

SO YOU THINK IT'S BEEN A QUIET YEAR ... **THINK AGAIN!**



West Lancashire Scouts Annual Report

ROYAL VISIT ISSUE



2015



www.westlancsscouts.org.uk



Our President

How time flies. It seems amazing that I am looking back at my fourth year as President of West Lancs Scouts. As I reflect on those four years I am tempted to say that this last year was another routine year. But before I am misunderstood, let me explain what I regard as routine for West Lancs. By routine I mean another year of outstanding achievements; another year of growth, bringing the opportunities of Scouting to even more young people; another year in which more of these young people than ever before received awards for their achievements in Scouting; another year where there were more opportunities for overseas expeditions than ever before; and another year where the Leaders and other volunteers gave over and above the call of duty to provide an adventurous and fun filled programme for all. And I know that all our young people benefitted from that programme and did have fun, as I saw for myself, for example, at the Scout County Rally.

It was also a year in which West Lancs took a significant step to take its message to the wider community in Lancashire. I was delighted to be able to help in arranging for the reception held in the Harris Museum last November. It was a great boost that the Duke of Kent, the President of the Scout Association, was able to accept our invitation and spoke warmly of what he had heard that evening. The response to the evening was particularly gratifying with over 150 guests. Major businesses were represented along with local government, education, the health service, faith groups and other community organisations. We were able to put across a very strong message about the achievements of Scouting in West Lancs

but also about what more could be achieved with the

support and involvement of the local community. I know that some of the conversations held that evening are already bearing fruit and we need to continue this year to strengthen those links to help us achieve our ambitions.

I look forward to working with you all to ensure this coming year is even more "routine" than last.

Gail Stanley MBE, JP, DL
County President

Chairman's Foreword

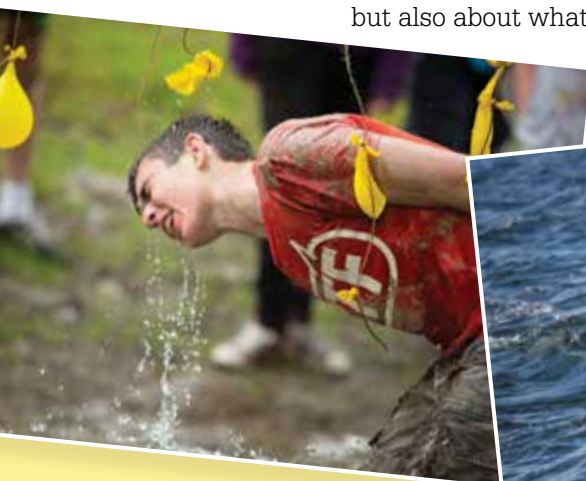
This 2015 Annual Report gives an excellent account of another year of outstanding achievements within West Lancs and we have much to celebrate and thank people for their great efforts in achieving these results. Mathematically 2015 is the half way point in our Strategic Plan 2012 to 2018. Along with the steps taken to implement that plan, this year has also been the point where we have started to address some of the hard challenges which face us if we are going to achieve our strategic objectives. Enthusiasm has come face to face with realism and we are going to have to work hard to ensure that enthusiasm wins.

First the good news. There is the progress on the refreshment of the youth programme, the night's away achievements and the wide range of international expeditions which the County Commissioner refers to. All of this points to us achieving our ambition in the area which has to be the key objective of Scouting, that we are second to none in the programme we offer.

There is the encouraging news of our first Scout Group based on a local Mosque and of Scouting reaching socially deprived wards where there has never been Scouting before. These are steps towards being as diverse as the communities we serve.

We were ahead of the game in appointing a County Youth Commissioner and the promising work that he has started is helping us achieve our objective that Scouting be shaped by young people in partnership with adults.

The visit of the





Duke of Kent enabled us to enhance the profile of Scouting in the area and to make contact with a wide range of local business and community organisations. The conversations held there can provide the starting point for partnerships which allow us to make a bigger impact on communities and enlist their help in achieving our objectives.

We have committed a further half million pounds of investment at Waddecarr to provide washing and toilet facilities of a standard that will compare with the best Scouting facilities and that work is progressing well.

We have also conducted a detailed review of our investment management and our reserves policies to ensure that there is sound financial management of County resources in line with our objectives.

But now the challenges. That financial review demonstrated the amount of reserves which we need to keep invested to give us an income to cover the running costs of the County. This has shown that if we are to maintain the preferred position of not charging a County levy, then there are no remaining reserves free for further investment. The development plans for Waddecarr called for investment of some £1.5m beyond the current toilet block project. Implementation will require either serious fund raising efforts and partnerships with local businesses or a reassessment of County priorities.

The strategic plan also called for investigation of a County Headquarters as a way of enhancing the profile of Scouting and improving the management of resources and the administration for the County. An investigation into buying or building such a facility indicated

costs of up to half a million pounds, a result that has necessitated a pause for reassessment. The feasibility of fund raising has to be addressed along with the priorities for Waddecarr while other options may need to be considered such as sharing facilities or renting. Again the contacts made at the 'Scouting for All' reception need to be followed up to see what help might be given or partnerships established. That in turn highlights the need to recruit volunteers who might not wish to help deliver the Scouting programme but who could help with fund raising or building local partnerships.

It is important however not to let the challenges over money distract from the key objective of providing increasing opportunities for young people to benefit from Scouting. It is encouraging that our membership numbers have topped 12,000 and that we are within sight of achieving our largest ever recorded membership. It was a difficult year for the census with national computer system problems and these difficulties may have impacted on the results. So while we recorded our 11th consecutive year of growth, and grew when nationally the numbers were slightly down, it is worth reminding ourselves that we set a target of 5% annual growth, which we did not achieve. There have already been significant areas of progress since the census which are noted in this report. It is the continued enthusiasm of our Leaders in providing the exciting programme which attracts young people. The work of the Districts along with the Development Officers in recruiting volunteers to meet the demand for Scouting and achieve our growth ambitions remains a key challenge facing us.

The final challenge of course is to maintain the enthusiasm and dedication of those volunteers we already have. But knowing you and having seen you at work I know this is a challenge we can easily meet. My thanks on behalf of the whole County for the tremendous work in this past year.

Mike Simpson
County Chairman



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT



Let's celebrate a milestone: our membership is now over 12,000 - the first time in 20 years. Eleven years of successive growth have placed us within reach of our largest ever-recorded membership of 12,443. Every week across our County 563 Sections meet in 157 Scout Groups and in some wards we are the only youth provision.

We welcome new Scout Groups in Astley Village in Chorley, Westgate in Morecambe, Mereside in Blackpool, Ansdell in Fylde and most recently Fulwood in Preston. 10th Fulwood was an idea in December and yet in early July, 100 young people in 4 Sections jointly with 40 new adult volunteers took their Scout promise. This Open Scout Group is based at the Madrasah attached to a new Mosque and by the end of 2015 we will open an Explorer Scout Unit for girls. I am incredibly proud that more young people get a better start in life through their participation in Scouting and I hope you are too.

What attracts them to us, and ensures they stay, is our programme. We are currently within the most substantial refresh of our 6-18 youth programme since 2001. Separately we are completely rebooting our Scout Network Section, which will now become the responsibility of Scout Districts to deliver. Our team is working hard to ensure we deliver an exciting, relevant and attractive programme to all young people. To encourage nights away we have run a light-hearted competition; congratulations to South Ribble, who won. Over 37,000 nights away were completed in a 12-month period and we expect to beat this number in the current year. A second

milestone to celebrate is that this summer sees more of our Members on overseas expeditions than ever before. An Explorer Scout adventure to The Ardennes, an Explorer Belt in Hungary, a canoeing expedition to Sweden, a mountaineering expedition to Greenland, a community project to Cambodia and participating in the World Scout Jamboree in Japan is the most varied suite of expeditions we've ever offered. Moreover, an equal number of young people are travelling abroad via District and Group expeditions. This enormous undertaking could not succeed without the substantial work of Dick Griffiths and Steve Morton – thank you gents.

Following the appointment of Hannah as our UK Youth Commissioner, West Lancs appointed the first County Youth Commissioner in the UK. Working with other young people, Ollie Wood has created a County-wide plan to ensure Scouting is shaped by young people in partnership with adults. This team is building and more young people are enthused to become involved in shaping Scouting here in West Lancs. This secures our future and adds vibrancy to our discussions – long may it continue!

Over recent years I've had to learn new words such as brand, reach, messaging and (try) to learn to use 'Hoot Suite' or 'Mail Chimp'. All of this stems from the work our Marketing & Communications team is doing to improve the quality of our communications and ensure the image of West Lancs Scouts is attractive to its Members and supporters. Social media is powerful, and I am incredibly impressed by the quality and speed of communications via this medium. It helps to create a sense of belonging and pride in what we do, not to mention a useful recruiting tool! West Lancs has the best team of volunteers in the UK supporting us in this area and they really add value to our County – thank you to them all.

Our County Team continues to change with 5 appointments in the past 12 months. I would also like to thank two people who have stood down from their roles. Mike Smith was our District Commissioner (DC) in Fylde for two stints totalling 13 years and Susan Sullivan completed 13



years as our DC in South Ribble. Both of them embodied the best of Scouting values and led their Districts with dedication and personal example. Duncan Cairns & June Holt have hard acts to follow but have already settled in and are building on the strong foundations they inherited. I would also like to share our delight that our DC in Blackpool, Victoria Da Silva was awarded her MBE for services to Scouting and the community in Blackpool in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June. I'm incredibly proud to lead such a capable and hard-working team here in West Lancs; we couldn't ask for more.

Success doesn't just happen, and we aren't just lucky. A very large team of people work very hard to make this County what it is. We enjoy external support because we've demonstrated that we are credible, forward looking and worth supporting. We mustn't squander the



opportunity this presents to increase our reach to more young people and to ensure our wider community see Scouting as relevant to them. The values we help instil in young people will serve them well and in turn they will become constructive citizens in our communities. We should be proud of what we do, and do so in the comfort that others value us because our purpose is as relevant today as ever. Thank you so much for all that you do – my one request is that you continue to enjoy and play the game of Scouting.

Carl Hankinson DL
County Commissioner

Youth Shaped Scouting in West Lancs

In January 2015, West Lancs Scouts appointed **Ollie Wood** as our first ever County Youth Commissioner following the appointment of a UK Youth Commissioner and two deputies last autumn.

Ollie tells us that he is 21 years old and has been in Scouting for 15 years through Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at 2nd Longton in South Ribble District. As an Explorer Scout, he was a Young Leader at Cubs and Scouts at the same Group, and then became both the Cub Scout Leader and Scout Leader as an adult volunteer after turning 18. Ollie says...

"My role is to ensure that Scouting is shaped by young people in partnership with adults by 2018 by working with adults and young people all around the County to ensure the delivery of the plan which was recently completed. This plan has been influenced and informed by hundreds of young people around the County that I have spoken to in the past few months. I believe that every young person should have an opportunity to shape their Scouting experience, but also to shape every decision that is made in Scouting.

Over coming months there will be more opportunities for other 18-25 year olds to take up roles to create a team which will ensure that Youth Shaped Scouting is a success everywhere in our County. To discover these opportunities, you can follow me on Facebook or Twitter, and keep checking the new part to the website: www.westlancsscouts.org.uk/youthshaped.

This website can be used to find Section-specific resources to make it as easy as possible for adults to implement Youth Shaped Scouting in their Section. These will continue to be updated as good practice is shared between Leaders around the County. The site will also have regular opportunities for young people, a blog which is soon to be launched, and much more!





So after a busy few months fact-finding and setting out a plan for the next three years, I am now looking forward to seeing youth shaped Scouting become more widespread in the County. A recent event, #WLShape, which West Lancs Scouts hosted to coincide with the UK Youth Commissioner Hannah Kentish's visit was an opportunity for young people from all around the County to come together and share their views and ideas. As well as informing the Youth Shaped Vision 2018 Plan, the recommendations from the event will be acted upon in coming months!

We have lots to look forward to with a busy year for West Lancs Scouts, and Youth Shaped Scouting is one thing to be excited

about. It will see our young people empowered by the opportunity to shape Scouting, feel more valued as part of our Movement and proud to see their voice heard in ensuring that everything we do is relevant, exciting, and in the interests of the young people our adult volunteers offer their time to give a better start in life too".

Ollie Wood
County Youth
Commissioner





Training Sections

'Since becoming Assistant County Commissioner for Beavers I always seem to start my annual report by saying what a fantastic year we've had but the past 12 months feels like it's been the best yet!', a delighted **Cath Hargreaves** tells us.

Our first event was our Safety Badge Day at Waddecar on the 5th April. The attendance at our events is constantly growing - which is fantastic! Our Beavers learnt all about safety and gained their Safety Badge.



