession we appear to have lost a number of mid week residential bookings from customers who are taking courses at other activity centres. Moor Crag also showed an improvement over the previous year. The mid week bookings from the High Adventure group were slightly up on the previous year. I feel it is important to acknowledge and thank High Adventure for the support they have given us over the summer period by making qualified instructors available when needed at weekends for Scout events.

Looking to the future, the Waddecar Management Committee is tasked with producing a new long term plan for the Centre for presentation to the Executive around the turn of the year. Money is available but we must spend it wisely in order to meet the present and future needs of our membership. The long term plan will be key, and will be a major discussion point over the coming months. Furthermore, with all our efforts concentrated on a single site the team's key objective will be to improve the management and maintenance of the Centre.

Rob Woodhouse
Chair ACMB.



GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A CHANCE... ONE BY ONE!

West Lancashire Scout County Development Project...

Congratulations! West Lancashire has grown its membership for the seventh consecutive year, with total membership now standing at 10,788 an increase of 0.7% or 77 members. While this is good news, we must acknowledge that growth this year has been at a much slower rate than recent years.

We have seen a change in focus over the last 12 months, with many Districts looking to strengthen their existing Groups and Units, before they continue with their plans to open additional Sections or Groups. Retention in Scouting is a key issue and it is right that our District Commissioners have spent time consolidating the fantastic growth we have seen in the last few years.

The support provided by District Teams and our County Development Officers meant a total of 74 Scout Groups grew this year. 21 of these Groups gained more than 10 new members each, a total of 352 members at these Groups alone.

However, it is clear we still have work to do with 27 Groups across the County losing more than 10 members each, giving a total loss of 369 members. Support is available to help you, so if you notice your numbers dipping speak to your District Commissioner or District Team and make them aware of any issues you have.

Interest from potential new members remains high with 332 young people registered on our waiting lists this year. While the majority of these continue to be Beaver Scout age, it was surprising to note that we have 70 children waiting to join Cubs and 67 waiting to join Scouts. Demand continues to increase with 200 youth enquiries received in the first 6 months of the year through the HQ website. So it is important that we look for ways to offer Scouting to every young person who would like to join.



Thinking flexibly is the key here and making best use of the time people are able to offer is essential. We received only 14 adult volunteer enquiries from HQ over the last 6 months, but on the youth enquiries 54 parents said they would be willing to help out on a parent's rota. Do we do enough to get these willing volunteers involved?

Just as important as finding new adults is making sure we look after our existing ones. We often lose adults following a change in their circumstances, simply because they don't know what options are available to them. Making time for a discussion with them may keep them involved in a different role and mean we aren't losing their experience. We should be looking to get the right person, in the right role, at the right time for them.

"Our main aim was to set up a leadership team in the Beaver Section which was achieved beyond my expectations... I feel the secret is having the time to cultivate these individuals which you don't have on a meeting night and this is where the County Development Officer came into her own..."

Liz, GSL
53rd Ormskirk



BETTER SCOUTING FOR MORE YOUNG PEOPLE.

Over the term of the project 7 out of 8 Districts have grown, with the largest growth in Lonsdale who have increased by 198 members. Youth membership across the County has increased by 804 young people to 8,509 members.

In June our County Development Officers, Barbara Hughes and Carolyn Kirkham completed their 3 year contract. Their energy, commitment and enthusiasm have been integral to the successes we have seen over the last few years and so we faced a difficult decision on whether to extend the project. After consultation with the Districts and County Executive, approval and funding was given for a second project term.

We said goodbye to Carolyn, who took the opportunity to retire after a successful 3 years. I am sure you will all join me in thanking her for her excellent work and the difference she has made to Scouting in our County.

Barbara has now been joined by Andy Marsden, who started with us in July. Andy brings a wealth of experience to the role, as a life time Scout he has held a variety of roles in South Yorkshire and Hereford & Worcestershire, as well as working in the voluntary sector. I know you will make him welcome as he gets out and meets you all.

