

West Lancashire Scouts Annual Report

2018



Scouts

West Lancashire

**Preparing young people
with skills for life**

www.westlancsscouts.org.uk

Our President

One of the highlights for me of the past year was to attend the County Rally at Waddecarr. It was wonderful to see so many young people having so much enjoyment. It was a very strong reminder of what a wonderful movement Scouting is, and how good the Scouting offer is in West Lancs.

The achievements are evident to me elsewhere through the awards evenings and other events I have attended. While it may be more difficult to measure, I feel confident that the benefits from the Scouting experience will be felt in our wider communities as these young people emerge as the active citizens we are preparing them to become.

I paid tribute last year to one of our Vice Presidents, Tom Frew, who had had to stand down through ill health. It is particularly poignant for me to note that the ill health

has since claimed his life as he and Jean were friends long before my involvement in Scouting. He was a great example of so many who give so much to the movement.

I thank all involved for the impact you have made and continue to make.

Gail Stanley MBE, JP, DL
County President



Chairman's Foreword

As ever, writing some introductory notes for the Annual Report gives an opportunity to step back from what is happening day to day and reflect on what has happened over a longer period. This year marks the end of the period of our previous Strategic Plan and gives us another reason to reflect on what has been achieved. It is also my last set of notes before standing down as Chairman after 13 years in the post. The urge to be reflective becomes overwhelming, but reflection is only useful if it points



us to the way forward.

First, the past year. The report shows another busy year with tremendous commitment from all those involved in leading and enabling the programme which

has provided so much benefit and enjoyment to our young people. Heartfelt thanks to all those involved. As Steve Morton reports however, the year saw a drop in Membership for the first time in many years. It has to remain our ambition to provide the benefits of Scouting to as many young people as possible, not only those on waiting lists but also those in areas of the County or from backgrounds we have not yet reached. It has to be a priority to regain the momentum on Membership. It is not just a challenge for hard pressed District Commissioners and our Development Officers. Everyone can help: for example by encouraging friends to become involved to meet the shortage of Leaders or helpers, or by using their influence in other circles to ensure that venues are retained and new ones made available for Groups to meet.

It is very encouraging to read about the excellent year which Waddecarr has had. I feel we are seeing benefits from the investment that has been made in the site not only with the major projects but also with numerous





more minor initiatives. I have been very impressed by the appearance and condition of the site in visits I have made there and this seems to be reflected in the experiences of those using the site. This is a tribute to all the staff and volunteers who contribute to the running of Waddecar. I would add my particular thanks though to Charity King. She has understandably moved on in her career after giving us 5 excellent years of service and West Lancs owes her a debt of thanks for her achievements and legacy.

It was part of our 2012-18 strategic plan that Waddecar should be comparable with the best Scout Camps in the Country. The progress so far is a step in achieving this but there are still ambitions to meet. In this past year, Charity has worked with a small group of others to make progress towards producing a business plan for Waddecar. The initial work has been presented to the County Executive and there is a basis now for financial projections which will allow us to assess what investment is needed, the case for that investment and how that can be achieved.

In the strategic plan we committed as a County to be an example of how The Scout Association's vision for 2018 might be achieved. That vision was for Scouting to be enjoyed by more, shaped by young people in partnership with adults, preparing active citizens, embracing social change, being as diverse as the community we belong to and making a positive impact on that community. I think we have lived up to the commitment we made.

The investment in Waddecar was one of eight specific targets we set ourselves and we have made significant progress, completing essential investment and providing the basis to move onto desirable initiatives. This has been achieved while meeting another target of sound financial management. We have drawn on reserves to fund budget deficits as we have invested in programme, training and development but we have retained our essential reserves. We have started to address what

might be sustainable in future and there will need to be key decisions in future as we address how to fund the new strategic plan. Our growth has been above national averages, a reflection at least in part of the excellence of our programme, we have provided training for our Leaders and outstanding international opportunities. One target we did not achieve though was to establish a more central headquarters. That ambition was postponed when the extent of the required investment became clear. We did make a concerted effort to engage with other organisations and businesses with the Duke of Kent reception, but this is an area where better follow-up is needed. Both of these ambitions have been brought back into focus by the recent decision of Lancashire County Council to withdraw the use of County Hall for meetings. This was a much appreciated and much used service but withdrawn by LCC as a cost saving measure. This comes on the back of the withdrawal earlier in the year of the use of meeting room facilities for Executive meetings at the Police Headquarters at Hutton on understandable security grounds. We need more practical support from friends, or begin to pay our way.

Finally may I say it has been a privilege to be able to serve as Chairman over these past years. I have been enormously impressed by the people I have met during this time. The commitment of Leaders and volunteers, the skills and care shown, there is so much to admire. The Scouting events I have attended, the numerous awards evenings, the presentations after expeditions, have all demonstrated the benefits our young people have obtained from being part of West Lancs. It has been a wonderful experience to be a part of this. I would thank everyone for the friendship and support they have given me. I hope my successor, Neil, finds the role as enjoyable and satisfying as I have and I wish him well.

Mike Simpson
County Chairman

County Commissioner's Report

A read of this report highlights that this has been yet another very busy year for West Lancs Scouts.

The International and MEG (Major Events Group) reports highlight another successful year of international expeditions for which we continue to be the envy of many youth organisations and Scout Counties, this summer however we have had the pleasure of hosting our own international camp, Red Rose 2018.

Closer to home it has been a pleasure to visit and watch so many exciting activities, all the Sectional County camps have continued to be a great success offering our young people a wide range of experiences, from our youngest Beavers trying out caving through to our Explorers turning their hands (and feet) to Via Ferrata (climbing routes).



All of these camps, alongside many other excellent activities delivered by Section Leaders and District and County supporters has

contributed to an increase in top awards being nominated in each Section. It has been an absolute pleasure to meet the recipients of these awards and to find out more about their experiences.

Sadly, the 2018 census showed a small decrease in membership, the first in 14 years. There were many reasons for the small decline, however I am confident that with the renewed enthusiasm and emphasis on programme quality, our membership can only thrive and grow as more young people wish to join in the fun and gain skills for life!

A lot of work has taken place at Waddecar over the last year and the site is looking magnificent with many new activities and more on the way. Sadly, we said goodbye to Charity and Mandy who have secured exciting roles in pastures new after making a huge positive impact at Waddecar. We are grateful for all they contributed to the





site and County and wish them well. We welcome Damian King as Centre Manager; Joanne Whalen as Bookings & Administration Officer and Mike Brooks as Activities & Facilities Supervisor.

This year has seen the launch of the national 'Vision 2023' Strategy and a refreshed brand and visual identity to adapt how we are perceived and further develop as a Movement. We are currently developing our County strategy for the next 5 years and will consult and launch our strategy late this year. We have recognised the advantages of adopting the three pillars of work highlighted by the national strategy; Programme; People and Perception; we have also identified a need locally to support Places. This year's Annual Report has therefore been separated into four sections aligned to these pillars of work.

The coming months will see many changes to further strengthen the County. These include a constitution change, a new Board of Trustees structure and the County Team will be strengthened to ensure we can continue to improve the support and opportunities for our youth Members and volunteers alike. I look forward to you joining us on this exciting period for the County and welcome new experience.