Beavers Scouts is the Section for boys and girls aged 6 to 8. In West Lancs we have 2771 Beavers in 166 Colonies

The next event was our first ever SPLASH Day at Waterside Lodge, Southport. The idea for this came from SplASHU and what an amazing idea it was! The Beavers came for half a day and tried their hand at paddling, went across to "Bear Island" in a Canadian Canoe and tried backwoods cooking and played games on land. Over 70 Beaver Scouts took part and everyone had a great time. This will definitely be part of our regular calendar of activities.

Then we had what was the highlight of the year for me. Our County sleepover was held in November at Rossall School in Fleetwood. The theme just had to be Harry Potter. Over 400 Beavers spent a wizard themed night

with Hagrid and other characters from the books and took part in lots of magical activities. At the end they all had passed their OWLS and received a special County sleepover badge. My only worry now is how do we follow it!

Night's away and top awards are still a priority and numbers for these continue to grow.

Finally I'm delighted that two new County Beaver Scout Leaders joined the team, Jo Beaman and Lizzie Goldsack.

An always enthusiastic **Ann-marie Fisher** reports another high octane, sun shining, face smiling, mad mad year has passed for the Cub Scouts of West Lancs!



Cub Scouts is the Section for boys and girls aged 8 to 10.5. In West Lancs we have 3186 Cub Scouts in 173 Packs

We began the year soaking up the sun at our first Camper Badge Sleepover at Waddecaraimed at the inexperienced Cub...it was a roaring success... with over 100 Cubs





attending, and in most cases, spending their first night in a tent.

Hopefully this prepared them for the biggest County Cub Camp ever held at Waddecarr, 1001 Cubs, 399 Leaders and one flyover by James Bond! The Undercover Camp saw 8 sub camps providing an amazing mix of activities for the Cubs to enjoy. Again we had blistering sunshine and the 'Cubs Got Talent' competition was legendary.

September brought our Wet, Dry and Adventure Day when the bravest of Cubs tried abseiling, climbing and canoeing, amongst many other adventurous challenges. We also went wild in the country at the Naturalist Badge Day and leading towards Christmas we all donned our Santa suits for two Santa Sleepovers at Fylde District HQ.

So it has been a busy year...preparing us for the 2015 Year of Adventure which is a year of activities leading towards the Centenary Year of 2016.

All these days and nights away are not possible without the ideas and enthusiasm of each and every Cub Leader in the County and I want to thank them all for their hard work and dedication.

But most of all I want to thank the Cub Scouts, without their energy, drive and willingness to try anything new and adventurous, we would not have had such a fantastic year! Well done all of you! #WLCubsRock !!

This year I was offered the opportunity to take over the reins as ACC Scouts, and what a year it has been for myself and for West Lancs Scouts says **Rob Millington**. The stand out highlight for me was the Red Rose 2014 event held at Crooklands Showground in the Lake District. This saw 2000 young people and adults attend

SCOUTS

Scouts is the Section for boys and girls aged 10.5 to 14. In West Lancs we have 2534 Scouts in 153 Troops

the event of the year! Between the 26th July and 2nd August, young people from across the County were taking part in many activities from mountain biking and hill walking, to caving and sailing, with a foam party

thrown in for good measure. The event was a resounding success and there is already talk of the next Red Rose Camp!

The Scout Section saw County Rally numbers return to usual levels with 813 young people attending the annual County event. This is a slight drop from 2013's bumper 1159 Young people, but this had the great advantage of the visit from our Chief Scout Bear Grylls. In 2014, the County Rally was thoroughly enjoyed by all attending and the feedback we received was primarily positive with activities such as laser tag and climbing, alongside fencing and kayaking. We are looking forward to County Rally 2015, with a wide variety of activities for the young people to enjoy. The theme for this year's event is "The Elements" which will see activities in all 4 of the elements - Fire, Water, Wind and Earth.

The Bowlander continues to be a great event for the County. This year we have seen an increase of 62 young people taking part in the three weekend events from the training day to the event proper. 2015 saw 327 young people take part in the event, which was ultimately won by Chorley Healey Scout Group, but speaking to the young people involved, they all felt like winners.

Across the County, Districts continue to put on some excellent events. Notable events held this year were the Haunted





Sleepover, Moonlight event and the first bowling tournament. Notable activities include walking, climbing and a whole lot of camping! All of this has helped drive the achievement of the Chief Scouts Gold Award. Since taking over as ACC Scouts, we have had presentations at Chorley Town Hall and Myerscough College, each of which were attended by 60 young people. We wish each and every one of them continued success in their Scouting and in their future.

County Rally will see the new and rejuvenated Patrol Leaders Forum being put into place. This will be led by a group of Explorers who will discuss with the Scouts what they want from their Scouting and feed back to the County Team. This is going to really drive youth led Scouting in our County, and we will do everything we can to ensure that their thoughts and ideas are put in place, and if they can't be, we will let them know why. This will be a quarterly event, and we hope this can really help drive youth led Scouting within the County, from Group, to District, to County and beyond!

This year we have seen the Scout County grow from 2497 young people in the Scout Section in 2014, to 2524 in 2015. This is an increase of 1.17%, and it is showing that Scouting in West Lancs is going the right way!

The County Scout Team would like to thank everyone that has helped the Section in 2014/15, but especially the many Scout Leaders around the County who are continuing to grow the Section, provide a great programme, and aim to enable each young person to gain their Chief Scouts Gold Award.

Hugh Miller, is delighted to report that the Explorer Section expanded into new territory within the County with the opening of a new Unit in Longton.

Once again

EXPLORERS

Explorer Scouts is the Section for young people aged 14 to 18. In West Lancs we have 968 Explorer Scouts in 51 Units. Of those 286 are in the Young Leaders scheme

the year saw regular opportunities for Explorers to get involved with international expeditions and adventurous activities. Large events such as County Explorer Camp continued to be identified as highlights by Explorers

and Leaders alike, and key to the continued success of the Section. One long running event, Environment Weekend, broke new ground this year with a change of venue to Waddecarr. A weekend of maintaining infrastructure, controlling vegetation and developing the site was enjoyed by nearly 80 Explorers and Leaders.

Youth Shaped Scouting was very much on the agenda during #takethelead in March. The weekend focused on supporting Explorer Scouts participating in, and leading, forums as well as planning and running events and activities. Some great plans for events were developed and we look forward to seeing activities taking place during the coming year.

Julie Paton tells us that Scout Network has seen many new faces over the past 12 months, bringing new ideas and inspiring others to join in the fun. This new lease of life could be seen as a growing number of Network members from West Lancs came together to enjoy 'Connected' and the National Network Gathering.

As census numbers increase, so has the number of individuals stepping forward to drive the Section's programme. This contagious attitude to take advantage of the opportunities available to them, join in the adventure and push the boundaries to obtain their own





network

Members aged 18 to 25 can opt to join the Scout Network. In West Lancs we have 59 Network members in addition to the 104 having adult appointments as Leaders or assisting in Groups.

personal goals and achievements, has created a healthy stream of requests from Network members wishing to discuss their chosen ideas to complete the Queen's Scout Award.

The County's International Programme continues

to capture the attention of Network members, with a number of 18-25 year olds being appointed on the leadership teams, which alongside those who continue to provide a weekly commitment to Scouting, is fabulous.

Support Sections

Adult Training

2014-2015 has once again seen hundreds of Leaders undertaking their training, explains **Fiona Jackson**, be it updating their Safeguarding Awareness or First Aid or the mandated modules for their role, it is all extra time given to improving the delivery of Scouting within their area. As always, it is a huge pleasure to learn of Leaders being validated for their training and being awarded their Wood Badges – a great many Leaders have achieved that during the year and our many congratulations go to them all on their achievements!

Support for all our Leaders in progressing through their training is down to our team of Training Advisers across the Districts and the time spent in developing personal learning plans with Leaders is invaluable, especially with the ever increasing demands on all our personal time. I thank all those who are performing this role, in most cases in addition to other extensive roles, and encourage others to consider what support they could also offer.

The training team is not one to stand still and the various courses on offer across the County are constantly under review. This has been especially important during the year with changes to module objectives as well as the impact the recent programme refresh has had on the material covered. Recognition must

go to the Course Directors and Local Training Managers along with their teams for moving with the changes, maintaining their enthusiasm and striving to deliver the highest standard of learning opportunities for all. I look forward to the coming months as we progress towards realising our vision for the future!

International

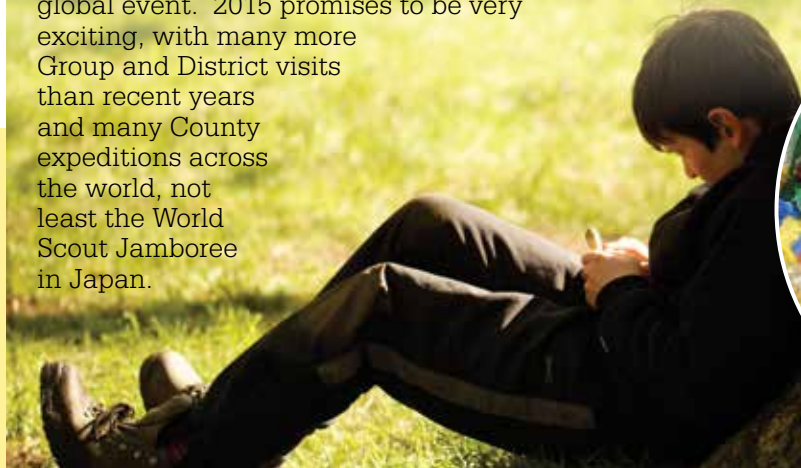
The year has seen the very successful launch and uptake of the County Staged International Badge says **Steve Morton**. Over a thousand badges have been awarded across all Sections during the first year of the programme, bringing global and international Scouting to more young people. Members are now continuing to work on these whilst looking forward to the exciting new Global Badges in the refreshed programme. Global Awareness and International have been taken up to a much larger scale within the younger Sections.

Meanwhile Scouts and Explorers took part in the inaugural North West Shelterbox Scavenger Hunt held in Liverpool, raising awareness and funds for both Scouting and the disaster relief charity.

The highlight of the international year was the very successful Red Rose Camp held in the Lake District with Groups attending from across Europe and Africa. Hosting events like this brings international Scouting to our doorstep and very accessible. This reduced the number of members travelling abroad but we still had members visiting Norway, France, Belgium, Serbia, Romania, Hungary and Uganda.

At the beginning of December we were delighted that two South Ribble Members received two of the first ten Scouts of the World Awards in the UK. This is a unique award which is operated by the World Scout Bureau and the only worldwide award. 2014 ended with a very successful follow up visit to Nepal. We are pleased to learn that the children in the home our members worked in and their trek guides were unharmed during the recent earthquake, but there is so much rebuilding to do.

To boost Group visits the international team ran a very well attended 'Taking Scouts Abroad' training course which will definitely be repeated. Future opportunities were promoted at the March International evening held at Brockholes which was a perfect venue for a global event. 2015 promises to be very exciting, with many more Group and District visits than recent years and many County expeditions across the world, not least the World Scout Jamboree in Japan.



Activities Team

Paul Sanday reports that West Lancs Scouts continue to offer a wider range of adventurous activities to our young people and also to our adults, ranging from day experiences to full blown expeditions in the UK and abroad. In 2014 we took stock of our position as a team and looked to the future to shape adventurous activities through our Vision 2018.

Growth has been apparent in the activities



world with new additions to the County Assessor team enabling more permitted Leaders to deliver more activities locally. This is where a real difference is made at the Sections, Troops, Packs and Colonies enabling local Leaders to offer a truly diverse and adventurous programme. Also a focus on training has ensured that adult Leaders supporting trips and ventures are adequately prepared to provide safe/quality experiences for our young people.

We have transitioned the remaining land

activity groups into a new Land Activities Active Support Unit, which will enable more structure and impetus from the well-established activities into those that need additional support. There has also been some key partnerships made between West Lancs Scouts and local activity groups/centres to enable Scouting activities and commercial activities to share resources and operate in synergy.

In addition to our fantastic annual events, such as



Bowlander, the Mountain Adventure Challenge and our sectional County Camps, the skills and Leaders generated by activities infrastructure have also supported numerous one-off expeditions and events across the County and worldwide.

Looking forward we will continue to expand our activity portfolio to ensure that West Lancs is offering more diversity in safe adventurous activities.