Our County Development Officers have been supported in their work by the many adults in our District and County Teams, who give their time to help make our projects succeed. You should all be very proud at the difference you have made to Scouting in our County over the last few years.

So much has been achieved during the project term and while we haven't quite reached some of our goals, we certainly exceeded in others. So just how did we get on in our journey to growth?

What we said we'd do - growth

- Open 74 new youth sections across the County

What we did

- Opened 48 new sections in the last 3 years.

How we did it

- Opened 8 new Scout Groups, total of 16 new sections.
- Opened 6 new Beaver Scout Colonies and 5 new Scout Troops where there were section gaps in a Group.
- Opened 9 new Explorer Scout Units.
- Opened 2nd, 3rd and even 4th sections at Groups where demand was high, including 5 Beaver Colonies, 5 Cub Packs and 2 Scout Troops.



"...a massive thank you for all the help the County Development Officer provided. The section to grow by most is Scouts and this has been a combination of new recruits and Cubs moving up. Cubs have maintained their size again through move ups and new recruits, same story for the Beavers..."

**Taras, GSL
1st Middleforth**

Congratulations!

To the following Groups who all grew by at least 10 members at Census 2011...

- ✓ Caton Church - UP by 27
- ✓ 53rd Ormskirk - UP by 26
- ✓ Euxton Methodist - UP by 23
- ✓ 1st Ashton - UP by 21
- ✓ Ribbleson Central - UP by 21
- ✓ 1st Walton le Dale - UP by 20
- ✓ Centurion - UP by 20
- ✓ 29th Ormskirk - UP by 18
- ✓ 8th Lytham St Annes - UP by 18
- ✓ 1st Forton (Duchy) - UP by 17
- ✓ 56th Ormskirk - UP by 17
- ✓ 6th Penwortham - UP by 15
- ✓ Middleforth - UP by 15
- ✓ 2nd Kirkham & Wesham - UP by 15
- ✓ 37th Ormskirk - UP by 13
- ✓ 30th Ormskirk - UP by 12
- ✓ 4th Poulton le Fylde - UP by 12
- ✓ 45th Ormskirk - UP by 11
- ✓ Brindle St James - UP by 11
- ✓ Anchorsholme - UP by 10
- ✓ Adlington - UP by 10



"The County Development Officer's time, enthusiasm and kindness with the group has been wonderful. We couldn't have managed without her..."

**Rod, GSL
1st Pilling**

What we said we'd do - support

- Provide support to 30 Scout Groups where support is vital for the Group to grow

What we did

- 54 Scout Groups received help and support from the County Development Officers to enable them to grow.

How we did it

- Worked with Groups to help them create a Development Plan and identify what support they needed.
- Supported Groups with creating and strengthening Group Executive Committee's, to allow the leaders to concentrate on providing the programme for the young people. Parent's meetings, family fun nights, vacancy boards and clear role descriptions all helped people understand how they could help.
- Increased the number of adult volunteers working with our youth sections. Offering flexible Scouting, Parent's Rotas, Student Volunteering placements; building links with Colleges, Universities and other local voluntary organisations; promoting opportunities on a variety of internet sites - have all helped reach new adults for our Leadership Teams.
- Boosted youth membership numbers by running school recruitment sessions followed by activity taster sessions.



What we said we'd do - recruitment

- Recruit 200 new adults into West Lancashire

What we did

- 198 new adult volunteers are working in Groups and Units across the County as a result of the County Development Project; plus 9 new Young Leaders.
- An additional 24 new adults are in the final stages of applying for a variety of roles

How we did it

- Recruited 119 Leaders and 23 Section Assistants
- Recruited 29 members for Group Executive Committees
- Recruited 27 Occasional Helpers

What we said we'd do - legacy

- Create a lasting legacy of development in the County.

What we did

- Expanded how we offer our adults development support and ideas.
- Increased the practical resources available to support our adults with their recruitment and development needs.
- Invested in resources to help our adults portray a better brand image when on public display.