At this year's AGM we will sadly be saying goodbye and thank you to Mike Simpson. Mike has served as our County Chair for an incredible 13 years. Under his leadership of the County's Trustees, West Lancs

has transformed with much improved financial processes and overall governance, which has supported the operational arms of the County to deliver year on year excellent programme resulting in 45% growth during his term. We are indebted to Mike and wish him well in future endeavours.

I continue to be immensely pleased to lead and belong to West Lancs Scouts and hope that all of our Members have a strong sense of belonging to what is a Scout County we can all be very proud of.

Steve Morton
County Commissioner



BEAVERS

Beavers Scouts is the Section for boys and girls aged 6 to 8. In West Lancs we have 2794 Beavers in 174 Colonies

What a fantastic year we have had in the Beaver Scout Section across all eight Districts, says **Fiona Jackson** Assistant County Commissioner (ACC) (Beavers). As always, our fantastic Colony Leaders have been using their creative skills to provide exciting and challenging programmes to our youngest Section Members to ensure they have the best start on their Scouting adventure. They are far too many and varied to list them all, but all are the building blocks for what they will go on to develop further in Cub Scouts and beyond.

We had an awesome, if slightly damp, camp in June. Just over 200 young people and adults having a fabulous time, it just can't be beaten

– not one grumble about the drizzle but loads of positive energy for the activities on offer, based on a village fair theme on one day, and circus activities on another. It's just great seeing the enjoyment our Beaver Scouts have

being given the opportunity to spend the night under canvas – for many of them the first time away from home let alone the first time in a tent.

Our Disney themed fun-day was also a resounding success with activities based on a range of Disney movies from Finding Nemo, Toy Story, Pirates of the Caribbean to Star Wars. Beaver Scouts and Leaders were also invited to dress up as their favourite character which saw some interesting costumes!

The year saw our first County Beaver Scout Bake-off. Districts held their own bake-off competitions and the winners represented their Districts in designing, preparing and creating scrumptious cup-cakes! Our team of judges had a most difficult time reviewing and taste-testing the submissions, but the overall winners were 37th Blackpool. Congratulations to them and to all the teams that took part in what is hoped will become a biennial event.

By way of developing all aspects for our young Members, the early part of 2018 saw another County Quiz taking place, a well-established event in our calendar. Eccleston Beaver Scouts did Chorley District proud by winning the trophy and proving they are well on the road to Eggheads or



cubs

Cub Scouts is the Section for boys and girls aged 8 to 10.5. In West Lancs we have 3191 Cub Scouts in 173 Packs

The Cub Leaders of West Lancs I am sure were hoping for a slightly less hectic year in 2017 following the Centenary, but it didn't turn out that way, explains **Ann-marie Fisher** ACC (Cubs)! Throughout the year we have had

many events and trips out at County, District and Pack level.

We have seen Cubs exploring London, sleeping over at Flamingo Land and joining Districts on International Trips. Everyone seems to have embraced the idea of bigger, better and bolder following 2016. It has been an exciting year.

We have continued to hold our mentally challenging County Chess competition, for all the future Grand Masters! Also our County Challenge event, focusing on our Challenge range of badges. It is always great fun for the Cubs to get together and challenge each other. And the Leaders can get a bit competitive too!

The planned Big Day Out 2 ended up with a brilliant sleepover at Flamingo Land in West Yorkshire...the sunshine followed us and the Cubs and Leaders had a brilliant time trying out all the rides and visiting the

Zoo. The resort really looked after us and we are hoping to repeat this summer.

We joined up with the Beavers in July, another day of sunshine and brilliant bases delivered by the District Teams; everyone had a great time and we will continue to work with our Beaver colleagues to hold a linking up event that gets the two Sections together.

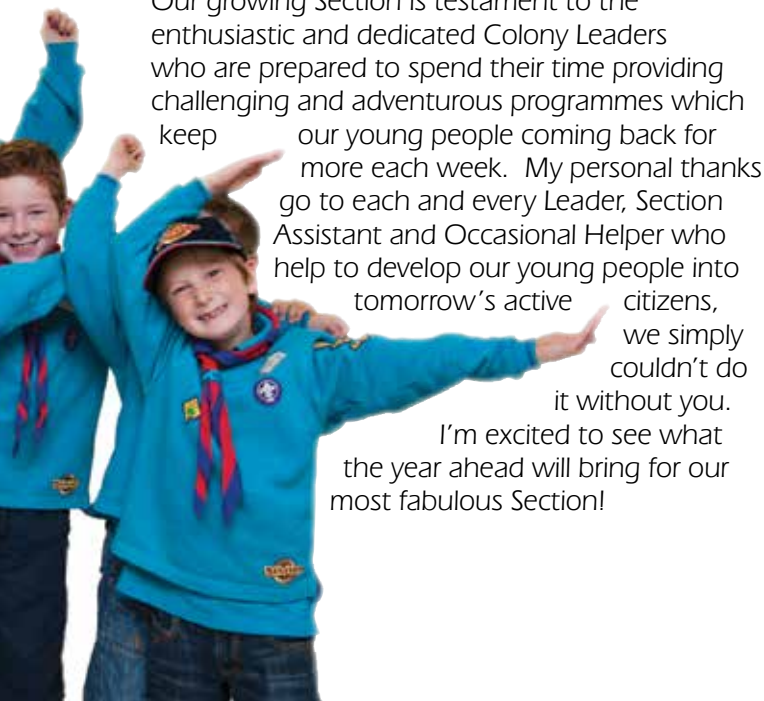


University Challenge!

All our activities work to complement the activities provided by Districts and within Colonies so that Beaver Scouts can achieve their Chief Scout Bronze Awards. It is always a pleasure to be invited to meet the awardees and find out what they have achieved, particularly for their Personal Challenges to gain their awards. They all put such great effort in to achieve their very best and they deserve our congratulations for that.

Our growing Section is testament to the enthusiastic and dedicated Colony Leaders who are prepared to spend their time providing challenging and adventurous programmes which keep our young people coming back for more each week. My personal thanks go to each and every Leader, Section Assistant and Occasional Helper who help to develop our young people into tomorrow's active citizens, we simply couldn't do it without you.

I'm excited to see what the year ahead will bring for our most fabulous Section!



One of the best fun days we have had this year was a trip to Chester Zoo....5 coaches packed with West Lancs Cubs had a blast seeing all the animals and we caused quite a storm around the park....in a good way of course! We nearly emptied the shop of stock before heading home!

So, although we had planned to slow down I don't actually think we did that much. The District Teams are going from strength to strength and delivering the highest quality Cub Scouting and the numbers of young people gaining their Chief Scout Silver Award continues to rise. I can only speak on behalf of the Cubs and say a massive Thank You to them all. Well done you!

As for the County Cub Team, we have had one loss this year as the wonderful Bev McMullan decided to step back from Cubbing commitments due to work pressures and house moves; we were so very sorry to see her go and will miss her organisation and laughter!

Dimal Patel, a veteran Cub Leader from Preston joined the team and is working with Kirsten Flint and Michael Tax, the other County Cub Leaders to help me deliver our programme. They are a fantastic team and I thank them for all their hard work.....a special mention to our County Cub Young Leaders, Liam Chow and Erin Burke-Mackey who bring enthusiasm and fun with them.