Comparison by Year

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	%change
County only people	108	178	226	226	255	196	223	211	214	187	180	217	242	224	-7.44%
Blackpool	1228	1217	1097	1036	1041	989	1059	1065	1146	1087	1128	1034	1121	1121	0.00%
Chorley	840	783	761	721	827	827	944	1023	1077	1077	1097	1104	1472	1552	5.40%
Fylde	865	786	764	716	716	763	784	793	817	780	787	850	896	935	4.35%
Lonsdale	1289	1226	1178	1255	1286	1299	1202	1199	1336	1400	1396	1405	1487	1629	9.55%
Ormskirk	1303	1303	1279	1343	1321	1324	1456	1472	1544	1601	1612	1620	1691	1604	-5.15%
Preston	1383	1296	1278	1249	1287	1347	1418	1462	1496	1579	1632	1645	1682	1648	-2.03%
South Ribble	1781	1729	1661	1828	1892	1928	2015	2058	2186	2203	2238	2334	2442	2369	-2.99%
Wyre	946	917	828	760	722	770	742	778	895	874	901	933	945	959	1.48%
District Totals	9635	9257	8846	8908	9092	9247	9620	9850	10497	10524	10791	11015	11736	11817	0.69%
Number of Groups	178	163	158	156	154	148	147	145	150	148	148	147	150	157	4.66%
Beaver Scouts	2167	2175	2068	2061	2134	2131	2259	2246	2486	2528	2502	2558	2729	2771	1.53%
Cub Scouts	3009	2730	2600	2540	2613	2540	2578	2710	2839	2810	2923	2881	3146	3818	21.36%
Scouts	2053	1932	1818	1840	1882	1992	2124	2207	2277	2309	2297	2390	2497	2534	1.48%
Venture Scouts	407	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Explorer Scouts		299	459	544	510	540	638	660	690	765	844	889	981	968	-1.33%
Scout Network		120	131	131	165	110	106	104	110	97	67	70	69	69	0.00%
Network regd elsewhere		46	37	63	64	113	98	96	64	58	92	91	83	94	13.25%
Active Support	297	189	226	227	205	206	209	229	216	212	218	226	241	237	-1.66%
Total Scout County	9742	9435	9072	9134	9347	9443	9843	10061	10711	10788	10971	11142	11978	12041	0.53%



“Enjoyed by More Young People and More Adult Volunteers...”

We should be very proud that this year we passed the key milestone of 12,000 Members and recorded 12,041 at census, an increase of 0.5% or 63 Members. Our youth Membership also increased by 1% or 96 Members and we now have 9,518 young people taking part in Scouting across the County. While this is good news, we must acknowledge that growth this year has been at a much slower rate than recent years.

Our Vision for 2018 is to have 14,000 Members enjoying the opportunities that Scouting across West Lancs has to offer. There is a long way to go if we are to achieve this, but if every Section in our County grew by only four Members each during the next 3 years, we can easily pass this target.

Congratulations to the 27 Scout Groups who grew by 10 or more Members each at census this year. Especially the following six Groups who should be rightly proud of the growth they have achieved: 1st Chorley Methodist increase of 20 Members; 6th Blackpool increase of 22 Members; Hollinshead Street, Chorley increase of 23 Members; 1st Lostock Hall, South Ribble and 1st Garstang, Wyre who both increased by 28 Members; and 1st Thornton Cleveleys, Wyre who increased by 35 Members.

However, it is clear we still have work to do with 23 Groups losing more than 10 Members each, giving a total loss of 406 Members. Support is available to help Groups if numbers are dipping, but it is important that you let your District Commissioner (DC) know as early as possible, so they can look at the help needed.

It's been another busy year for our County Development Officers, Andy and Barbara. The energy and drive they bring to the individual projects is clear to see and their knowledge, judgement and humour is a welcome support to our Group Scout Leaders (GSLs) and DCs. In Blackpool, we are also receiving the



support of the Regional Development Service as part of the Youth United Fund (YUF) project and a number of new Sections are set to open here throughout the year, along with another new Group.

The work the Development Officers do can't succeed without the support of local volunteers who work alongside them to support our new Groups and Sections and give our new volunteers the confidence they need. In addition, our Districts continue to develop and work on their own projects, which enables us to offer support to more Groups and grow more quickly. So just where do we stand on our journey to growth?

What we said we'd do - growth...

- Open 50 new youth Sections, including 10 new Scout Groups, with 25 Sections; filling gaps in the 6 - 14 provision with nine new Sections; opening eight new Explorer Scout Units; and creating eight 2nd Sections at existing Groups.

What we did...

- Opened 18 new Sections during the year.

How we did it...

- Opened four new Scout Groups 53rd Blackpool (Mereside); Westgate in Lonsdale; 12th Lytham St Annes in Fylde; and 10th Fulwood in Preston. A total of 10 new Sections.
- Opened five new Sections where there was a gap in the 6-14 provision, including two Beaver Colonies, one Cub Pack and two Scout Troops.
- Opened three 2nd Sections where demand was high to join a Scout Group and we had a waiting list, including two Beaver Colonies and a Scout Troop.

What we said we'd do - support...

- Provide help and guidance to 40 Scout Groups where support is vital for the Group to grow, including ensuring there is an effective Group management structure in place (GSL and Executive Committee); the Group has a development plan; and supporting the Group in increasing the number of young people.

What we did...

- Seven Groups received help and support from the County Development Officers to enable them to grow.
- Currently an additional 11 Groups are receiving

support.

How we did it...

- Supported Districts to recruit effective managers and supporters, including Group Scout Leaders and District Explorer Scout Commissioners;
- Supported Groups with creating and strengthening their Executive Committee to allow Leaders to focus on providing the programme for the young people. Parent's meetings, family fun nights and clear role descriptions all helped people understand how they could get involved.
- Increased the number of adult volunteers working with our youth Section through offering flexible Scouting, parents' rotas, student volunteering placements; strengthening links with colleges and universities, other local voluntary organisations and promoting opportunities on a variety of internet sites – have all helped reach new adult volunteers.
- Boosted youth Membership numbers by running school recruitment assemblies followed by activity taster sessions.

What we said we'd do - recruitment...

- Recruit 250 new adults into West Lancs Scouts.

What we did...

- 104 new adult volunteers are working in Groups and Units across the County as a result of the County Development Project; plus two new Young Leaders;

How we did it...

- Recruited 69 Leaders and 14 Section Assistants;
- Recruited five members for Group Executive Committees;
- Recruited 16 Occasional Helpers.

What we said we'd do - legacy...

- Design and share resources; maintain a store of promotional material;
- Build relationships with GSLs and District Development Teams;





- Revise the content of the training development modules and share methods, resources and best practice.

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.

How we did it...

- Refreshed the content of the Growing the Movement training for managers and supporters to share best practice and promote available resources;
- Provided support at GSL's meetings, County GSL Day and 'Skills and Chills' events across all Districts, sharing knowledge, running training sessions and flagging new resources;
- Raised awareness of and promoted HQ recruitment resources and recruitment materials.

The Year Ahead

Our District Commissioners have already identified the core development projects for the coming year and Andy, Barbara and the Regional Development Team are busy across all Districts giving support and working on plans for new Groups and Sections. We can only succeed with the continued help and support of our existing Leaders, helpers and supporters, who provide the opportunities for life changing adventure to our young people. Thank you for everything you do, and keep making a difference.

Westgate Scout Group

Scouting finished in the Westgate area of Morecambe in 2007 when the Group merged with another local Group due to low numbers of adults and young people. The District identified Westgate as an area they would like to re-establish Scouting as they knew very few children travelled from this area to other local Groups and with a primary school roll of over 500 pupils, they felt there were sufficient children living locally for it to be sustainable.

With support from Barbara Hughes work began to look at local venue options and an approach was made to St Martin of Tours Church to see

if they would be interested in hosting a taster night. The church offered their support and a date was agreed for a taster event in November 2014. Westgate Primary School were keen to see the children offered Scouting locally and helped us promote our activities to the children.

A taster session was held with over 30 families coming along to find out more about what we do. While the young people took part in a range of activities with Leaders from across the District, Barbara spoke with the parents, shared information and films about Scouting, before discussing how a Group could be run locally if sufficient volunteers could be identified. The response was overwhelming with parents queuing to chat about how they could help.

After the event, Barbara spoke with all the parents and invited interested adults to come along to a meeting with other new volunteers. 11 adults came along and agreed to get involved and a date was set to open Beavers and Cubs and the initial programmes for each Section were drafted. With support from the District Team the Group opened at the end of January with 14 Beavers and 20 Cubs. Numbers have steadily grown in the last few months and each Section now has approx. 27 Members.

The new volunteers have made sure the children have had an exciting journey so far, with visits to the fire station, beach, camps and competitions and lots of badges earned along the way. Plans are now in place to open Scouts in autumn 2015.



Stephen's Scouting Experience...

I volunteered as a Leader for Westgate Cubs primarily due to my daughter joining Cubs and my wife also volunteering as a Leader. I wanted to give time, knowledge and skills and thought I could make a difference by contributing to the community. I know some of the kids as friends of my daughter and knew they were a really nice group. I thought I would enjoy it, but have been surprised how much it has surpassed my expectations. I have felt extremely rewarded from contributing and being challenged to push my personal skills. Running the meeting night and learning new skills from my training and experiences at camp have been great. I have been on bush craft training and had the opportunity to go caving which was one of the most adventurous experiences I have done in years."

Claire's Scouting Experience...

I decided to get involved as Ellie was keen to join, I had done Cubs before and thought it would be good to get involved. It would be something we could enjoy together. Ellie goes to Westgate School and this was the natural place for her to go to Cubs. She could spend more time with her friends. I love planning what we are doing each Cub night and seeing the excitement on all the children's faces when we do activities. I can't give one best experience as each week is great. The sponsored Cub Challenge night we held was fantastic and all the Cubs worked hard to complete all the tasks. I think I felt most proud of the children at the District Cub Challenge where two of our Cubs ran a base and the team came joint 3rd. This was amazing as they had only been involved in Scouting for a few months. The Group itself feels like a family with all the Leaders working together to make things work."

10th Fulwood (Salaam) Scout Group



For a number of years, Preston District has looked at ways of engaging with the Muslim community to see how we could offer Scouting differently and enable more Muslim children to join. With approximately 16,000 Muslims and 15 mosques (places of worship) across the city, we knew we weren't accessible to the needs of this large community, particularly as the majority of Muslim children attend a Madrasah (Islamic school) on week nights.

In December, Carl Hankinson (CC) and Andrew Hobson held a conference call with



Jamie Macdonald (Head of Regional Development Service) and Syed Miah (National Development Officer Muslim Community) to discuss the potential opening of a Scout Group that engages members of the Muslim Community. Syed had previously communicated with Amjad Patel when he'd been an Imam at Penny Lane Mosque, Liverpool; but he was now living in Preston. Amjad had been involved with a number of youth organisations and had taken young people to various Scout campsites

and was very positive about Scouting. Syed made contact with Amjad who teaches at the Madrasah connected to Masjid-E-Salaam (mosque). Trustees of the mosque recently purchased the former NHS Neuro-rehabilitation Centre on Bhailok Square, Fulwood to be used as a community centre and provide Islamic studies to young people during the evenings. A partnership was formed with Salaam Educational Trust (charity responsible for the management of the Madrasah and community centre) and plans to open a Scout Group at the Madrasah were progressed.

Islam discourages free mixing between men and women, especially when alone, the intention of the restrictions is to keep interaction at a modest



level and as a rule it is during social activities where separation is required. This meant we had to make some adjustments to our normal project processes to ensure we met the required observances. This included separate information sessions for male and female volunteers to allow them to feel comfortable attending; offering female volunteers the opportunity to talk with existing female Leaders; offering female only training sessions and appointment panels.

The new Group has a female only Beaver team; Cubs has a mixed team, but with male and female Leaders working separately. Both Sections have a mixed Membership of boys and girls. Scouts have separate male and female Troops, but with one programme. They join together for more formal activities and take part in some activities together in single sex teams. All Sections meet on Sunday mornings, so the children can attend around school and Islamic studies.

There is a strong partnership between Preston District Scouts and the Salaam Educational Trust, and this has meant the project has been a



huge success. With more than 100 young people joining the new Group since it opened in May. Beaver Scouts have already achieved the Air Activities badge, by making their own rockets, and Cubs and Scouts have enjoyed a wide range of activities from first aid to fire-lighting, kite making and archery. Rayan Adam, 11 years old who was invested into the Group said, "Scouts has been so much fun! I've made new friends and learnt some important life skills such as teamwork."