How we did it

- Provided a one day Development Workshop to support our adults with a variety of needs including: recruiting youth members; getting parents involved; engaging with ex-members; supporting the Group Executive; applying for funding; opening a new Section; creating a Development Plan.
- Working with the County Training Team tailored the development training available for Managers in Scouting.
- Continued to build the resources available to our adults with 'Top Tips' guides on a range of subjects; in addition to the posters, flyers and leaflets online. Promoted the Brand Centre for tailored resources.



What we said we'd do - strategy

- Develop 3 strategic projects.

What we did

- Tried and tested various methods of engaging potential adult volunteers.

How we did it

- Created a Leader's guide to Recruiting Parents.
- Trialled various methods of approaching former Leaders to encourage them to get back involved in Scouting.
- Worked with local employers to recruit staff volunteers.



"The census figures say it all - including leaders down to an all time low of 7 in January 2009 and up to 60 in January 2011. The group continues to grow and I expect the total to be 80 in 2012!

I think what the County Development Officer did was outstanding... she gave the new leaders not only support and encouragement, but inspiration..."

John, GSL

1st Forton (Duchy)

So to the Future...

As we start our second project term, we are committed to continuing the journey of growth we have been following for the last 7 years. Already our District Commissioners have identified a number of projects that will see us opening additional Groups, Units and sections across the County. We will also continue to support our existing Groups to ensure they too go from strength to strength. It is an exciting time and one that I am confident will see us offering Scouting to even more young people.

However, we can only succeed with the continued support of our existing leaders, helpers and supporters. You are the ones that provide a wide variety of activities each week to our young people and continue to offer the life changing experiences that we are known for.

Thank you for everything you do, and keep making a difference.

General Purposes Committee (GP)



As the incoming Chair I am grateful to my predecessor Roger Mason for his help and assistance and thank him for his excellent leadership of the General Purposes (GP) Committee. The GP committee deals with a number of unglamorous but important administrative and technical issues on behalf of the County. This includes Safety in Scouting, Insurance, Asset Management, IT, Archives and other ad hoc work that does not readily fit elsewhere in our structure. Part of our remit is to offer advice to Groups and Districts and we publish a number of notes to help Groups and Districts with topics such as fire assessments for buildings, minibus permits and electrical safety inspections.

This year we have produced and published a Business Continuity Plan for the County's operation, to ensure we can continue to provide the services our members expect in the event of an incident at our Activity Centres or office.

Insuring our personnel and activity centres is

both complex and costly, using the expertise within the GP committee we were able to reduce our insurance costs by around 10% without any significant reduction in cover, at a time when most insurance costs are rising well above inflation.

IT and Internet access are now seen as vital for most businesses and organisations and maintaining reliable Internet access at Waddecar is a challenge both technically and financially. We have recently been able to re-establish a broadband connection having tried Satellite (expensive) and Radio (cheap but ultimately unreliable). Fortunately following the transfer of GT our IT needs are reduced in any case.

Finally I must thank the members of the committee who give their time and expertise to help our movement.

Jonathan Abbey
Chair

Treasurers Report

Twelve months ago it became apparent that the future operation of the Great Tower Activity Centre was looking uncertain, after the County was approached by Scout Headquarters, who were looking to expand their Centres of Excellence by taking over our South Lakes operations. A working group was appointed to consider the proposal made by Headquarters and to negotiate terms for the surrender of the lease to The Scout Association. A proposal to surrender the lease was put to the County Executive, which after much consideration, was duly accepted, as it was felt to be in the best interest of the County. The decision to surrender the lease was not taken lightly and a significant amount of time and effort was put in by our volunteers to secure a fair compensation for the early surrender of the lease. Whilst further significant capital investment at Great Tower was frozen until the proposal was agreed, some expenditure has been necessary prior to the transfer, which was agreed by both parties.