But the biggest thanks, as always, is to the Cubs who bring fun, adventure and challenge and keep the Section lively and never dull!!

#WLCubsRock!!



Rob Millington ACC (Scouts) reports that 2017 – 2018 has seen a great year for the Scout Section in

SCOUTS

Scouts is the Section for boys and girls aged 10.5 to 14. In West Lancs we have 2604 Scouts in 160 Troops

West Lancs. County Rally was our biggest turnout ever, with 1400 Scouts and adults attending the event, taking part in such activities as volleyball, tug-of-war, climbing, kayaking, water-slides and crafts. The Bowlander competition saw 32

teams battle it out over the Trough of Bowland around Waddecar, with 16th Morecambe

Scouts being crowned Champions. 7 teams took part in the 'Troop into March' event at Waddecar giving 50 young people the chance



to lead their Leader for a weekend of team building activities and Snow! Due to the weather, it was great to see the Troops from 1st Norbreck, Leyland St James, 1st New Longton, and 1st Broughton come together to work as one giant unit, to make sure that everyone was fed, warm and happy through 'The Beast from the East - Part 2'.

West Lancashire was represented at the regional Lord Derby competition, held in Cheshire County at Tatton Park, with 8th Penwortham our single entered team. The team did excellently in the event, coming out as the winners of the Lord Derby Trophy! Unfortunately for me, this meant that we as a County now have the "Privilege" of running this year's competition, in which we will be represented by the winners of the Acorn Challenge, 1st Ormskirk, and the second placed team, 8th Penwortham. I am sure you all join me in wishing





both teams the best of luck with the competition in June.

The Scout Section International for 2019 – ‘Go Kandersteg’ has been very well received, with 26 young people taking up the opportunity to go to Switzerland and take part in such activities as hiking, ice climbing and tobogganing, along with many more activities and cultural adventures.

Patrol Leader Forums continue to be held across the County at Troop, District and County level, with Scouts across the County giving their ideas on anything from the weekly Troop programme, the events they want District to run, to the next international the County offer.

All in all, the Section is enjoying many events, with Districts offering even more, as well as supporting

the County events. The Section has seen a slight decline, but I am positive that with an engaging and enriching programme, which we are working towards as a County, this decline will be a short blip on our generally growing trend over the last 5 years.

Kerry Harrison ACC (Explorers) writes about an action-packed year again for this growing Section, with Explorer Scouts taking part in a wide range of local, County, regional, national and international events including the

EXPLORERS

Explorer Scouts is the Section for young people aged 14 to 18. In West Lancs we have 985 Explorer Scouts in 54 Units. Of those 469 are in the Young Leaders scheme



London Monopoly Run (with a quick photo opportunity outside No10!), the Ardennes trip and County Camp to name but a few. Many Explorers also helped as Young Leaders at a range of County events supporting the other Sections including County Rally and County Cub Camp; some Scouts and their Leaders have a growing collection of Explorer wrist bands from County Rally and are spreading the news about how exciting this Section is!

The County Team says a sad farewell to Lee McNulty who is leaving the team to focus on his PGCE, which he starts in September. We wish him well in his new career and want to thank him for the many, many hours he has dedicated to the Section. He has been a superstar and thankfully he will continue in the Section in other roles.

The County Forum continues to develop and during '#YouShape' month hosted a Facebook live forum event which was very successful reaching at least 2373 people. There are plans to follow up this event with future online and live forums. Embracing the online presence of the Section, we held the Forum Executive elections online with candidates posting campaign videos on the West Lancs Explorer Facebook page. Again, a big success showing a wide range of Districts voting for their choice '#Britishvalues'. Lucy from Fylde was successfully voted in as the Chairperson, Patrick from Lonsdale was successfully voted in as Vice-Chair, Scott from Fylde as Secretary and Luke from Wyre as Marketing and Communications Representative.

Another two successful top awards presentation evenings were held in the County with many young people, their parents and their Leaders celebrating the wonderful and wide-ranging things our young people experience whilst developing their skills and achieving these prestigious awards. Our priorities as a team continue to include seeing more young people achieving the top awards '#skillsforlife'.



Jenny MacDonald ACC (Network) tells us that this year has seen an increase in Network census figures, and with the change to District Networks now embedded, we are seeing adventurous, exciting, fun programmes being developed with many signing up to achieve the top Awards. The largest - SOWA (Scouts of the World Award) Discovery weekend in the Country was hosted by West Lancs.

network

Members aged 18 to 25 can opt to join the Scout Network. In West Lancs we have 273 Network Members in 8 districts.



Easter saw a spy themed weekend at Great Tower where we celebrated the 16th Network Gathering in style, with a weekend of activities, live music and the new addition of the 'Sunday Shenanigans'. So many of our Members are also very busy Leaders, it's great to see them take time out from their leadership role and enjoy themselves.





International

The County's international programme continues to offer wide and varied opportunities for Network Members both as participants and Leaders.

This year has been a very exciting year for international Scouting within West Lancs. From welcoming friends from all over the world at Red Rose 2018, to many Members enjoying adrenaline filled adventures abroad and also seeing many young people beginning life-changing adventures.

Since the last report, we have had a number of fantastic County trips. Firstly, we've had the superb Ski Alpine to Les Arcs in France. The Explorers and Network who attended had a great time learning many new skills in the snow, it's great that this trip will run again next February.

Secondly, we had our Ardennes Adventure trip for Explorers which ran with increased numbers compared to previous years. It's brilliant to see the young people who attended making the most of mountain biking, caving and canoeing in the wonderful Belgian countryside. Furthermore, it's wonderful to see many District and Group trips that have happened over the

last twelve months. There clearly is a large appetite for international adventure from all corners of the County.

International Scouting hasn't just been happening abroad. The global programme has given young people across the County many valuable experiences and has built numerous global friendships over the last year.

From sending post cards to foreign Scouts, to speaking to them directly on JOTA/JOTI and exploring the world whilst learning about the World Cup, it's amazing to see young people learning about the world and building new friendships. It's also been great to see Network Members working towards their Scouts of the World Award and hosting the UK's biggest 'Scouts of the World Discovery' yet. We look forward to many more amazing global adventures in 2019.

Chris Worthington
ACC International



Major and Overseas Events Group (MEG)

The Major Events Group works on behalf of the County to support, mentor and mitigate risk associated with all County overseas and large UK-based events. To this end MEG has continued to define the procedures which support these events so that there is consistency and sharing of best practice across all our events. Standard procedures for tracking progress and identifying concerns have been implemented, as well as documenting best practice for suggesting and approving new trips, selecting leadership teams, inducting leadership teams and producing final reports. Work continues

on standard end-of-trip financial reports and policies on adult and young person fees for events.

A new structure for supporting events has been adopted this year, with each trip being assigned a specific MEG Mentor to recruit and then support the leadership team throughout the project. This Mentor is a member of MEG who has experience leading the type of trip they are supporting and also acts as Training Adviser to the Leaders.

MEG meets 4 times per year to discuss business and has recently introduced interim phone conferences to discuss each current trip and identify any good practice for sharing or concerns to raise. This has allowed more



time in business meetings for looking at our overseas strategy, future ambitions, receiving past trip reports and the formalisation of our procedures.