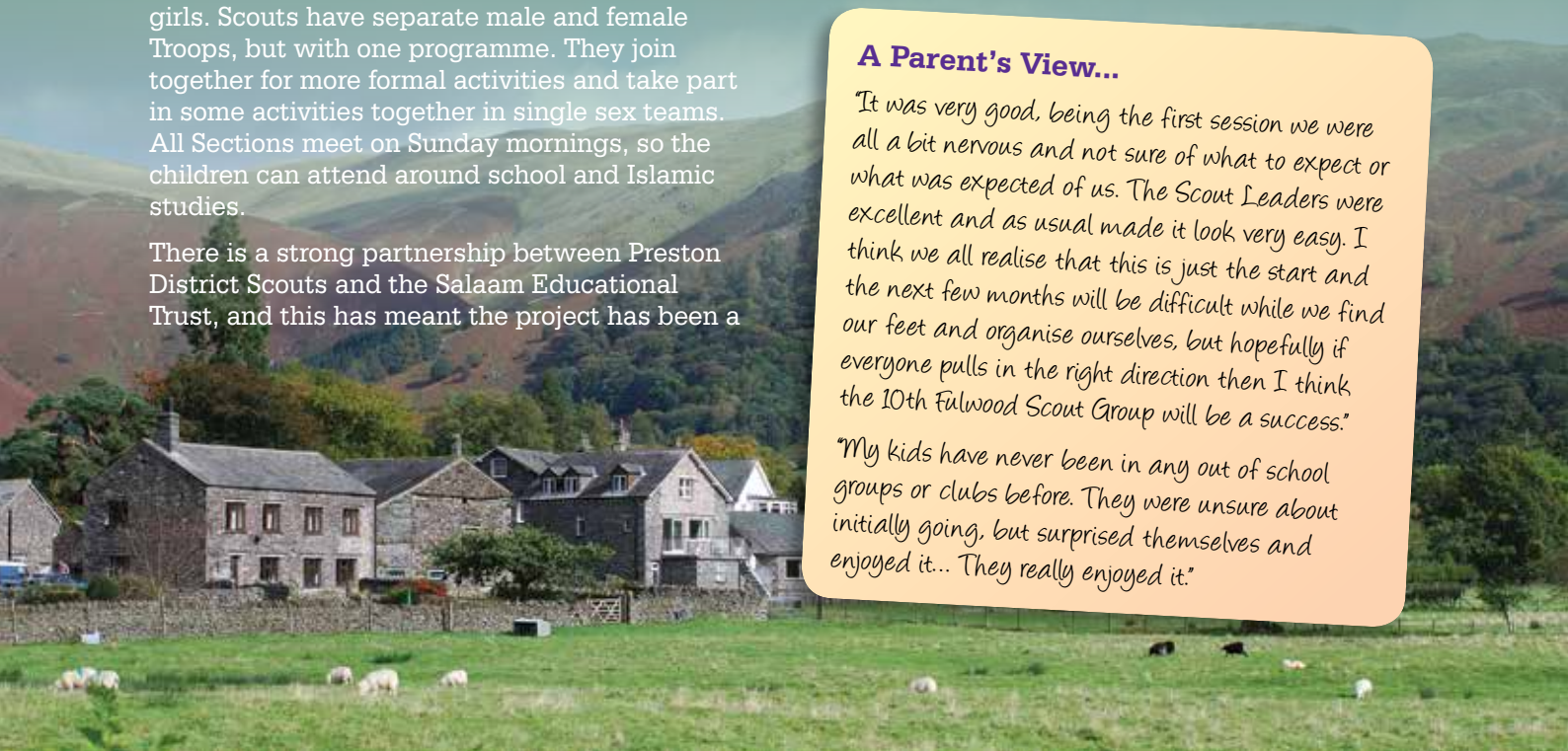
Over 40 adults have now pledged support for the new Group to ensure its success, with over 25 of these adults being invested as Leaders. Assistant Scout Leader, Fatima Bux Ismail, was invested into the Group and said, "It is so rewarding to help young people develop, and to be part of a fun and professional organisation, supporting young people, which allows adults to be part of the adventure as well."

Plans are also progressing to open an Explorer Scout Unit which will provide Scouting for 14-18 year olds and gives them the opportunity to develop leadership skills through the Young Leader scheme. The future for the Group looks extremely bright and it is hoped that the numbers will grow even further due to the demand for Scouting within the community.

A Parent's View...

It was very good, being the first session we were all a bit nervous and not sure of what to expect or what was expected of us. The Scout Leaders were excellent and as usual made it look very easy. I think we all realise that this is just the start and the next few months will be difficult while we find our feet and organise ourselves, but hopefully if everyone pulls in the right direction then I think the 10th Fulwood Scout Group will be a success."

"My kids have never been in any out of school groups or clubs before. They were unsure about initially going, but surprised themselves and enjoyed it... They really enjoyed it."



Scouting For All event rece

There has been much to celebrate across West Lancs over the past year and this was highlighted in style in November, with the visit of His Royal Highness, Duke of Kent, to an evening celebrating the work being done by West Lancs Scouts across the County to develop and enrich our communities by bringing Scouting to more young people and adults, hosted by County President, Gail Stanley MBE, JP, DL. The aim of the evening was to promote Scouting in West Lancs and also to celebrate 40 years of Scouting and 10 years of continual growth for our County. The evening surpassed all our expectations and has created a significant number of opportunities for us to develop over the coming years

The 'Scouting For All' event, held in the Harris Museum, in Preston, was attended by over one hundred and fifty people representing community and business organisations from across Lancashire. There was much to celebrate with West Lancs

Scouts growing to over 12,000 members, including nearly 10,000 youth members.

Guests hosted by Scouting volunteers and young people from across West Lancs' eight

Districts were able to see the ways in which Scouting develops young people and also hear more of the ambitions West Lancs Scouts have set themselves in the future, such as the redevelopment of Waddecarr Scout Activity Centre, which aims to provide exciting and adventurous activities to groups from across Lancashire, both within and outside of Scouting.

A presentation by Saber L'Bekkari and Lizzie Jenkinson, two 18 year old volunteers, gave a clear insight into the breadth and depth of West Lancs Scouts' achievements in being able to open 26 new Scout Groups across the County in the last year, which has allowed them to play an even greater



ives Royal seal of approval



role in their communities and have a positive impact in developing

young people with important life skills.

Guests were able to hear first-hand of the “vibrant and exciting programme of activities, which had attracted so many young people” as well as the “enriching experiences which have shaped young citizens of the future”.

The Duke of Kent, who is President of the Scout Association, also met with some of West Lancs Scouts participating in the World Scout Jamboree in 2015, hearing of their experiences in preparing for a an event held every four years which joins together Scouts from all over the world.

The presentation was appropriately concluded by the Duke, who said a



few words praising the work of West Lancs Scouts. Saber, who spoke to him earlier in the evening said, “It was a wonderful moment, especially hearing of his admiration for the work we do in our communities, and the values we instill in young people.”

County President Gail Stanley said of the evening, “It was simply a wonderful occasion to show what Scouting can offer young people. We are delighted that His Royal Highness was able to see first-hand the work that West Lancs Scouts is doing to serve our communities and we look forward to reaching out to even more people in the coming years.”



World Scout Jamboree 2015: Annual Report

Welcome to Manchester Airport Terminal 1



Intro There is a phrase that good things always come in threes; it is one that certainly rings true for 40 Scouts from West Lancashire who made up Unit 53 and embarked on the experience of a lifetime this summer. From the moment they landed in Tokyo to see the sights of the largest city in the world, to the 12 days spent in a "city" that reflected the world, the World Scout Jamboree, before ending in Takayama in the Japanese Alps, staying with local Scouting families, this was adventure made up of three amazing yet distinct parts. Unit 53's visit to Japan was one that was rich in cultural diversity, bursting with challenges to overcome and above all, one that will live long in the memories of those who participated.



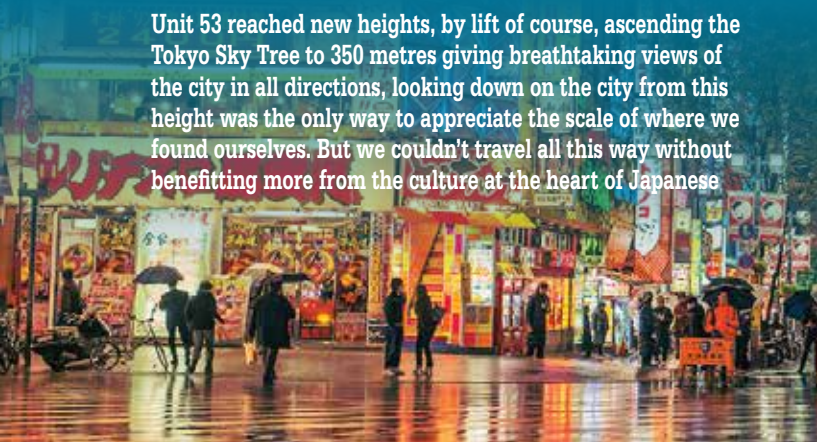
Tokyo What a place to start; and we started straight away! Within a few hours of the plane landing, Unit 53

were were stepping out across the busy streets of Shibuya crossing, already throwing themselves into the lights, sounds and smells of a Tokyo evening and soaking up the atmosphere. This was a sign of the things to come, for the next three days Unit 53 squeezed every ounce of excitement from the short time we had to spend there. Beginning by learning more about the experiences of Japan in 2011, suffering at the hands of an earthquake, we saw how they have rebuilt their lives and homes and we came to understand a little more about the dangers faced through presentations and even an earthquake simulator!

Unit 53 reached new heights, by lift of course, ascending the Tokyo Sky Tree to 350 metres giving breathtaking views of the city in all directions, looking down on the city from this height was the only way to appreciate the scale of where we found ourselves. But we couldn't travel all this way without benefitting more from the culture at the heart of Japanese

life, and just around the corner was a visit to the spectacular shrine and markets, giving a taste of Japanese culture that would be enriched later in our visit. Defining our time in Tokyo however, was the transport. Whether Unit 53 were traveling to Joypolis amusement arcade or the UK Contingent party in Yokohama harbour, they rose to the challenge of navigating the road and rail networks. Lancashire's rush hour will mean nothing to those who took on Shinjuku station one Monday morning, at 9.00am. Used by 6 million people every day, the busiest terminal in the world epitomised both the fast paced life of Tokyo and the determination of 40 Scouts to embrace it.

Jamboree With the small matter of boarding the Bullet Train completed, Unit 53 were travelling in style to the 23rd World Scout Jamboree where 33,000 Scouts from over 150 countries would meet to learn more about each other and make new friends from around the world. It is difficult to put into words the scale and feel of a Jamboree site, but the best way is probably to describe our corner plot of Jakuchi sub camp on the Western Hub, where Unit 53 made their home for the next 12 nights. Looking left we could greet a unit made up of Canadian and Greek Scouts, to the right a Japanese Unit who were perfect hosts, and directly opposite, Hungary, and beyond these were flags as far as the eye could see from countless countries with friends waiting to be made.



Home Hospitality

Home Hospitality which completed our visit, is a challenging concept. A leap of faith for parents, for participants and for leaders, saying goodbye for a night or two and sending Unit 53 to host families who they were only meeting for the first time. However the rewards for taking part in such an experience easily overcome any initial fears. Greeted upon arrival with a welcome ceremony and the best food we had eaten in the whole trip, Unit 53 quickly settled down in Takayama and began to adjust to a new experience. An evening which began as a

quick walk to observe a summer festival taking place ended with members of the unit taking part in traditional dancing, receiving gifts and taking photos with the children who were eager to meet them.

The next day after meeting host families and exploring a beautiful outdoor museum of traditional Japanese houses together we each went our separate ways to enjoy time in Japanese homes and exploring the local area, visiting the local market style streets, eating traditional meals with families and seeing the amazing firework display in the centre of Takayama. Before departing we enjoyed a closing ceremony, in which the Mayor of Takayama spoke of the cultural exchange which had taken place. This was the most fitting way to close an adventure that had delivered so many life changing experiences.

There is not one single part of the Jamboree adventure that can stand out above all others, for every member of Unit 53 there will be a different highlight. However it is the shared experience of such a visit which brings together 40 people from across the County and unites them which will be remembered by everyone. The challenges that were faced, the adventures that were shared and the friendships that were made will form the memories of Unit 53 that will last a lifetime.

Matt Harwood
Unit Leader, Unit 53 -
West Lancashire.

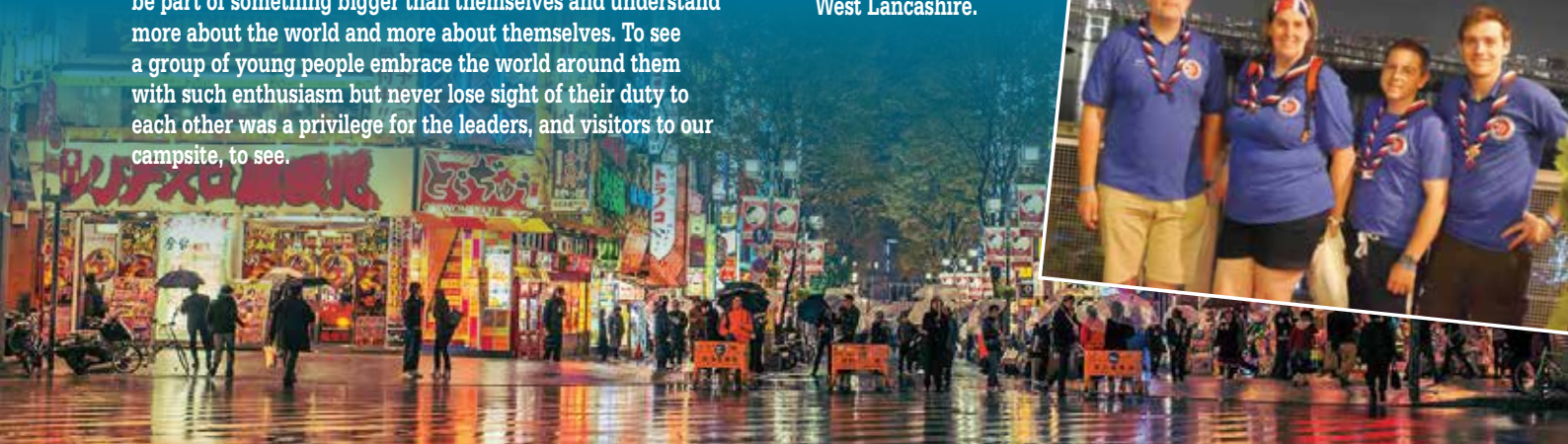
The Jamboree programme gave so much opportunity for Unit 53 to benefit from being in such a diverse environment, learning more about global problems and solutions through the Science programme and Global Development Village, but also being able to have fun and enjoy themselves in water activities, canoeing and kayaking. Nature brought us up close to the wild life of Japan, through a visit to the on-site nature reserve with a chance to see wildlife in its natural habitat.