The surrender of the lease will have far reaching consequences as the size of our operations has been dramatically reduced and regrettably, has already resulted in redundancies at both Waddecarr and Great Tower. The surrender of the lease has resulted in a significant injection of cash into the County, however as the transaction was only completed on 31 March it is too soon at this stage to decide how best to use this money for the benefit of Scouting in West Lancashire. This is something that will be given careful consideration in the future and at present the money has been invested in a number of different bank accounts.

Great Tower successfully hosted a number of major events this year, in particular Red Rose 2010 which was enjoyed by a large number of people, both young and old. It is a reflection of the quality of our members, both paid and volunteer, that we are able to hold such fantastic events and return Great Tower to The Scout Association in such a good condition. We must

remember that The Scout Association will be able to invest in Great Tower at a far greater level than we would ever have been able to. The site will now continue to improve and be available for generations to come.

The markets made steady progress during the year after the spectacular recovery of the previous year, with our portfolio showing modest growth of some 6%. This is slightly lower than the benchmark we use, the APCIMS balanced index, of some 7% but our fund is more cautious than the benchmark. Our fund has taken a defensive stance avoiding the trends of chasing emerging market funds with their higher levels of volatility. We felt the markets did well to hang on to this level of growth given some of the volatility created by the wobbles in the economies of our European neighbours. The traded option strategy also proved to be profitable giving us some £19,000 worth of income to the portfolio.



During the year all of the investment properties were revalued by our property advisors in accordance with our triennial valuation policy. This resulted in an increase in their market value - up to £845,000 from £795,000. With interest rates at an all time historic low and dividend yields likely to remain suppressed for some time the current rental income being achieved of some £48,000 (before agents commission and costs of upkeep etc) gives, in the opinion of the trustees, a very useful income stream in the current economic climate.

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 2011

	2011 £	2010 £
Incoming resources		
Donations and grants	78,858	51,708
Activity centres income	559,571	441,809
Surplus on membership subscriptions	4,281	3,885
Red Rose	228,448	-
Scouting activities, training & sections	96,021	87,653
Other income	1,883	3,818
Rental and investment income	74,116	71,674
Interest	1,802	2,130
	<u>1,044,980</u>	<u>662,677</u>
Resources expended		
Staff costs (inc. redundancy)	226,573	197,012
Costs of generating funds	20,931	24,858
Activity centres operating costs	315,475	293,783
Depreciation and profit on sale	43,848	29,871
Red Rose	198,518	-
World Scout Youth Event and other events	10,000	8,000
Scouting activities, training & sections	107,361	96,562
Management, administration and other costs	47,532	51,830
	<u>970,238</u>	<u>701,916</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year	74,742	(39,239)
Gain on sale of South Lakes Activity Centres	907,883	-
Gains on investment properties	50,000	-
Gains on listed investments	28,224	206,393
	<u>1,060,849</u>	<u>167,154</u>
Net movement in funds	2,561,510	2,394,356
Total funds brought forward		
	<u>3,622,359</u>	<u>2,561,510</u>
Total funds carried forward		
	<u>3,622,359</u>	<u>2,561,510</u>

Summarised Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2011

	2011 £	2010 £
Fixed assets (inc rental properties)	977,689	1,319,533
Listed investments	875,483	879,124
	<u>1,853,172</u>	<u>2,198,657</u>
Current assets	1,973,714	567,601
Less: Current liabilities	(204,527)	(204,748)
	<u>1,769,187</u>	<u>362,853</u>
Net assets	3,622,359	2,561,510
	<u>3,622,359</u>	<u>2,561,510</u>
Funds		
General	3,600,345	53,258
Designated	22,014	2,490,910
Restricted	-	17,342
	<u>3,622,359</u>	<u>2,561,510</u>

Statement of the Trustees

The Trustees report and financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 14 July 2011. They will be submitted to the Charity Commission after the Annual General Meeting.