In September 2017 MEG held a successful "Overseas and Adventure Day" in Preston at which all the trips from the past 12 months did a presentation of their experience, and all the current and future trips, as well as the adventurous activity teams and Sectional teams, were able to promote their programmes and opportunities for the next year. The event was very well attended with over 200 people from across the County coming along to listen to presentations and find out about future opportunities.

In 2017-18 MEG has supported trips to the Danish National Jamboree (Scouts), Asia Pacific Jamboree in Mongolia (Scouts), Romanian National Jamboree (Explorers), Explorer Belt in Finland (Explorers/Network), Ardennes Adventure (Explorers), Mountaineering in the Massif des Ecrins (Explorers/Network) and Skiing in the Alps (Explorers/Network). The number and variation of trips on offer to our young people each year is truly incredible and the envy of any other Scout County in the UK.

Support continues for future events including our very own Red Rose in The Lake District (all Sections) which promises to be a highlight of the forthcoming year. We also continue to support Ardennes 2018 (Explorers), Menin Gate 100th Anniversary (Scouts/Explorers), Go Kandersteg (Scouts), Nepal (Explorers/Network), Haalem Jamboree (Explorers), Explorer Belt in Serbia (Explorers/Network) and our first Yachting trip to Croatia in 2020

(Explorers/Network). Trips further afield and further into the future are also in the pipeline with adverts for leadership teams coming out in the next 12 months.

During the year Andy Marsden joined MEG and Chris Lomas has taken over as Chair of MEG. We must thank Dick Griffiths, who stood down in 2017, for his incredible contribution to our overseas and domestic adventurous programme. His experience and enthusiasm has been appreciated by all and I know he will always be available for advice when required.

Here's to another successful year of overseas and adventurous Scouting!

Chris Lomas

Deputy County Commissioner and Chair of MEG

Activities Team

It has been another active and exciting year for our activities teams with regular events going from strength to strength. Scouting Activities sessions have enabled young people and adults to gain experience in a wide range of skills such as backwoods cooking, camping, pioneering. With increasing numbers of new volunteers into Scouting it's as important as ever that we continue to offer training and support for these more traditional Scouting skills so that they are not lost to a new generation of Scouts. They're also great fun!

Adventurous Activities has always been a strength in our County and this year was no exception. A successful Snow and Ice trip to Scotland was run for the older ages in February. Earlier in the year successful water activities days allowed young people to get out on the water in all sorts of different craft. Thanks must go to 'SplASHU' for delivering a fantastic water





activities programme throughout the year as well as supporting the many Groups and Districts keen to offer water-sports. Likewise, 'LASSU' supported a fantastic adventurous programme with overseas trips as well as supporting Sections with the likes of Bowlander and County Rally. We know that young people love these activities and it's events like these which draw them into and keep them in Scouting, so thanks to all who help to offer such a diverse and professional range of opportunities.

The number of individual permit holders continues to rise with more assessors appointed and more assessments taking place. This is a great trend to see and something that should be encouraged whenever we get the chance.

Chris Lomas

Adventurous Activities

Archery training and assessments have taken place both at County and local levels by the team. The team has also supported Districts with training young people in the Sections and have completed several courses for the Scout Section for them to achieve the Master at Arms Badges.

Nights Away training (Module 38) has been undertaken by several Leaders from across West Lancs. The course continues to be well received by the participants, and the team continue to refine the contents to ensure that it remains relevant to the needs of our Leaders.

In addition to this, courses in pioneering and raft building were undertaken. These are basic courses and are designed to give Leaders confidence to undertake these activities safely with young people.

Alan Venn

ACC (Scouting Skills)



Waddecar Activity Centre

It is really pleasing to see that our success continues with another record year for Waddecar and the Centre is being used by more and more young people and Leaders. Scouting is still the mainstay, but non-Scout use accounts for about 40% of our bookings. Our continued careful management of day to day operations means that even though our use has increased, our costs have been tightly controlled, with underlying cash generation of some £35,000 before capital investment. This great financial position gives us a stable basis to plan for future developments. This year we were able to invest around £40,000 at Waddecar, delivering all our planned projects.

We await the outcome of the County's new strategic plan and look forward to playing our part in further strengthening this fantastic County.

We continued our long-term strategy of improving the facilities and activities available and this included significant drainage works on Beacon site, improvements to the bottom toilet block, and to the Jubilee base, and the less glamorous replacement of three ageing gas boilers with the support of Baxi.

The 'Indian tented village' is always in demand and so



we have added another two tents to this facility and made it available throughout the year.

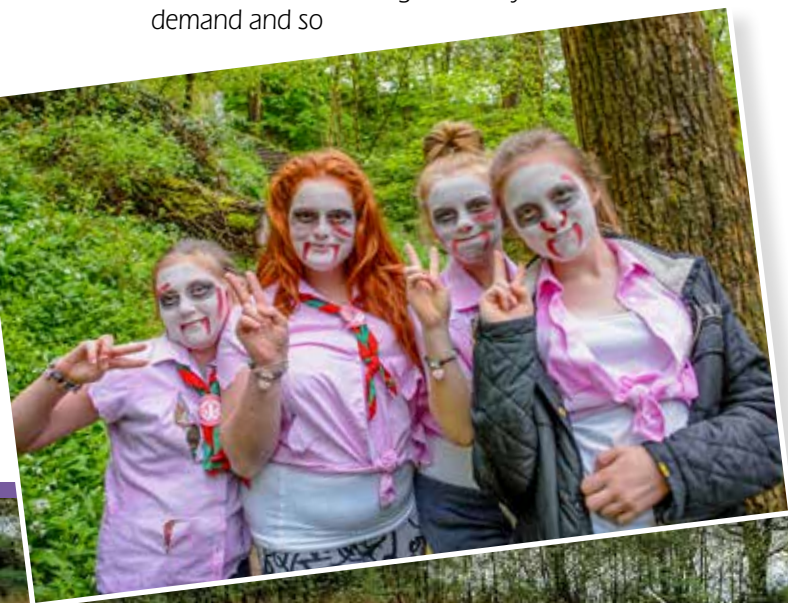
Landscaping and new steps around the recently refurbished climbing tower has improved this area and we are grateful to the late Ron Loomes for making this possible.

The recently acquired challenge course adds another new and exciting activity for groups of all ages, other activities added this year include on site Geo-caching and Frisbee Golf. Having an additional instructor available throughout the year means even more groups can use our facilities with expert help on hand and of course this supports our aim to make it as easy as possible for Leaders to get the 'OUT' into 'ScOUT' at Waddecar. This year we were very lucky to receive kind donations in memory of Ron Loomes, Bill Hargreaves and Roy Fisher which have supported specific activity improvements.

Situated in the beautiful and tranquil Trough of Bowland, with our very own stretch of the River Brock, yet only 15 minutes from the M6, it is little wonder Waddecar continues to attract groups from both near and far and is particularly popular with those undertaking Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions.

If you have never visited us or it's been a while, then you must call in and see why we are so popular and how we can help you with whatever you are doing.

Looking forward, we will continue adding activities and





upgrading facilities and this year we will add a high ropes course with four new and exciting activities and a second tented village due to open in summer 2019. For 2018-19 our planned investment is in excess of £80,000, largely funded from our own resources, but it would be great to attract external funding so we could do even more.