By far the most popular and rewarding activities came from being brought closer to Japanese culture and history. Through the Peace programme and visit to Hiroshima, we were able to understand more about those tragic events 70 years ago and how the movement for peace which is so close to the ethos of Scouting has developed and spread throughout Japan and beyond.

The Community day saw Unit 53 sent far and wide across the Yamaguchi prefecture to four locations, learning more about everyday Japanese life, visiting restaurants, museums, markets and schools. A programme of activities such as sports, origami, singing and sharing stories, broke down barriers beyond Scouting, bringing people closer together and making the world a little bit smaller.

And all the time throughout this global gathering were the spontaneous encounters that introduced us to people we would never have otherwise met. We visited and hosted Scouts from Japan, Holland and the USA for evening meals in exchanges that built new friendships, not to mention the chance meetings which put into context the enormity of Scouting. We met the only 5 Scouts visiting the Jamboree from Jamaica, the only 20 Scouts visiting from Malta, and the 4 Scouts visiting from Takayama city where we would later visit for our Homestay, after the Jamboree.

The Jamboree is an experience that truly reflects the world and those who make it up. It is one where Unit 53 were able to be part of something bigger than themselves and understand more about the world and more about themselves. To see a group of young people embrace the world around them with such enthusiasm but never lose sight of their duty to each other was a privilege for the leaders, and visitors to our campsite, to see.



JUST ASK...

West Lancs Scouts Active Support – Flexible volunteering support for our Scouting adventures!

The incredible diversity of activities that West Lancs Active Support Units deliver across the County never ceases to amaze and delight me, **Ian Lonsdale** tells us. Sometimes that support is behind the scenes and at other times it's right full on, "in yer face" out there for all to see! Either way, Active Support Unit members are clearly enjoying their contribution to the West Lancs Scouting adventure. Many more have joined in the fun and we have growing membership in many Units. We are getting the message across that Active Support is open to all adults, even those with a 'regular' appointment because the support we provide might just be suited to your other talents (and we are a talented bunch!)

Like many other Sections, Red Rose 2014 was a terrific highlight of the last Scouting year for Active Support and as I walked around the wonderful 'village' we created that week, I couldn't help but bump into an Active Support member about every 50 yards! The breadth of activities and jobs being fulfilled by Active Support members was amazing!

Our specialist Units provided valuable support for the wider programme and delivered adventures for many young people!

I was delighted to be able to find volunteers to help grow our Active Support family and the newly formed Bushcraft and Land Activities Active Support Units will complement our efforts to deliver the 2018 vision



for young people in the county.

Many, many thanks to Graham Cardwell from Fylde and Neil Ralph from SplASHU who finished their terms as Active Support Managers during this year – I'm sure we'll see you 'recycled' somewhere but for now a big thanks from me for all the hard work and effort you put in to Active Support over your time in the role – it is appreciated.

We are always looking for other ways in which we can help and support and to grow our membership so we can offer even more support and expertise. So if you think we can help, or you would like to join us and become part of this amazing bunch of flexible volunteers, then you know what to do...just ask!



Safeguarding

Work has continued throughout 2014 and 2015 to formally establish safeguarding training within West Lancs as a County led provision. Thanks must once again be given to the Safeguarding Team who have given up their time and who are now all 'approved' safeguarding trainers. Thank you also to those trainers who have also attended safeguarding conferences throughout the year to ensure their knowledge, and the standard of training they then deliver, is current and up to date.

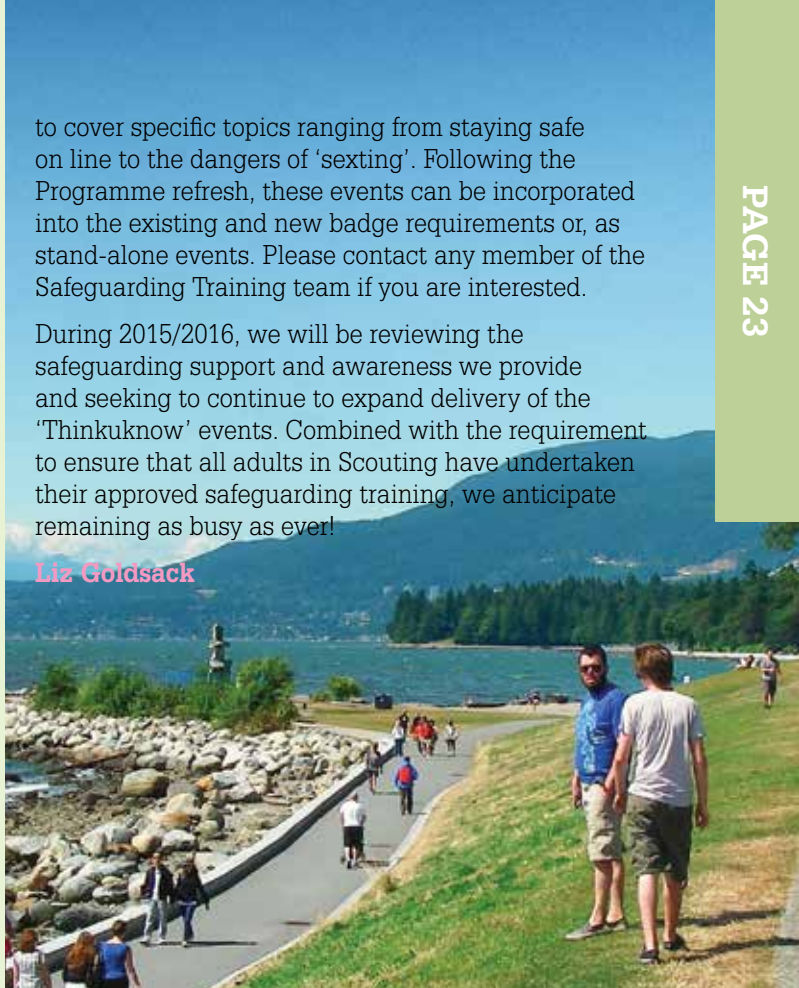
The issues facing adult volunteers in keeping young people safe are changing all the time so it is a requirement for all adults in Scouting to have undertaken 'approved safeguarding training' at least every five years and this is monitored at the point of appointment review. Thanks must also therefore be given to all our Members who participate in these training sessions, the content of which often promotes lively debate!

To help keep our young people safe, the Safeguarding Training team have continued to deliver 'Thinkuknow' events across the County. These events are adapted for individual Sections and Groups and can be tailored

to cover specific topics ranging from staying safe on line to the dangers of 'sexting'. Following the Programme refresh, these events can be incorporated into the existing and new badge requirements or, as stand-alone events. Please contact any member of the Safeguarding Training team if you are interested.

During 2015/2016, we will be reviewing the safeguarding support and awareness we provide and seeking to continue to expand delivery of the 'Thinkuknow' events. Combined with the requirement to ensure that all adults in Scouting have undertaken their approved safeguarding training, we anticipate remaining as busy as ever!

Liz Goldsack



Major & Overseas Events Group (MEG)

The Major Events Group (MEG) continues to be the conscience of the County, monitoring and ensuring that no County overseas event, or large UK based event, incurs any financial or reputational risk to the County. Within this, MEG generates and monitors advice, policies and procedures to ensure that the County maintains its annually audited conformity with British Standard 8848 (Specification for the



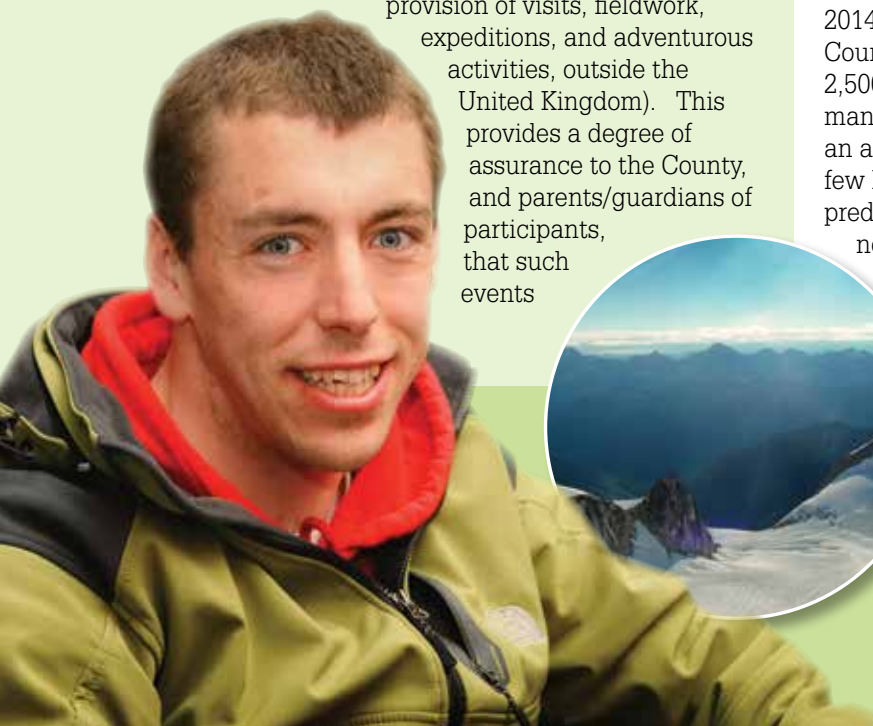
provision of visits, fieldwork, expeditions, and adventurous activities, outside the United Kingdom). This provides a degree of assurance to the County, and parents/guardians of participants, that such events

are undertaken to the safest possible standards. With the 2014 update of the Standard, and after six years of accreditation to BS8848 through the Young Explorers' Trust, it has been decided that we cannot gain much more added value on this basis, and so West Lancs Scouts will continue this accreditation on the basis of self-assessment. This puts a greater onus on Leader Teams and Responsible Commissioners to ensure and evidence conformity.

MEG met on 5 occasions during the year to monitor the finalisation of the 2013/2014 projects, monitor progress with the 2015/2016 projects, and suggest and support ideas for the future.

The big event in 2014 was clearly the Red Rose 2014 International Camp at the Westmorland County Showground. A huge success involved over 2,500 staff, Leaders, and participants. The core management team and their supporting staff did an amazing job, delivering a unique event with very few hiccups..... and a surplus of over £20,000 which predominantly came from contingencies not required.

In addition to Red Rose 2014



MEG reviewed and closed down the 2014 Ardennes Adventure, the Norway Training Expedition (in preparation for Greenland 2015), and Nepal (Xmas 2014).