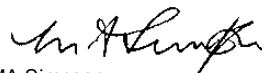
The full Trustees' report, audit report and financial statements, which contain the full details of the financial affairs of the charity as at 31 March 2011, may be obtained from:

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

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



CA Joyce FCCA
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 2011. This report is made solely to the trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. 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 the trustees and auditor

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. Our report on the charity's full annual financial statements describes the basis of our opinion on those financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the summary financial statement is consistent with the trustees report and annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011 and complies with the applicable requirements of the Charities Act 1993 and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.



McMillan & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
28 Eaton Avenue, Matrix Office Park, Buckshaw
Village, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 7NA

Adult Awards

(1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011)

ST GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS - APRIL 2010

SILVER WOLF

Alan Fishwick County/ Chorley
Tom Frew County/ South Ribble

BAR TO THE SILVER ACORN

Keith Jamieson Preston
Elsie Marshall Ormskirk
Hilda Powell Ormskirk
Anne Simms Ormskirk
Stewart Swan Blackpool
Joan Swan Blackpool

SILVER ACORN

John Bailey Lonsdale
Lilian Henderson Blackpool
Jacqueline Lee South Ribble
Edna Quirk Fylde

OTHER AWARDS DURING THE YEAR (1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011)

CHIEF SCOUT'S COMMENDATION FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

Phillip Bradley – Jones Scout 45th Ormskirk – Burscough Methodist

BAR TO THE AWARD FOR MERIT

Maureen Head	Wyre	Lynn Seddon	Ormskirk
Gwen Robertson	Lonsdale	Peter Sturgess	County/Chorley
Peter Freeman	Ormskirk	Pauline Taylor	Ormskirk
William Gilham	Ormskirk	Keith Thompson	Ormskirk
Ian Holland	County	Thomas Atherton	Preston

AWARD FOR MERIT

Jill Dean County
Stuart Dean County/ Preston
Nichola Marsh Wyre
Kieron Ryan Lonsdale
Pat Armstrong Lonsdale

CHIEF SCOUTS COMMENDATION FOR GOOD SERVICE

Stan Bowden	Wyre	David Marsh	County/Ormskirk
Fiona Cross	Wyre	Fiona Miller	Wyre
Andrew Dawson	Wyre	Sandra Sowerbutts	County
Paul Gaskarth	Wyre	Brian Thorpe	Wyre
Chris Lomas	Wyre	John Crossley	Ormskirk
Mark Gilham	Ormskirk	John Gornall	Wyre
George Long	Lonsdale	Cath Lowe	Ormskirk
Julie Malone	Ormskirk	Marjorie Potter	Ormskirk
Mike Price	Ormskirk	Tom Sefton	Ormskirk



Scouting in Lancashire

The two Scout Counties in Lancashire provide the largest voluntary mixed youth provision in the County..

In order to ensure that Scouting has a united voice in Lancashire, the Joint Scout County Committee consisting of County Commissioners and Chairs under the chairmanship of Chris Creelman, former Regional Commissioner meets on a regular basis to discuss and formulate responses to initiatives by Lancashire County Council Young Peoples Service and Partner Agencies.

Following discussions with other Uniformed Youth Organisations such as Girl Guiding UK, Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade it became apparent that there was an appetite to form a cohesive uniformed youth association which could aid communication between the Organisations and be a powerful representative body which could help to shape youth provision within Lancashire.

As a result Lancashire Uniformed Youth Organisations, with a combined membership of 29,000, was formed in the first half of 2010.



LUYO, as it is known, immediately raised its profile by representing the Group as a member of the Children and Young

People Reference Group which is a sub Group of the Lancashire Children's Trust Board.

It is to the credit of Lancashire County Council that they made a decision to retain the Strategic Children's Trust unlike other Local Authorities.

A large piece of work was commissioned to draw together Youth Agencies, both statutory and voluntary, with the remit to produce a Youth Strategy for Lancashire. Young people from both the Scout and Guide Movements took an extremely active part over several months helping to shape a Youth Strategy which will help and support young people in this county to access activities and support across a wide range of services and our Organisation has signed up to be a Founder Member.