Finally, I must thank all the members of the Waddecarr Management Committee and the team of volunteers who man the shop, act as wardens, maintain the facilities and provide instruction to young people. (There is always room for more volunteers though!)

Jonathan Abbey
Chair

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 allows us to participate in their sole access to Rivington Reservoir and use of the Anderton Centre.

Work with Schools, Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, and the National Citizenship Service continues along with developing work within Bolton, especially through the Bolton Wanderers Community Trust, whose Director, Ben Lawton, has joined the LOAI Board.

Following the installation of a new Bio-mass boiler system last year, the facilities at the Centre have been further enhanced by improved sleeping and showering facilities. New

activities have been installed, including a new archery range, bouldering wall and additional high ropes.

The Management Team of LOAI has had a major restructure to enable the Charity and the Centre to move forwards into the future. Caroline Scholtz has been appointed CEO of the Charity and of the Centre. Caroline has a background in both the charity and the industrial sectors. We now have a new Centre Manager in the guise of David Germain who comes to us after running the Salford Quays Helly Hansen Water Sports Centre for many years.

They continue to have a large portfolio of NGB training courses which West Lancs Scouts are very welcome to access.

Dick Griffiths
County Secretary & Trustee/Director of LOAI





Community Impact

Community Impact continues to be a key focus for the movement as we continue to give young people opportunities to make a positive impact in their community. Over the last 12 months, we have seen Groups and Sections take up the challenge in a number of different ways within their community. Some of the projects that Groups have shared with us are:

- Several members of Fylde District have been working with the local Council to support the Fairhaven Lake regeneration through a Heritage Lottery Fund project.
- A number of Scout Troops across the County have run 'Tramp Camps' to raise awareness and sponsorship money for individuals who are facing homelessness in their local area.

- Members of Preston District have been working with the Canal and Rivers Trust to clear sections of the Canal near their Scout Hut.

- A Group in Lonsdale District have taken on the task of maintaining and restoring their local village churchyard.

It has been fantastic to see the various directions that Community Impact Projects have taken and to

hear from enthusiastic Leaders who have seen the benefits to both the community and their young people. The 'Million Hands' projects supporting Guide Dogs, The Alzheimer's Society, WaterAid and the Canal and Rivers Trust continue to be popular with leaders looking for an introduction to Community Impact for their Section.

Community Impact doesn't just require a big project. Groups across the County have been getting involved in our Antibiotic Resistance campaign which has been supported by Public Health England. Young people have been learning all about bacteria and the problem of antibiotic resistance with Sections pledging their support to helping reduce the issue of antibiotic resistance through good hygiene practice and careful use of antibiotics. The badge and pack are also being rolled out in other Counties and the feedback from everyone who has taken part so far has been incredibly positive!

The ShelterBox Scavenger Hunt is another well attended event supporting communities overseas. This year's event was fully booked before the closing date and over 100 teams took part in challenges around Liverpool City Centre, having a fantastic day out whilst developing new skills and contributing towards fundraising for disaster relief work across the world.

Community Impact remains one of the key themes for the upcoming 2023 Strategy and provides our Members with an opportunity to continue to develop 'Skills For Life', making a difference to our young people and the communities that they live in.

Amy Calderbank
ACC (Community Impact)



Communications

Yet another busy year for the media team and one which has seen a number of our key members personal circumstances change considerably with changes in employment, weddings and births.

The team ended the financial year with lower numbers and a reduced ability to commit as greatly as in previous years and so now is a good time to restructure and bring in some new blood to support our experienced members.

Despite the lower capacity, the team has still continued to deliver a regular WL+ newsletter, kept the website fresh and up to date and covered the vast majority of events requested from us.

Again, I can't let this report pass without acknowledging the huge workload of the team who keep up the media output long after the event has been and gone.

For some, events finish on a Sunday afternoon but many of our team keep on going, editing video footage, pushing messages out on social media and cataloguing photographs on our gallery for a considerable period afterwards. A lot of our work goes on in the background and that is fine because we understand and value the benefits our work delivers.

Personally, this will be my final annual report for media as an increase in workload in my day job means I no longer have the time available to commit to this role and at some point in 2018 I will be handing over the reins to a new ACC Media. I wish he or she all the best



for the future as well as the whole team who have supported me most excellently for many years.

Pete Sturgess

ACC (Communications)





Treasurers Report

The Trustees re-engaged investment managers Brooks MacDonald at the 2016 AGM, who operate within guidelines agreed with the Trustees. The investment managers have been asked to consider social, environmental and ethical criteria when managing the portfolio as we would not wish to hold any investments that would be to the detriment of Scouting, although the managers are mindful that their prime duty is a financial one. The investment objective is to provide sufficient growth to protect the fund against the effects of inflation in the medium to long term. This is subject to change, should there be any requirement for large capital outlay. The Trustees accept that to achieve both long-term capital growth and a real return over inflation the fund will be subject to the risks associated with asset backed investments and investing in business through loans and equity holdings. The Trustees are not averse to the concept of an element of investment risk but wish the fund to be balanced to reduce the overall effect of that risk. At the close of the financial year the portfolio of listed investments held by West Lancashire County Scout Council was valued at £1,195,865 (2016: £1,007,956) and in addition our investment managers held cash for future dealing of £35,910 (2016: £67,431). The period March 2016 to March 2017 has been one of good returns for investors, despite the number of political events that have occurred throughout the year. Markets were in recovery mode in early 2016, after global growth and oil price shocks both exerted downward pressure on equity prices. Since then, markets have had to contend with both the 'Brexit' vote and the uncertainty around Donald Trump's election in the US.

The trustees have engaged Charles Bennett to manage the investment properties, collect the rents and supervise any necessary maintenance work on behalf of the charity in accordance with guidelines agreed with the trustees. The investment properties are held both to provide income through the rents and also for their long-term capital growth. The investment properties were formally revalued in March 2017 for the sum of £870,000 (2014: £902,500), in line with our triennial valuation policy. The F&FR (Finance and Fundraising sub-committee) continue to review the financial performance (both income and growth) of the whole property portfolio and consider options for the future in line with the professional advice received. With interest rates at an all-time historic low and dividend yields likely to remain suppressed for some time the current rental income being achieved of some £46,000 (2016: £47,000), before agent's commission and costs of

upkeep etc. gives, in the opinion of the trustees, a very useful income stream in the current economic climate.

In line with the aspirations of the County Plan, WLCSC (West Lancashire County Scout Council) has continued to improve facilities at Waddecar Scout Activity Centre. The new toilet block, which includes a drying room and laundry room has seen plenty of use this year and is a huge improvement on the previous facilities. The addition of the new climbing and bouldering facilities, which were completed in the Spring of 2016 have proved very popular, both with our visitors and local Groups who are visiting Waddecar in the evening, supplementing their Scouting activity programme. Since these two projects were completed there has been a significant increase in all users of the site, both Scouting and non-Scouting and we hope this trend continues over the coming years.

WLCSC would not be as successful as it is without all the voluntary help that is freely given, we are so fortunate to have so many volunteers giving their time selflessly for the benefit of Scouting in West Lancashire. Our volunteers help in a wide variety of ways and it is all very much appreciated. The County could not run effectively without the large team of people that are not involved in "front line" Scouting. There is a huge team of District and County personnel that work tirelessly behind the scenes ensuring that the young people in West Lancashire get the best Scouting experience possible.