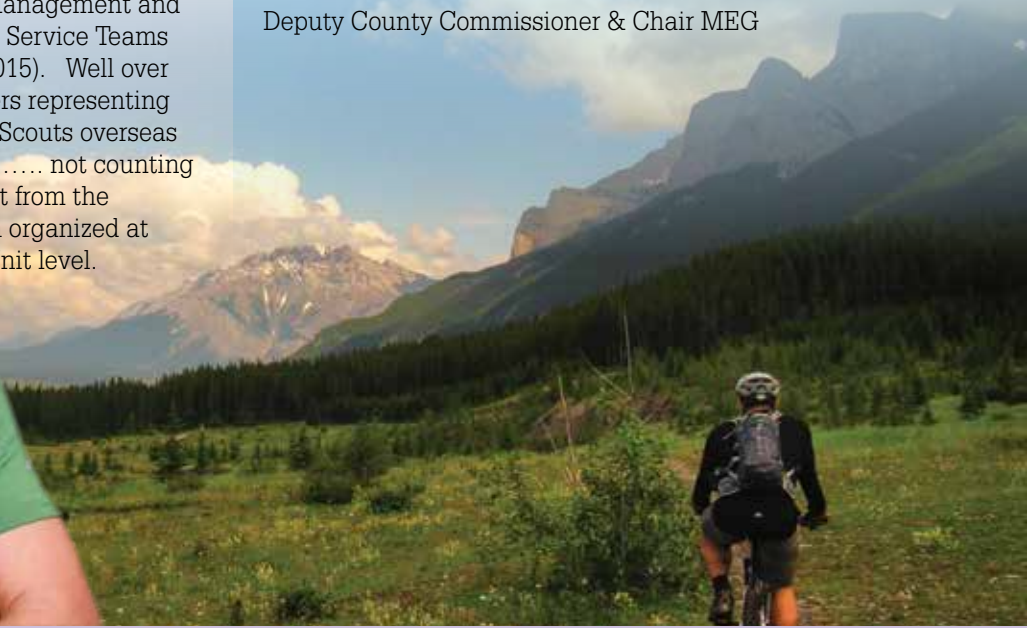
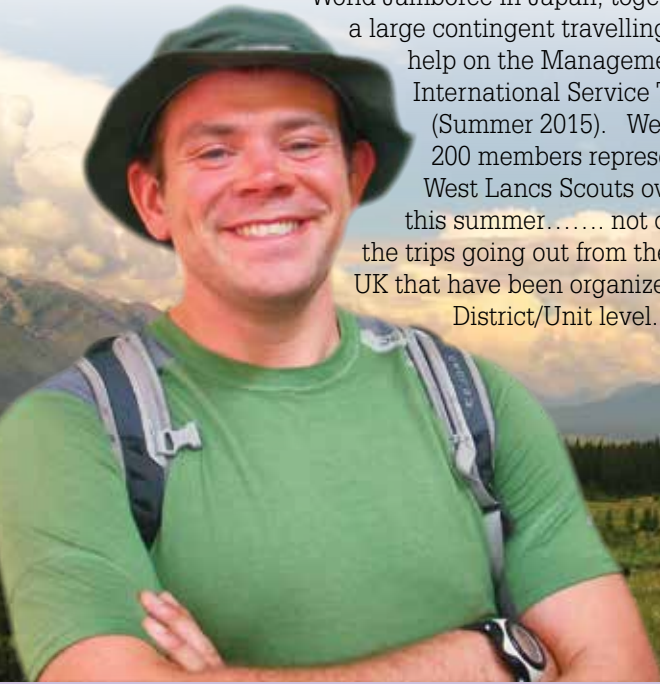
Because of the Red Rose International Camp, 2014 was a "lean" year for overseas trips, but activity is coming back greater than ever in 2015 with plans now almost complete for the Ardennes Adventure (Explorers, Spring 2015), NE Greenland (Members over 16, Summer 2015), Explorer Belt Hungary (Older Explorers & Network, Summer 2015), Project Cambodia Community Service (Older Explorers & Network, Summer 2015), Wilderness Adventure Sweden (Summer 2015) – and of course the 23rd World Jamboree in Japan, together with a large contingent travelling out to help on the Management and International Service Teams (Summer 2015). Well over 200 members representing West Lancs Scouts overseas this summer..... not counting the trips going out from the UK that have been organized at District/Unit level.

Plans are now underway for 2016 with recruitment underway (or will soon be starting) for 2016 Ardennes Adventure in May, followed in summer by Go Zellhof (Austria, Scouts), A Mongolian Journey (Explorers, Network & Leaders), European Jamboree (Explorers), Roverway (France, Network)..... and our first Cub Scout International to Dublin. There is also a proposal for an adventure trip to the Picos d'Europa in Spain for Explorers. And of course capped off by our bi-annual trip to Nepal over Xmas 2016.

Overall, with the drive provided by Steve Morton (ACC International) and the support of the Major Events Group, as a County we continue to provide an amazing array of overseas opportunities for our people, young and old.

Dick Griffiths

Deputy County Commissioner & Chair MEG



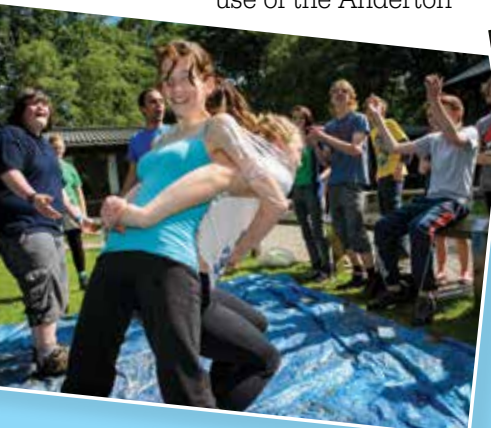
Lancashire Outdoor Activities Initiative (LOAI) And The Anderton Centre

West Lancs Scouts have long been a partner with the charity LOAI to develop outdoor opportunities for young people throughout Lancashire. This gives us access to Rivington Reservoir, and use of the Anderton

Centre. During the year we participated in a joint venture to acquire a keel boat, Setanta, which sleeps six and is available to us either on Coniston Water in summer, or Rivington during the winter. This is a facility that can help develop our people from dinghy sailing and on to bigger things.

Dick Griffiths

Deputy County Commissioner & Trustee of LOAI





Waddecar Management Committee (WMC)



This year we celebrated the 60th Birthday of Waddecar and in particular 'Brock's Birthday Bash' was a great day, made all the more special by our President Gail Stanley visiting and officially opening the revamped 'Badger's Den' shop. This year also saw us take a major step forward in the long term development of Waddecar, with

contracts placed for Phase 1, the new toilet block. By the time you read this report construction

will be well under way. This super new facility will offer the usual facilities and include a purpose built drying room,

laundry room and outside washing up facility for expedition campers.

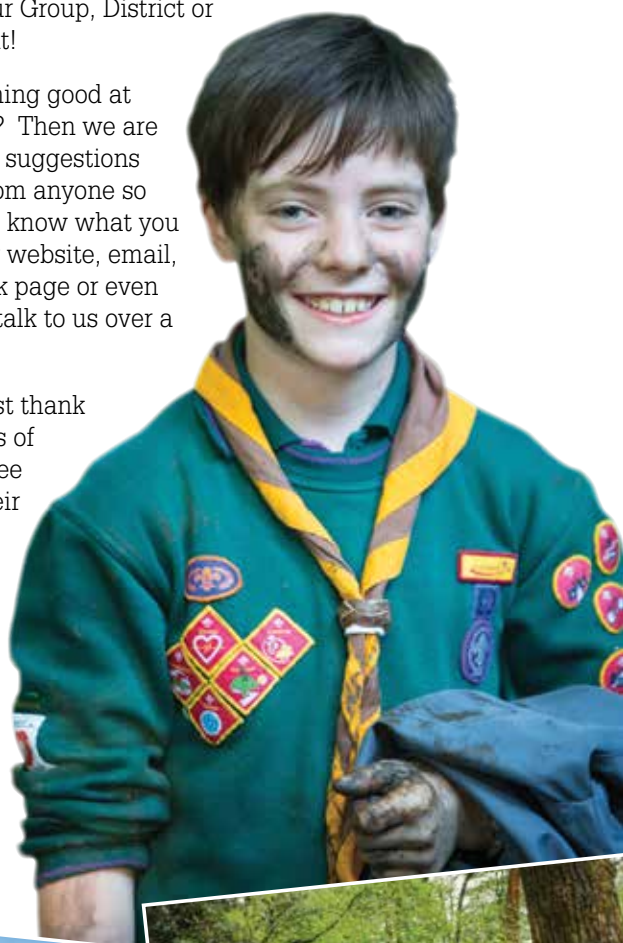
Whilst this is great news and very exciting we have not forgotten the other areas of the site, nor the importance of providing lots of great activities and programme ideas for all the groups visiting Waddecar so look out for more news on this in the near future.

Waddecar is a great place for all your camps and activities and if you haven't been to see us for a while call in and see how we can help you with your Group, District or County event!

Seen something good at another site? Then we are keen to hear suggestions and ideas from anyone so please let us know what you want via our website, email, our Facebook page or even drop in and talk to us over a cup of tea.

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

Jonathan Abbey
Chair





Waddecar Activity Centre

Charity King is happy to report that in the year April 2014 - March 2015 some 20,000 visitors have passed through our gates. Here are just a few of the highlights:

April, the annual Bowlander walking competition stopped overnight and the County Beavers brought 442 turquoise tearaways to complete their Safety Badge.

May, and 843 Scouts attend a traditionally soggy County Rally, 12 WLS Leaders completed their Archery GB Instructor course here, the County Cub Section awarded 149 Cubs their Camper Badge and the annual County Cub Challenge attracted competing teams from across West Lancs.

June saw a complete Cub takeover with 1136 attending the County Cub Camp and we were delighted to host Oldham District camp, from Greater Manchester North Scout County.

July was full of Group and Family camps, expeditions, day visits, evening visits and the start of our Summer Staff Team scheme, nearly 3000 visitors in just one month!

August, our date for celebrating!

In honour of 60 years of Waddecar we hosted an open day for all friends, family and neighbours and had a good old knees up for our dedicated team.

September managed to squeeze in Ormskirk District Camp and Preston District Beaver Day all at once, and yet another day of fun and adventure for our County Cubs.

October bought us new Scouting friends in the form of Blacktoft Beacon District Scouts and their annual, gruelling Fells Marathon event. Our first Explorer Environment Weekend at Waddecar was a fantastic success with many site improvements made. Plus our very own Little Gem, 'The Story of Scouting & Guiding' Museum was featured on the BBC's Antiques Road Trip!

November, Cubs tracked down mini-beasts on the Naturalist Badge day, and a spot of Lancashire weather didn't deter 380 Scouts, Explorers and Leaders for the notorious Crew Challenge competition. Also, the latest addition to our office team, the lovely Mandy Sweet, joined us.

December saw a growing tradition in the form of the Crew pre-Christmas work day and well deserved festive shenanigans.

January and February, we drew breath, took stock and got ready to go again!

March, we kicked off the season with training for the Bowlander, and so the cycle is complete.

In this year alone the following have used the facilities; The Guide Association, Hothersall Lodge OE Centre, faith schools including Manchester Jewish Grammar School and Preston Muslim Girls School, as well as numerous north-west schools and colleges for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and other outdoor activities. The Police Cadets have also used Waddecar for the first time.

April 2015 – which may be a bit of a cheat, but has to be mentioned - planning permission was granted for our new toilet block.

The builders are now on site, so please follow their progress on our website and look out for all the latest news on our Waddecar Facebook page.

Charity King
Centre Manager



Internal Communications

Another good year for us this year and at long last, West Lancs Plus, our fortnightly e-newsletter is becoming established as the place where all news should be published says **Pete Sturgess**.

In this communication age, it is all too easy to get swamped with information overload and be bombarded with the same news from multiple sources and WL+ aims to put a stop to that with just one e-mail each fortnight with what you need to know.

It is sent out to all adults in the Scout County and is becoming well received.

The team have also, as a wider Marcomms team, covered a number of events throughout the year and developed some great coverage internally using our Social Media channels, particularly Facebook & Twitter.

These powerful communication channels are really paying dividends as we know for a fact that new adults to Scouting have been recruited following them seeing great fun on Facebook and deciding they'd like to come and play too.

My thanks to all our Marcomms team, they put in a huge amount of time and effort into what they do, normally in addition to another role in Scouting.

Pete Sturgess
ACC Internal Communications



BBC 1 Television visits Waddecar

The Country's first purpose-built Scout Museum was constructed on our Waddecar Scout Activity Centre in 2000. The Trust, which is privately funded, added the John F Wilkinson Wing in 2006 to present the history of Guiding and become the UK's first purpose-built Scout and Guide Centre which tells the inspiring story of the World's two greatest Movements for young people.

Michael Loomes it's Curator and driving force with his brother Ron, says it has attracted many visitors but it came as a complete surprise when an email arrived requesting a visit to film for the BBC's popular 'Antiques Road Trip' series.

The filming and preparation took place on 13th April 2014 and lasted over three and half hours. After filming the arrival at Waddecar, the scene moved to the museum where Curator Michael Loomes welcomed the popular expert, James Braxton, before going inside. It took five attempts before the director was satisfied to proceed!

The crew from STV and the Director Chris Greenwood were well-prepared and worked hard. There were general shots taken of Waddecar and

the interior of the Little Gem which the architect and long-time Scouter Roy Fisher MBE, JP, DL called it. The main filmed interview was on items relating to Baden-Powell. A buffet lunch was provided for this special occasion but the crew only sat down one at a time to eat.

The Waddecar Service Crew had erected a Patrol Tent for James to emerge from in the final scene. The picture below shows James wearing one of our Scout County Scarves. Michael then had to teach James how to tie a bowline to conclude the visit.

The programme, which included the visit to Waddecar, was broadcast on BBC1 on 15th October 2014 giving national coverage to Waddecar and the Little Gem for four and a half minutes.