In the present stringent financial climate the statutory youth sector has been faced with the unenviable task of cutting staff, youth centres and other resources. Voluntary, community and faith sector organisations are being asked to come together to ensure that our young people are still able to access the help and support to which they are entitled.

In an effort to pool resources and expertise, both paid and voluntary, the Lancashire Youth Partnership has been formed which includes Police, Fire Service, Princes Trust, Lancashire Sport, Young Peoples Service and Voluntary Community and Faith Sector. Scouting, through LUYO, again is an integral part of this Group sharing its expertise.

Without a doubt the profile of Scouting has been further raised in the past 12 months and is acknowledged as a major player within Lancashire's youth provision. This is shown by the fact that the first Chairman of the Youth Partnership is a member of Scouting.

Chris Creelman

Chair Lancashire Youth Partnership

Scouting's Vision Towards 2018



For the past two years The Scout Association has been working with all members to develop a new vision to ensure that Scouting continues to meet the needs of young people and adults. We have now agreed that vision.



More people are joining now than at any time in the last 50 years. But none of this happened by accident – this was part of our Vision Towards



2012. Together we have transformed Scouting over the last ten years. With new leadership, a revised programme, training and image, we are renewed and re-energised. We've still got work to do to finalise that. So now there's a new vision for Scouting beyond 2012 – this time to 2018.

Scouting's Vision Towards 2018

Scouting in 2018 will:

- Make a positive impact in our communities
- Prepare young people to be active citizens
- Embrace and contribute to social change

Scouting in 2018 will be:

- Shaped by young people in partnership with adults
- Enjoyed by more young people and more adult volunteers
- As diverse as the communities in which we live

Members of Scouting in 2018 will feel:

- Empowered
- Valued
- Proud

It is now up to all of us to help bring the vision to life to ensure Scouting continues to prosper and grow.

We have achieved a great deal in West Lancashire, but we still have challenges ahead. The last few years have shown just how much we can achieve when we all work together. We are confident and excited about the future of Scouting in West Lancashire.



1st April, 2010 to 31st March, 2011

County President

The Lord Wade of Chorlton KT

County Vice Presidents

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 Rob Woodhouse

Mr Jonathan Abbey

Mr Ian Lonsdale

Miss Jenny Johnson

Mr Ben Crook

Mr Steve Williamson

Mr Chris Moss

Mr Terry Bond

Mrs Sue Goldstraw

Mrs Judith Jamieson

Mrs Susan Sullivan

Mr David Simpson

County Commissioner & Chair of the County Team

County Chairman

Deputy County Chairman

County Secretary & Chair of the Appointment Committee

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

County Trustee for Blackpool

County Trustee for Chorley

County Trustee for Lonsdale

County Trustee for Ormskirk

County Trustee for Preston

County Trustee for South Ribble

County Trustee for Wyre

County Officials

Mr George Lowe

Mr Pete Sturgess

Deputy County Commissioner

County Principal Officer

Other Officials

Mr Christopher Harris

Ms Lynn Oldham

Regional Commissioner for North West England

Regional Development Manager

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 South Preston Office Village, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6BL

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
Waddecar 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 – August 2011

COUNTY OFFICIALS & COMMISSIONERS

County Commissioner	Carl Hankinson	County Chairman	Mike Simpson
Deputy County Commissioner	George Lowe	Deputy County Chairman	Tony Andrews
Scout Network Commissioner	Julie Paton	County Secretary	David Thornton
		County Treasurer	Cath Joyce

WADDECAR SCOUT ACTIVITY CENTRE STAFF

County Finance & Admin Officer	Sandra Sowerbutts	Waddecarr Centre Manager	Mick Lovatt
Admin & Bookings Officer	Sheila Steel	County Development Officers	Andy Marsden
			Barbara Hughes

ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS & MANAGERS

ACC Beaver Scouts	Cath Hargreaves	ACC International	Steve Morton
ACC Cub Scouts	Paul Harris	ACC Adult Support	Jim Hunter
ACC Scouts	David Marsh	Media Development Manager	Pete Sturgess
ACC Explorer Scouts	Hugh Miller	ACC Expeditions	Dick Griffiths
ACC Adventurous Activities	Joe Ashworth	County Training Manager	Fiona Jackson
Scout Active Support	Ian Lonsdale		

COUNTY ACTIVITIES TEAM

Activity Registrar	Ash Green	Orienteering	Bob Nash
Air Activities	Ian Grace	Paddle Sports	Stuart Dean
Land Activities (Mountaineering)	Geoff Lyons	Sail Sports	Kevin Day
Archery	Ron Chattington	Scouting Skills	Mick Harvey
Caving	Rachael Platt	Shooting	John Lloyd
Climbing / Abseiling	Geoff Lyons	Snow Sports	Dick Griffiths
Fencing	Phil Fairclough	Walking	Geoff Lyons
Nights Away	Neil Roberts		

COUNTY ADVISORS & ADMINISTRATORS

Asset Manager	David King	Human Resources	Janet Ambler
Safety in Scouting	Ian Holland	Fundraising	John Lawson
Faiths & Beliefs	Vacant	Information Technology	Peter Willingham
Diversity	Jim Hunter	Insurance	Colin Monks
County Administrator	Anne Clark	Safeguarding Training Co-ordinator	Val Holland
County Administrator	Maggie King	County Archivist	Michael Loomes
Training Course Administrator	Carolyn Kirkham	County Badge & Awards Secretary	Bob Taylor
		County Appointments Secretary	Val Holland

COUNTY SCOUTERS

Beaver Scouts	Fiona Jackson	Explorer Scouts	Chris Lomas
	Pauline Taylor		Simon McGlen
Cub Scouts	Ruth Abbey		Cathie Metcalf
	Paul Britton	Scout Network	Chris Horsfall
	Tom Gibson		Jenny Macdonald
Scouts	Phil Haworth		Claire Thompson
	Nick Kasmir		
	Matt Spencer		
	Pauline Worthington		

COUNTY COMMITTEES – CHAIR & DEPUTY

County Executive	Mike Simpson	County Team	Carl Hankinson
	Tony Andrews		
Finance & Fund Raising	Kerry Houghton	Waddecarr Management	Rob Woodhouse
	Brendan Drury		Phil Haworth
General Purposes	Jonathan Abbey	Appointments	Jim Hunter
Staffing	Mike Simpson		



A Great Tower Retrospective

West Lancashire Scouts have been involved with Great Tower (GT) since 1936, and with its predecessor Blakeholme Training Centre a few hundred yards from the current site. Its unique and beautiful position within the Lake District National Park has always made it popular with Scout Groups from far and wide.

The County's formal involvement came about in 1975 when Venture Forth Base (VFB), our centre for outdoor pursuits, was relocated from the old Grammar School at Cartmel to a new building – Windermere Chalet. This was only made possible thanks to a lot of hard work by the then County Commissioner Bob Sutton, and Bill Parker (ACC Venture Scouts).

In 1979, the South Lakes Scout and Guide Scheme, as it was called, found itself in financial trouble and our 3 partners parted company with us. West Lancashire took over the running of the Centre, and also had to clear the debts. Colin Ovenden was appointed Chair of this daunting project, and was joined by Roy Fisher and a number of other District Commissioners on the Venture Forth Board, and appointed Bernard Pendlebury as Operating Commissioner to cover VFB as well as Waddecar.

Working parties spent many days and evenings improving the base for weekend use.

By 1983 the debts had been cleared and we were trading in profit.