We no longer receive any regular grant funding and have had to look at alternative ways to help the County achieve its aims. This year we have received a grant from Lancashire County Council for an upgrade to our chapel at Waddecar Scout Activity Centre. As a charity we are always looking for fundraising and grant opportunities for our Members and in these financially difficult times we are especially grateful to all those who help in sourcing and completing grant applications.

WLCSC is also very grateful for a couple of kind bequests which will be used for the good of the County over the coming year.

The charity has numerous strategic goals and objectives to achieve in the medium to long term. This is a very comprehensive programme and it would not be practicable to list all the objectives, but the main ones are to increase membership (both young people and adult Leaders) and to make improvements to Waddecar Activity Centre over the coming years.

Cath Joyce
County Treasurer

Summary Financial Statement

Summarised Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2018		
	2018	2017
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Donations, grants and contributions	150	250
Activity centres income	211,143	200,909
Surplus on membership subscriptions	4,993	4,777
County and international events	131,856	143,657
Scouting activities, training and sections	102,971	125,359
Miscellaneous income	17,692	12,564
Rental and investment income	64,208	64,070
Interest	6,934	9,428
	<u>539,947</u>	<u>561,014</u>
Resources expended		
Staff costs	132,891	129,862
Costs of generating funds	17,740	15,860
Activity centres operating costs	98,926	77,441
Depreciation and profit on sale of assets	52,923	49,588
County and international events	132,588	143,616
World Scout Youth Event and other events	14,218	14,000
Scouting activities, training & sections	110,283	135,306
Management, administration and other costs	51,986	45,008
	<u>611,555</u>	<u>610,681</u>
Net outgoing resources for the year	(71,608)	(49,667)
(Losses) on property revaluations	-	(32,500)
Gains on listed investments	2,875	148,572
	<u></u>	<u></u>
Net movement in funds	(68,733)	66,405
Total funds brought forward	3,736,961	3,670,556
	<u></u>	<u></u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>3,668,228</u>	<u>3,736,961</u>

Statement of the Trustees

The Trustees report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018 were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 12 July 2018. They will be submitted to the Charity Commission after the Annual General Meeting.

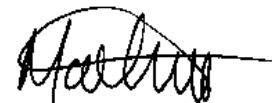
The full Trustees' report, audit report and financial statements, which contain the full details of the financial affairs of the charity as at 31 March 2018, may be obtained from:

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 12 July 2018



CA Joyce FCCA
County Treasurer



M Lowe
Deputy County Commissioner

Summarised Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2018		
	2018	2017
	£	£
Fixed assets (inc rental properties)	1,779,674	1,817,646
Listed investments and share dealing funds	1,405,326	1,231,775
	<u>3,185,000</u>	<u>3,049,421</u>
Current assets	880,071	862,557
Less: Current liabilities	(396,843)	(175,017)
	<u>483,228</u>	<u>687,540</u>
Net assets	<u>3,668,228</u>	<u>3,736,961</u>
Funds (all unrestricted)		
General	3,644,854	3,713,965
Adventure Trust	23,374	22,996
	<u>3,668,228</u>	<u>3,736,961</u>

Youth Shaped Scouting In West Lancs



Over the past year Youth Shaped Scouting in West Lancs has gone from strength to strength. This has become a key element of most District and Section programmes.

Scouting has always given young people responsibility and it is important that we continue to offer such opportunities today. Youth Shaped Scouting not only ensures that Scouting is fun and relevant but also allows us to develop young people into our future Leaders and equip them with a better start in life.

We have a great team of District Youth Commissioners who are passionate about embedding Youth Shaped Scouting and are working together to share ideas and resources across the County. We currently have seven District Youth Commissioners in West Lancs who champion Youth Shaped Scouting in their District.

In 2017 many of our County and District events have been shaped by young people and supported by Explorers as part of the leadership teams. Once again in 2017 Explorers have formed part of the leadership teams for international trips which will equip them with the skills that will stand them in good stead for achieving their top awards, including their Explorer Belt.

Young Leaders from across West Lancs have been awarded a Commissioners Commendation for their contribution to international Scouting which is a fantastic achievement.

'Mission Possible 2017' was a huge success, which highlighted the vital contribution that Young Leaders make to their Sections. 'Mission Possible' also emphasised the importance of supporting our Young Leaders to enable them to achieve their Young Leader Belt Buckle.

'#YouShape 2018' again saw lots of young people sharing their ideas, taking the lead and developing leadership skills throughout February.

By 2019 we hope that Youth Shaped Scouting will be embedded into every programme and that Peer Leadership will form an essential element of every Section. By empowering young people, we can help them to learn from each other and reach their potential.

Becca Webster

County Youth Commissioner



Development

Looking To The Future



For the first time in many years, we saw a dip in our membership at census with a loss of 126 young people and adults (0.9%). While this is disappointing, and we know we have work to do, it is great to see the positivity with which our Districts are tackling the way forward. Group support projects are in place to ensure our Leaders have the help they need, recruitment support sessions have been held in several Districts to share with Group Scout Leaders best practice and top tips, and we have refreshed the growth training for our Section Leaders to give them clear direction on recruiting and retaining young people and adults.

Back in 2013 when we set out our vision for growth, we had a total membership of 11,142 and we set ourselves a challenging growth target to reach 14,000 Members enjoying the opportunities that Scouting across West Lancs has to offer. We've come a long way already with an increase of 2,266 Members over the last 5 years. To reach our goal next year, we need to increase our membership by just 592 young people and adults. That equates to each of our Districts growing by just 74 members or each individual Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer and Network Section growing by just over 1 member each. Achievable? Definitely! However, to do this, we do need to look closely at how we manage our Membership.

This year, two thirds of our Groups lost Members and we need to understand why this happened to ensure we grow again next year. I'd encourage our GSLs and Section Leaders to think about why young people or adults leave us? What can we do to keep them within Scouting? For young people, are we

offering them the exciting programme they joined for; are they able to access adventurous activities and international opportunities; do they need support and encouragement to make sure they stay in Scouting when they move between Sections; do we signpost alternate Sections if hobbies or activities clash; are we planning ahead and know when numbers will take a dip due to moves between Sections and advertising vacancies in good time? For adults, are we offering Scouting flexibly to suit changes in commitments; do we offer alternate roles or signpost Active Support if an existing role doesn't suit them anymore? Help and support is available to any Leader that needs advice, please do just ask – your District teams, our County Development Officers or our ACC Growth are all able to guide you.

This year, Preston District continued its phenomenal growth journey with a 3% increase in Membership. Well done to all the team, but we must thank Andrew Hobson for all he has done as District Commissioner over the last few years and the significant growth we have seen during that time. Across the County, 18 Groups grew by 10 or more new Members. Well done to Withnell St Paul's in Chorley who saw our biggest growth with an increase of 43 Members, followed by 4th Bamber Bridge (32 new Members), South Ribble Explorers (27 new Members), 1st Cottam (26 new Members), 4th Preston (24 new Members), 46th Preston (23 new Members) and Halton (20 new Members).