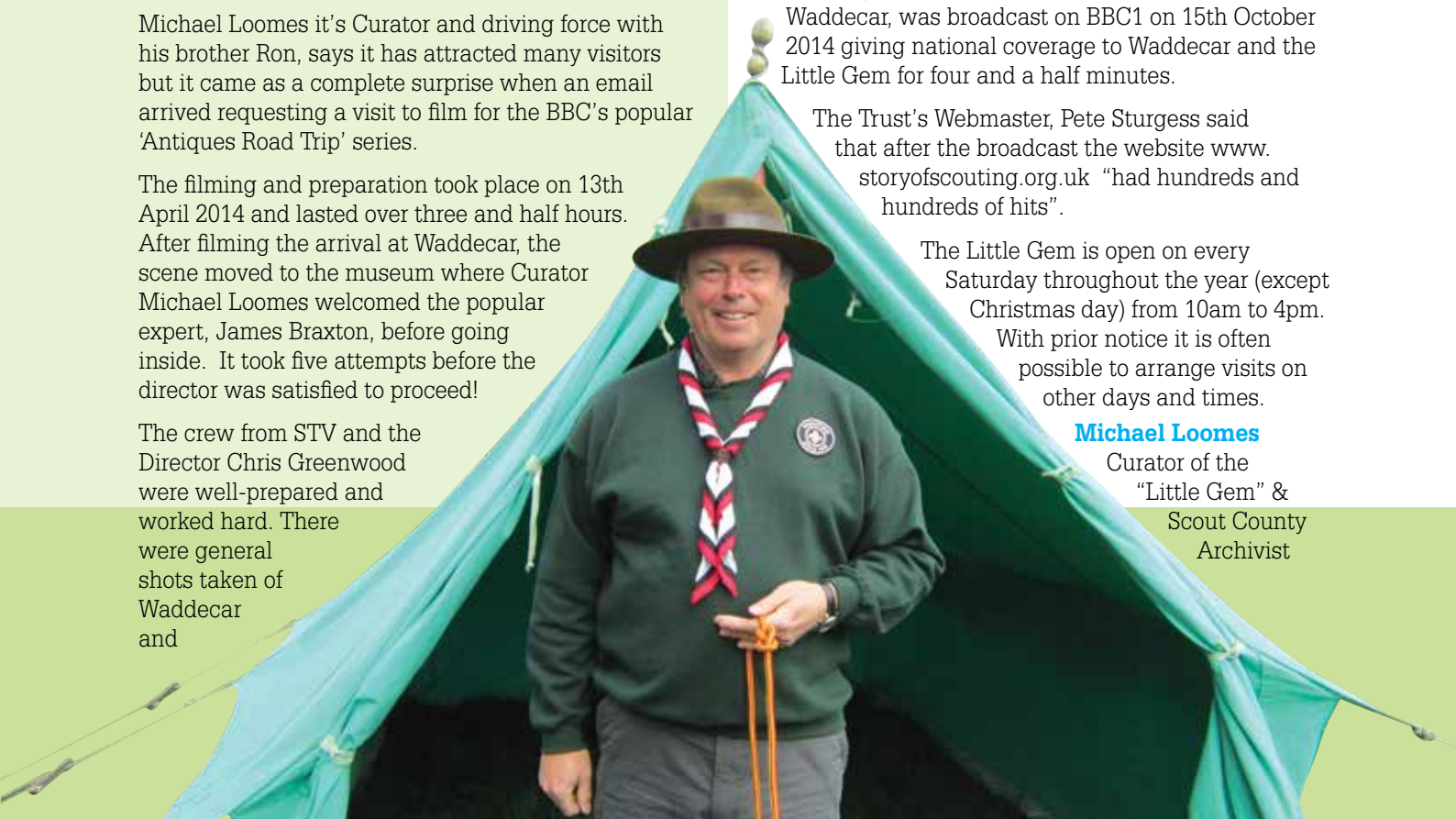
The Trust's Webmaster, Pete Sturgess said that after the broadcast the website www.storyofscouting.org.uk "had hundreds and hundreds of hits".

The Little Gem is open on every Saturday throughout the year (except Christmas day) from 10am to 4pm.

With prior notice it is often possible to arrange visits on other days and times.

Michael Loomes

Curator of the
"Little Gem" &
Scout County
Archivist



Treasurers Report

I am pleased to present the following report for 2014/15.

The County Development Officers continue to be a valuable County resource. We have achieved 10 years of continual growth and this is testament to the excellent work that our County Development Officers do, that we are able to continue to grow year on year.

We no longer receive any significant grant funding and have had to look at alternative ways to help the County achieve its aims. This year we entered into a partnership with Lancashire Wildlife Trust and have purchased a mini bus to be used by both parties. Aimed primarily at supporting West Lancs Scouts' extensive adventure and overseas programme, it is also available for other County/District/Group activities at weekends and during school holidays.

The County has updated the reserves policy this year in line with the aspirations of the Vision 2018 plan. The reserves policy is such that the Charity's unrestricted funds are held in the General Fund and Adventure Trust Fund as set out on the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements.

The Waddecarr Management Committee received final approval for the first phase of the redevelopment plans at Waddecarr. A new toilet block is the first project and work commenced in May 2015. This will be a huge asset to Waddecarr as the old facilities were certainly past their prime.

Whilst no actual monetary financial investment has been made, the Trustees would like to point out that the Charity supports all young people, not just those in



Scouting, and Waddecarr is used by a wide range of organisations which help and encourage young people from all sorts of backgrounds. The "investment" made by The County Scout Council in young people, Scouting or other, should not simply be viewed in monetary terms, nor should it be undersold.

At the close of the financial year the portfolio of listed investments was valued at £1,053,426 (2014 £826,976) and in addition our investment managers held cash for future dealing of £48,290.

The investment properties were formally revalued in March 2014 for the sum of £902,500, in line with our triennial valuation policy.

The Trustees value the contribution made to the Charity by both its paid and volunteer staff and considers 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.

Cath Joyce
County Treasurer



Summary Financial Statement

Summarised Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2015

	2015 £	2014 £
Incoming resources		
Donations, grants, and contributions	29	23,937
Activity centres income	168,228	177,275
Surplus on membership subscriptions	4,355	4,151
County and international events	307,408	33,220
Scouting activities, training and sections	98,252	87,102
Miscellaneous income	7,849	2,892
Rental and investment income	59,277	61,133
Interest	25,290	33,882
	<u>670,688</u>	<u>423,592</u>
Resources expended		
Staff costs	123,522	114,822
Costs of generating funds	11,049	20,410
Activity centres operating costs	76,167	88,960
Depreciation of assets	30,719	28,689
County and international events	284,588	32,588
World Scout Youth Event and other events	12,000	12,044
Scouting activities, training & sections	125,048	107,919
Management, administration and other costs	50,446	57,103
	<u>713,539</u>	<u>462,535</u>
Net outgoing resources for the year	(42,851)	(38,943)
Gains on investment properties	-	57,500
Gains on listed investments	73,869	12,369
	<u>31,018</u>	<u>30,926</u>
Net movement in funds	31,018	30,926
Total funds brought forward	3,753,769	3,722,843
	<u>3,784,787</u>	<u>3,753,769</u>
Total funds carried forward	3,784,787	3,753,769

Summarised Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015

	2015 £	2014 £
Fixed assets (inc rental properties)	1,444,626	1,396,062
Listed investments and share dealing funds	1,101,716	1,018,962
	<u>2,546,342</u>	<u>2,415,024</u>
Current assets	1,346,945	1,458,721
Less: Current liabilities	(108,500)	(119,976)
	<u>1,238,445</u>	<u>1,338,745</u>
Net current assets	1,238,445	1,338,745
Net assets	<u>3,784,787</u>	<u>3,753,769</u>
Funds		
General	3,764,339	3,733,170
Designated	20,448	20,599
	<u>3,784,787</u>	<u>3,753,769</u>

Statement of the Trustees

The Trustees report and financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 16 July 2015. They will be submitted to the Charity Commission after the Annual General Meeting.

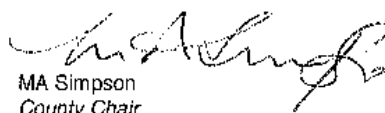
The full Trustees' report, audit report and financial statements, which contain the full details of the financial affairs of the charity as at 31 March 2015, may be obtained from:

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 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 2015. This report is made solely to the trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 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 2015 and complies with the applicable requirements of the Charities Act 2011 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 SINCE LAST REPORT

ST GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS - APRIL 2015

SILVER WOLF

"for services to Scouting of the most exceptional nature"

Steve Williamson	Blackpool	Roger Mason	County
Keith Jamieson	Preston		

BAR TO THE SILVER ACORN

"for further distinguished service to Scouting"

Ann Clayton	Blackpool	Val Gaskell	Chorley
Anne Clark	County	Val Holland	County
Sue Goldstraw	County	Malcolm Kay	Fylde
Mary Roberts	Fylde	Mike Clarke	South Ribble
Ros Illingworth	South Ribble		

SILVER ACORN

"for distinguished service to scouting"

Kevin Benfold	Blackpool	Jonathan Abbey	County
Cath Hargreaves	County	Evelyn Jakeman	Fylde
Paul Sargent	Lonsdale	Peter Freeman	Ormskirk
Alan Campbell	Preston	Ed Allison	South Ribble
Anne Shipway	Wyre		

OTHER AWARDS SINCE LAST REPORT

MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

David Foster	Cub Scout Leader	Chorley
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BAR TO THE AWARD FOR MERIT

Joe Ashworth	Blackpool	Mike Barnes	Blackpool
Bernard (BJ) McKibben	Blackpool	Darrell Schuck	Blackpool
Stephen Smith	Blackpool	Nigel Bradford	County
Jill Dean	County	Simon Hardacre	County
Ian Flavell	Ormskirk	Peter Hall	Ormskirk
Stuart Dean	County	Alison Gibb	Preston
Alan Cornforth	Wyre		

AWARD FOR MERIT

Derek Abbott	Blackpool	George Binns	Blackpool
Paul Harter	Blackpool	Stephen Haydon	Blackpool

Steven Platt	Blackpool	Peter Sanday	Blackpool
Reid Skipper	Blackpool	Susan Hind	Blackpool
Mark Wilson	Blackpool	Andrew Hobson	Preston
John (JFK) Kennedy	County	Maggie King	County
Mike Penwarden	County	David Kirkham	Fylde
Karen Hope	Fylde	Ross MacDonald	Fylde
Robert Pearson	Fylde	Michael (James) Nolan	Ormskirk
Jo Taylor	Ormskirk	Janet Wormald	Ormskirk
Andrew Clare	Preston	Sarah Lawler	Preston
Val Ledder	Preston		

CHIEF SCOUTS COMMENDATION FOR GOOD SERVICE

Jacqueline Barnsley	Blackpool	Kim Bassett	Blackpool
Mary Booth	Blackpool	Jack Bower	Blackpool
Trish Craig	Blackpool	Deborah Cook	Blackpool
Joanne Fratzak	Blackpool	Joanna Hacking	Blackpool
David Hind	Blackpool	Emma Hornby	Blackpool
Elaine Kularatne	Blackpool	Joan Muncey	Blackpool
Kath Smith	Blackpool	Adamene Stubbs	Blackpool
Rachel Tax	Blackpool	Gary Voller	County
Anthony Wilson	County	Michael Burns	Fylde
Duncan Cairns	Fylde	Graham Cooper	Fylde
Dilys Currie	Fylde	Philip Gibbons	Fylde
Amanda Howison-Haworth	Fylde	Marita Kirkham	Fylde
Andrew Wright	Fylde	Derek Wright	Fylde
Stephen Clarke	Lonsdale	John Edwards	Lonsdale
Mark Worsnop	Lonsdale	Tracey Berkley	Ormskirk
Mark Cobham	Ormskirk	Jane Coventry	Ormskirk
Edward Jones	Ormskirk	Louise Leatherbarrow	Ormskirk
Adam Lechmere	Ormskirk	Amanda Murphy	Ormskirk
Eddie Murphy	Ormskirk	Colin Prescott	Ormskirk
Ann Redwood-Aggrey	Ormskirk	Louise Rogers	Ormskirk
Michael Rhodes	Ormskirk	Brian Smith	Ormskirk
Colin Addison	Preston	Chris Bent	Preston
Adrian Chambers	Preston	Barbara Lawson	Preston
Michael Riley	Preston	Lindsay Turner	Preston
Zoe Walker-Frost	Preston	Margaret Yeung	Preston
Rachael Astley	South Ribble	Stephen Clough	South Ribble
Michael Godbold	South Ribble	Dawn Hull	South Ribble
Catherine Shaw	South Ribble		