In 1985 The Scout Association offered the 10 national campsites for adoption by local Scout Counties. Bob Sutton had no hesitation in accepting the challenge of running such a site as he believed we had both the people and the ability to take this forward and develop GT to its full potential. Our bid was successful and in 1986 we took over the running and management of the 250 acres, plus the Moor Crag Boathouse and the fleet of 5 boats, whilst continuing to run Venture Forth Base as a separate entity within the estate. Agreement was reached with the Scout Association for a 99 year lease on GT.

By the time West Lancashire had fully taken over the management of GT in 1986, we had a full 10 year development plan produced and agreed by the County Executive Committee. It proved to be very successful and was completed almost in full and largely within budget by the early 1990s.

One of the most impressive developments completed in that first phase was the construction of a new, purpose built Water Activities Centre to replace the original Moor Crag Boathouse. Thanks to an exchange of land with our neighbour Eric Thompson, we were able to improve access to the waterfront, and increase our range of craft available. By the time of the recent handover, we had a voluntary team of over 50 offering water activities and training with a fleet of 80 craft, which attracted over 700 to the annual water sports open day.

We would like to record our special thanks to all the volunteers and paid staff who helped to make GT and VFB a true Scouting Centre of Excellence whilst in the hands of West Lancashire.

So GT is now back in the hands of its owners; HQ have plans in place to take it forward in this next phase of its journey. However, we in West Lancashire Scouting can hold our heads up high, we have handed back to Scout HQ a much improved site, with modern facilities, a solid infrastructure and a good reputation as to the quality of the Scouting and friendliness that can be had there.

Bernard Pendlebury



Red Rose 2010



The theme of Red Rose 2010 was Challenge Yourself and everyone who attended had an amazing adventure.

There were 1789 Scouts, Guides, Leaders and Staff from the UK, North America, Africa and Europe who spent the week at Great Tower Activity Centre in the glorious Lake District. Some had never spent a week away from home, some had never camped in this sort of terrain before but each and every one of them took home memories that will live with them for ever.

Red Rose is a firm fixture in the West Lancashire Scouts calendar but this was the first time we had held it in the Lake District. This gave us

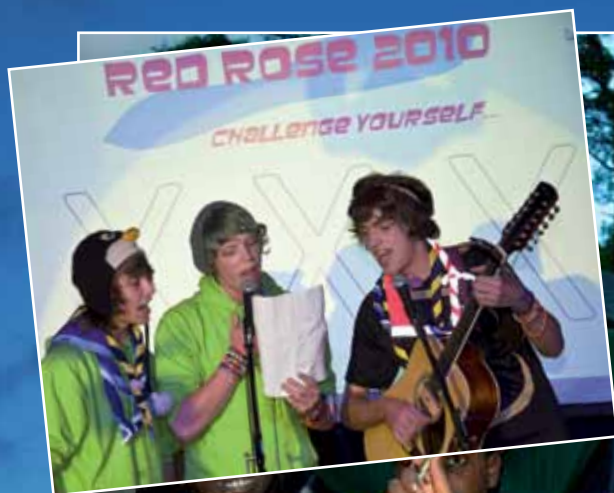
fabulous programme opportunities and a brilliant adventurous location but also brought challenges around transport and facilities. This fitted well with the theme and the team did a great job.



The camp was divided up into Sub Camps which were named after mountains in the Lake District and the programme was action packed.

Each participant had their days filled with fun and adventure whether they were on the water in Splash, on the High Ropes or backwoods cooking in GT Extreme, helping to build hides, and dry stone walling in Environment, taking part in adventurous activities in Adventure or seeing the beautiful Lake District on a day off site in Lakes Experience.





Through the week we had a number of visitors who came to see the fantastic time we were all having. These included Wayne Bulpitt, UK Chief Commissioner and Nigel Hailey International Commissioner for UK as well as Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts who came for a day of activities and to see what was going on. We were also very lucky to have the opportunity to be with our Guiding friends as they celebrated their 100 Years of Guiding and to wish them a very Happy Birthday.

Red Rose 2010 was an amazing international experience for all involved and we're looking forward to what Red Rose 2014 will bring. Will you be there too?