Our County Development Officers, Barbara and Andy have now completed year 1 of the 4th term of the County Development Project. It's been a tough year, where despite best efforts from them and the local volunteers who support our project work, some of our new Group and Section projects have stalled. Where we look to offer new

provision, the community is always keen to welcome us and want young people to make the most of the opportunities we have on offer. However, this doesn't mean we are always able to find suitable venues or enough volunteers to ensure we can proceed. This can be disheartening for all concerned in trying to set up a project, but Barbara and Andy continue with a smile and carry on with the next project with a display of professionalism, commitment and enthusiasm.

We must also thank the local volunteers who work alongside Barbara and Andy to support the project work, running exciting taster sessions, supporting new volunteers and making sure new Sections are up and running effectively. They do this in addition to their own primary Scouting roles and we appreciate all that they do. We've also welcomed some new DCs this year and we will be working closely with them over the next few months to ensure they have a focus on development and the project work doesn't slow down while they get to grips with their new role.

The targets for the 4th term of the County Development Project changed last summer and while they remain similar to previous projects, they reflect what the County Executive feel it's possible to achieve this time round and our ambition to be more representative of the communities we serve. Our aim will be to recruit Members who live in the most deprived areas of our County; Members from a variety of backgrounds, cultures and faiths such as Eastern European communities or refugees; young people who have a range of additional needs; and ensure we are welcoming to new

Members from the LGBT community. This doesn't necessarily mean creating Sections specifically for any of these groups but ensuring that the new provision we create is accessible to them. In addition to opening new Sections, we remain

committed to supporting our existing provision and helping them grow by providing guidance and direct support where we can. Adult recruitment will also remain a key focus of our work. So how are we doing so far?

Growth:

- Open 55 new youth Sections, including 10 new Scout Groups with 25 Sections; filling gaps in the 6 - 14 year old provision with 10 new Sections; opening 10 new Explorer Scout Units; and creating 10 2nd Sections at existing Groups.

What we did – year 1:

- Opened 8 new Sections over the last 12 months;
- In addition, work is underway on 4 new Scout Groups with plans to open in the autumn term; 2 Sections to fill 6 – 14 gaps in provision; and an Explorer Scout Unit.

How we did it:

- Opened 3 new Scout Troops where there was a gap in the 6 - 14 provision;
- Opened 5 2nd Sections where demand was high to join a Scout Group and we had a waiting list, including 3 Beaver Colonies, a Cub Pack and a Scout Troop.

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 or adults.

What we did – year 1

- 13 Groups have received help and support to enable them to grow;
- In addition, the County Development Officers are actively working on 10 further support projects.

How we did it:

- Supported Districts to





recruit effective managers and supporters, including District Commissioners, 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; and encouraging bring a friend events.

Adult recruitment:

- Recruit 250 new adults into West Lancs Scouts.

What we did – year 1:

- 43 new adult volunteers are working in Groups and Units across the County.

How we did it:

- Recruited 22 leaders and 10 Section Assistants;
- Recruited 1 members for an Executive Committee;
- Recruited 10 Occasional Helpers.



Legacy:

- Design and share resources; maintain a store of promotional material;
- Build relationships with GSLs and District Development Teams;
- Share proven methods and resources to support the recruitment of adults and young people to Scouting;
- Highlight and share best practice regarding the retention of adults in Scouting;
- Refresh the content of development training for Section Leaders and share methods, resources and best practice.

What we did – year 1:

- Providing training to managers, supporters and Leaders at training courses and through events and meetings.

How we did it:

- Refreshed the content of the 'Growing the Section' training for Section Leaders to make sure it was relevant and engaging, shared best practice and promoted available resources;
- Supported the planning, development and delivery of the County Managers Support Day;
- Supported District and GSL meetings with best practice recruitment ideas, top tips and resources sharing.



Looking to the Future

There is still much to do if we are to achieve the goals we set ourselves as a County back in 2013, but I am confident that with the continued drive and passion for Scouting that our Leaders and supporters demonstrate, we will see a leap forward in 2019. We couldn't do it without you and I thank all our adults for getting involved and making such a difference. You are the ones that provide a wide variety of activities each week to our young people and continue to offer the life changing experiences that we are known for.



Case Study – Withnell St Paul's

At the beginning of 2017, Withnell St Paul's Scout Group was in a precarious position. It was a state of transition as many long-standing volunteers had retired, the Scout Troop had closed, and the Group was forced to move away from the community of Withnell and Brinscall that it had served since it was formed. Despite these challenges, several young people, parents and volunteers remained loyal to the Group and a small but committed team were determined to keep the Group open.

A Group Scout Leader (GSL) search was initiated, and this helped generate some interest. Within a matter of hours of launching the search, Andy was contacted by Judith Scott who raised her concerns about the current condition of the Group. Judith was no stranger to Withnell St Paul's as she had been one of the founding members, assisting her late husband to open and establish the Group in the early 1970s.

Over the course of the next fortnight, Andy and Judith were in regular contact and it became apparent to Andy that Judith had the management skills, diplomacy and drive to become a successful GSL and help turn the Group around. Andy asked Judith if she would consider applying for the role. After a little surprise and hesitation, Judith applied and in due course was appointed by Chorley District Commissioner, Cath Hargreaves.

Immediately, Judith started to engage the parents; consulting them, explaining decisions, keeping them informed, providing examples of how they could support the Group and encouraging them to get involved. Judith also set about using her community contacts and local knowledge to gently coerce some of her old colleagues to return to Withnell St Paul's and persuade new volunteers to give Scouting a try. A new Executive Committee was formed, and they started to develop an action plan and undertake the required tasks with vim and vigour, but most importantly, with professionalism.

One of the first decisions the committee made was to return the Group to its original meeting place of Withnell St Paul's church hall. They knew this needed to be handled with care as there had already been several changes in meeting time and venue within a short space of time and parents would be unlikely to want any more upheaval, but the committee felt passionate that the Group needed to be in the heart of the community. After a short sales pitch and a bit of public relations, the church committee agreed the Group could return home.

There was a real buzz and sense of pride and satisfaction starting to appear. Small successes had brought the team together and the mix of new and experienced volunteers was dovetailing perfectly. The Group was on a roll and everyone was moving in the same direction, and quickly. An open evening was held, a new team recruited to run Beavers and Cubs and youth numbers were boosted. The programme being offered was of excellent quality with opportunities to get out and about and to go camping.

Come Easter, plans had been made to reopen the Scout Troop. A number of Cubs between 10 – 11 years of age were due to move up to Scouts together and with a little bit of further recruitment there was enough of a nucleus to begin. Tom, the Beaver Leader, had spread the word to his family and two of his relatives stepped forward to join. Joel moved from Beavers to Scouts and with a little parental support, a team had been formed. Excellent programme support was provided by the District and an amazing programme had been planned for the first 6 weeks.

By the end of 2017, the Beaver Colony and Cub Pack were both full, had a short waiting list and the newly opened Scout Troop was flourishing and attracting new members. The Group recorded its highest census since records began with more young people and adult volunteers enjoying the adventure. Many congratulations to Judith, all the team at Withnell St Paul's and numerous District Members who have provided support. It's been a fantastic year for the Group and I know there is more to come. Well done and thank you!