County President

Mrs Gail Stanley MBE, JP, DL

County Vice Presidents

Mr Roy Fisher MBE, JP, DL

Mrs Jean Frew

Mr Tom Frew

Mr Bill Hargreaves

Mr Michael Loomes

Mr Colin Ovenden MBE

Mr Bernard Pendlebury

Mr Brian Woodburn

Mr Rex Wolstenholme

County Trustees

Mr Carl Hankinson DL

Mr Mike Simpson

Dr Tony Andrews

Mr David Thornton

Mr Mike Smith

Mrs Cath Joyce

Mr Max Lowe

Mr Jonathan Abbey

Mr George Lowe

Mr Jim Hunter

Miss Julie Paton

Mr Robert Jenkinson

Miss Jen Critch

Mr Oliver Wood

Mr Steve Williamson

Dr Chris Lomas

Mr Jim Banks

Mr Mike Smith

Mr Duncan Cairns

Mr Craig Dewar

Mr Chris Nevill

Mrs Judith Jamieson

Mr Andrew Hobson

Mrs Susan Sullivan

Mr Ian Holt

Mr David Simpson

County Commissioner & Chair of the County Team

County Chairman

Deputy County Chairman

County Secretary (to 11 September 2014)

County Secretary (from 11 September 2014)

County Treasurer

Chairman Finance and Fund-raising Committee

Chairman Waddecar Management Committee

Chairman General Purposes Committee (to 17 July 2014)

Nominated Trustee (from 11 September 2014)

Chairman Appointments Committee

County Scout Network Commissioner

Scout Network Member (to 11 September 2014)

Scout Network Member (to 11 September 2014)

Scout Network Member (from 11 September 2014)

County Trustee for Blackpool

County Trustee for Chorley (to 11 September 2014)

County Trustee for Chorley (from 11 September 2014)

County Trustee for Fylde (to 11 September 2014)

County Trustee for Fylde (from 11 September 2014)

County Trustee for Lonsdale

County Trustee for Ormskirk

County Trustee for Preston (to 11 September 2014)

County Trustee for Preston (from 11 September 2014)

County Trustee for South Ribble (to 11 September 2014)

County Trustee for South Ribble (from 11 September '14)

County Trustee for Wyre

County Officials

Mr George Lowe

Mr Paul Harris

Mr Dick Griffiths

Deputy County Commissioner

Deputy County Commissioner

Deputy County Commissioner

County Employees

Charity King

Sandra Sowerbutts

Jack McGrath

Amanda Sweet

Gary Pendlebury

Barbara Hughes

Andy Marsden

Waddecar Centre Manager

County Admin/Finance Manager

Booking & Administration (temporary until November 2014)

Booking & Administration (from November 2014)

Waddecar Maintenance Officer

County Development Officer

County Development Officer

Other Officials

Mr C Harris

Mr A Corrie

Ms M Swain

Regional Commissioner - North West England (to 31 January 2015)

Regional Commissioner - North West England (from 31 January 2015)

Regional Development Manager

County Personnel – as at 1st September 2015

VOLUNTEERS

COUNTY OFFICIALS & COMMISSIONERS

County Commissioner	Carl Hankinson	County Chairman	Mike Simpson
Deputy County Commissioner	George Lowe	Deputy County Chairman	Tony Andrews
Deputy County Commissioner	Dick Griffiths	County Secretary	Mike Smith
Deputy County Commissioner	Paul Harris	County Treasurer	Cath Joyce

ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (ACC)

ACC Beaver Scouts	Cath Hargreaves	ACC External Communications	Matthew Harwood
ACC Cub Scouts	Ann-marie Fisher	ACC Internal Communications	Pete Sturgess
ACC Scouts	Robert Millington	County Training Manager	Fiona Jackson
ACC Explorer Scouts	Hugh Miller	ACC Adventurous Activities	Paul Sanday
ACC Scout Network	Julie Paton	ACC Scouting Activities	Alan Venn
Scout Active Support Manager	Ian Lonsdale	County Youth Commissioner	Oliver Wood
ACC International	Steve Morton		

COUNTY ACTIVITIES TEAM

Activity Permit Scheme	Stuart Dean	Nights Away	Neil Roberts
Activity Permit Administrator	Andy Taylor	Orienteering	TBC
Air Activities	Ian Grace	Pioneering	Matt Spencer
Land Activities	Geoff Lyons	Paddle Sports	Stuart Dean
Archery	Phil Fairclough	Sail Sports	Kevin Day
Caving	Rachel Platt	Shooting	Leon Pascoe
Fencing	TBC	Snow Sports	Dick Griffiths
Mountain Biking	Pete Willingham	Survival Skills	Alan Cornforth
Technology	Steve Williams		

COUNTY ADVISORS

Asset Manager	David King	Photography	Sarah Yeoman
Safety in Scouting Coordinator	T.B.C.	Videography	James Hulme
Buildings Safety	Ian Holland	Information Technology	Chris Gibson
Safeguarding	Liz Goldsack	Insurance	Colin Monks
Webmaster	Pete Sturgess	Branding	Ryan McKeown
Internal Communications	Chris Gibson	Marketing	Andy Marsden
Human Resources	Jill Dean	Grants	Mark Harrison

COUNTY SCOUTERS

Beaver Scouts	Jo Bearman Liz Goldsack Fiona Jackson	Explorer Scouts	Simon McGlen Kerry Harrison Lee McNulty Clare Right
Cub Scouts	Bev McMullen Tom Gibson Michael Tax Andy Walton	Scout Network	Sophie Cairns Emma Hardacre Phil Horn Janice Lee
Scouts	Mark Finnigan Ian Illingworth Nick Kasmir Alan Venn	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Queens Scout's Award Coordinator	Jenny McDonald Bob Aspland Emma Hardacre

COUNTY COMMITTEE CHAIR'S

County Executive	Mike Simpson	County Team	Carl Hankinson
Finance & Fund Raising	Max Lowe	Waddecar Management	Jonathan Abbey
Staffing	Mike Simpson	Appointments	Jim Hunter
Joint Scout Counties	Chris Creelman	Programme & Training	Paul Harris
World Scout Youth Events	Richard Charnock	Major Events	Dick Griffiths
Global Team	Taras Daneliuk	Awards	Roger Mason

COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS

County Archivist	Michael Loomes	County Administrator	Anne Clark
Training Course Administrator	Marion Yardley	County Administrator	Maggie King
Presentations Manager	David Thornton	County Administrator	Judith Jamieson

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

Brooks McDonald
1 Marsden Street, Manchester M2 1HW

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

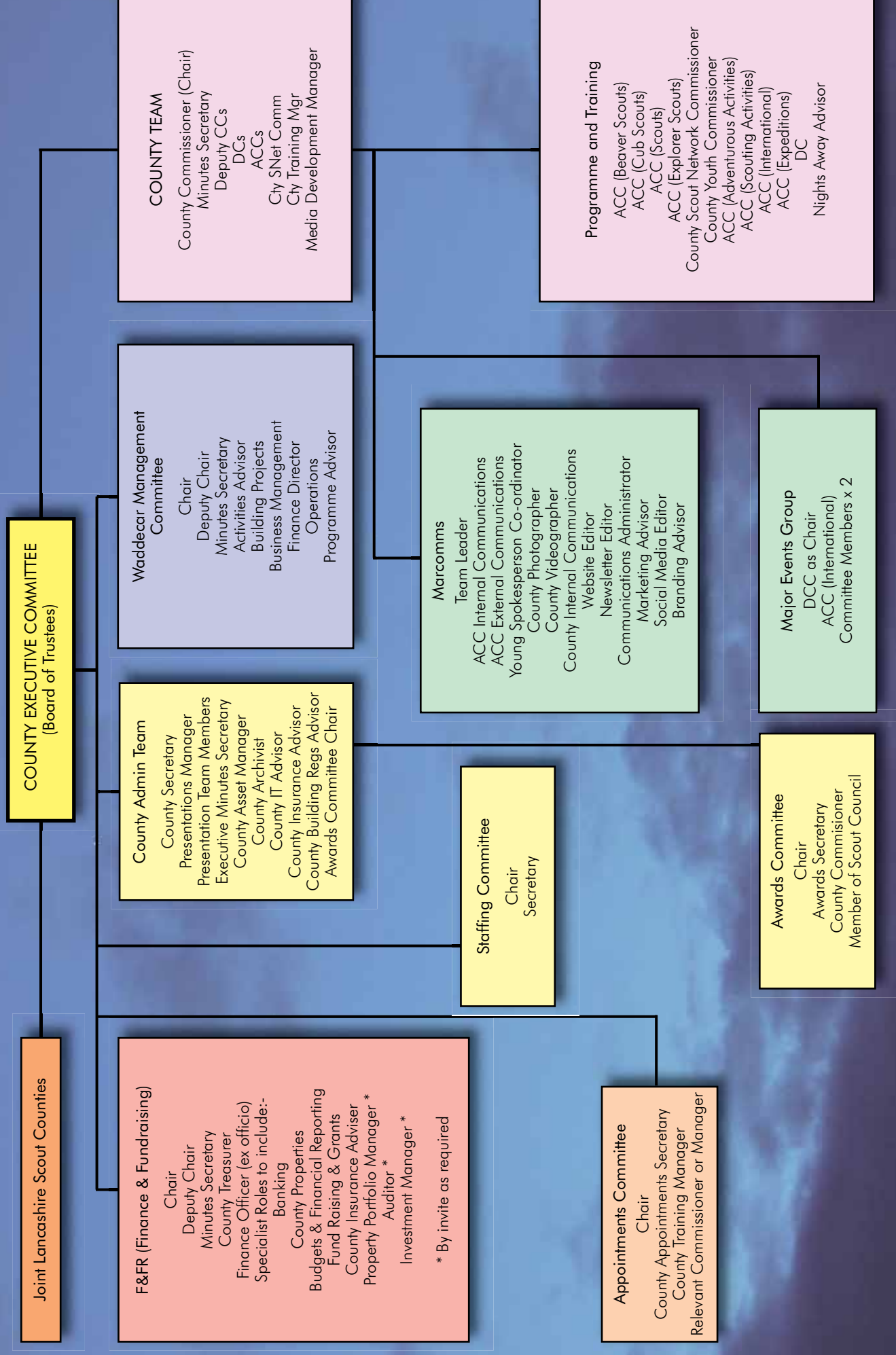
Auditors

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@westlancsscouts.org.uk
Web site: www.westlancsscouts.org.uk
Phone: 01995 61336 Fax: 01995 61978

West Lancashire County Scout Council Committee Structure



WHAT PEOPLE REALLY THINK OF SCOUTING



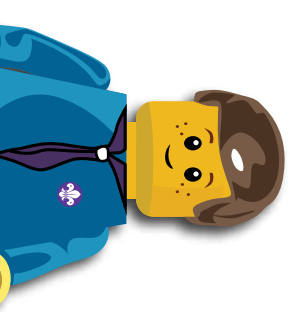
There is strong support for informal education

79%



believe it's very important for children to have structured out of school activities

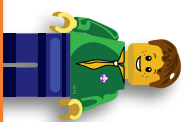
We have high awareness



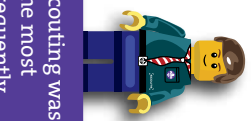
We are seen as



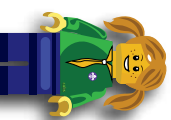
- Inspiring
- Practical
- Challenging
- Reputable
- Positive
- Friendly
- Established
- Trustworthy
- Welcoming



70% of the public say we are about challenging activities and citizenship



Scouting was the most frequently named out of school activity (17%) for young people



We are seen as the UK's most practical charity, 14% above average

70%

Trusted



68%

trust Scouting mostly or a great deal

Our potential support is growing (time and money)



44%

of the general public would like their children to join the Scouts

39%

of 18-25 year olds would consider supporting Scouting

34%

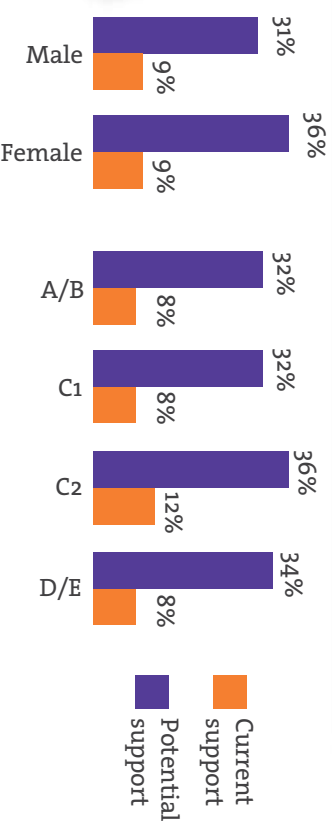
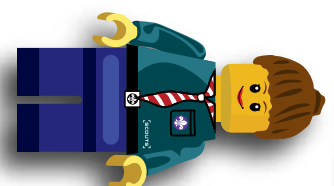
More people would consider supporting us in 2013 (34%) than in 2012 (33%)

74%

of the public believe we provide a safe place for young people to have fun and adventure



Our biggest potential support is from 18-25 year olds, girls, women and from C2 and D/E social grades



Perception of our biggest challenges

1. Shortage of adult volunteers

59%

2. Competition from other activities

53%

3. Concerns about child protection

52%

4. Costs for parents

42%

5. Time-poor parents

37%