Census-Comparison by Year

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% change
County only people	211	214	187	180	217	242	224	152	146	148	0.10%
Blackpool	1065	1146	1087	1128	1034	1121	1121	1172	1268	1229	-3.10%
Chorley	1023	1077	1077	1097	1104	1472	1552	1729	1846	1864	1.00%
Fylde	793	817	780	787	850	896	935	953	959	921	-4.00%
Lonsdale	1199	1336	1400	1396	1405	1487	1629	1834	1949	1923	-1.30%
Ormskirk	1472	1544	1601	1612	1620	1691	1604	1758	1828	1809	-1.00%
Preston	1462	1496	1579	1632	1645	1682	1648	1970	2101	2165	3.00%
South Ribble	2058	2186	2203	2238	2334	2442	2369	2304	2364	2367	0.10%
Wyre	778	895	874	901	933	945	959	897	1072	970	-9.50%
District Totals	9850	10497	10524	10791	11015	11736	11817	12617	13383	13248	-1.10%
Number of Groups	145	150	148	148	147	150	166	161	161	160	-0.40%
Beaver Scouts	2246	2486	2528	2502	2558	2729	2771	2800	3006	2974	-1.10%
Cub Scouts	2710	2839	2810	2923	2881	3146	3186	3213	3360	3191	-5.00%
Scouts	2207	2277	2309	2297	2390	2497	2534	2555	2662	2604	-2.20%
Explorer Scouts	660	690	765	844	889	981	968	986	958	985	2.80%
Scout Network	200	174	155	159	161	152	153	498	508	273	-46.30%
Total Youth Members	7927	8402	8509	8633	8788	9422	9519	9631	10133	10027	-1.40%
Active Support	229	216	212	218	226	241	237	318	372	374	0.40%
Total Adult Members	2134	2309	2279	2338	2354	2556	2522	3138	3396	3381	-0.40%
Total Scout County	10061	10711	10788	10971	11142	11978	12041	12769	13529	13408	-0.90%

Active Support

SASU – An ode to your flexible friends!

Here's to our Administrators and Asset Register Compilers,
Our Award Citation Writers and our Scout hut kitchen tilers,
Big up our Exit Interviewers and Grant Application Writers,
And thanks to our Mentors and "Hiking overnightsers!"

Oh, you fab Membership Supporters, you Press Release Writers,
You QSA Organisers and willing fire fighters,
Be proud Camp Site Wardens and amazing Low Ropes leaders,
You adventurous Mountaineers and you First aid "Stop the bleeders"!

Stand up you Pioneers and thinkers,
You Zip Wire builders and Creative glitter sprinklers,
Sing loud you Gang Show organisers and crazy campfire yelpers,
Bang your drum Scout Banders and 'One-step from becoming Occasional' Helpers!

Let's hear it for you Radio Communicators and Temporary Stand-in Leaders,
You Scout hut Maintainers and hungry camper feeders,
And thanks our Equipment maintainers that keep us out of dangers,
Our Bushcraft survivors and our "please don't be a strangers"

Go on our Photographers, Astronomers, Videographers,
Quartermasters, Car parkers, Curators and Biographers,
Guide us wisely mentors, our Faith and Belief Supporters,
Be successful great Fundraisers, Type on brave news reporters!

Crack on our Adult recruiters, Our fab Service Teams and Crews;
Web builders and rifle shooters, Our lighters of barbeques!
You are legion unsung Heroes, and we need so many more,
Our pay is just all zeros, come and join us, you know the score!

Thanks to all our amazing Active Supporters! You know who you are!

Ian 'Lonnie' Lonsdale
Active Support Manager

Inclusion

We are immensely proud that West Lancs Scouting is now more diverse than ever before!

For the first time this year we have collected even more inclusion data in our annual census and can identify that we have Members who have recorded an increased mix of race, faith, gender, age, sexuality and Members from a range of affluent and deprived areas of our County.

We now have a much better understanding of our Members physical needs, mental health issues, learning difficulties and long-term conditions. Through Kyle Woods, one of our Inclusion Advisers, Leaders have felt far better equipped to support these Members.

Within the County however, Members are not identified by these labels, we simply enjoy being Scouts together.

Our Inclusion training for new Leaders has been refreshed and is far more relevant than ever before, it is receiving excellent feedback and is encouraging Leaders to think differently about how we ensure we welcome anybody to become Members.

The inclusion team have also



made themselves available for the first time to outreach and visit Groups and Sections who request support.

For the second year we took part in Blackpool Pride which gave our Members an opportunity to shout about our inclusive policies. Well done to John Connolly for organising our participation in this event.

Thank you to all our volunteers and youth Members who help ensure that every young person in our area is able to enjoy all the Scouting activities which we often take for granted.

Steve Morton
County Commissioner





Adult Training

Another busy year for our training team! Lots of change again this year and more to come! Working alongside our District Local Training Managers, a newly formatted 'Getting Started' course was rolled out across the County. The 'All Appointment' course has now found a new home at The Guide HQ in Preston and our weekend course is still held at Waddecar.

All our courses are now multi-Sectional, which has many advantages for all our Leaders. The new, regionally delivered, 'Manager and Supporters' course is still experiencing a few problems which I am sure will soon be solved. The training team at HQ are reviewing the content of all the compulsory modules, so yet more change is expected. The changes are designed to make

training more accessible and more relevant for all Leaders and I am proud to say that, due to our excellent and forward-looking training team, we are already delivering for our Leaders in West Lancs!

A big thank you for all the support I have received from everyone, especially our County Commissioner, District Commissioners, Deputy Training Manager, Local Training Managers, Trainers and Training Advisers. A big 'Thank you' also to Valerie Holland who has supported the Training team and was always there to advise us on financial issues. Here's to another exciting year of change!

Joan Swan
County Training Manager.



Safeguarding

It has been another busy year for the County Safeguarding Team, not just in providing the mandatory update training but in supporting our District training colleagues in the delivery of the safeguarding elements of the revised Getting Started training. We have also been busy providing practical advice and guidance to Leaders running Section, Group, District and even international events, including Red Rose 2018! If you need safeguarding advice, guidance or practical support, please feel free to ask us – we are happy to work with Leaders and our young people alike.

To keep pace with changes in the wider world, the HQ Safeguarding Update training has been revised, meaning our Safeguarding Training Team have

undertaken refresher training of their own. An incremental revision to the Yellow Card will provide us with the opportunity to further refresh the content of our safeguarding training materials to ensure that it remains current and that all our Members, whatever their age, are aware of the issues facing us both in the real and in the on-line world. As the “Breck Foundation” remind us

“Play Virtual / Live Real”

As ever, thanks must go to the Safeguarding Team who provide invaluable support across the County. Thank you also to all the Leaders and young people who participate in safeguarding training and awareness sessions, ensuring we all continue to enjoy Scouting in a safe and fun environment.

Lizzie Goldsack
Safeguarding Awareness Co-Ordinator

ADULT AWARDS

SINCE LAST YEAR'S REPORT

ST GEORGE'S DAY AWARDS - APRIL 2018

SILVER WOLF

"for services to Scouting of the most exceptional nature"

Gordon Clark	Blackpool
Judith Jamieson	County
John Lawson	County
Colin Ogden	County
Michael Sullivan	South Ribble
Susan Sullivan	South Ribble

BAR TO THE SILVER ACORN

"for further distinguished service to Scouting"

Anthony Ashworth	Blackpool
Rose Marshall	Fylde

SILVER ACORN

"for distinguished service to Scouting"

Christopher Campbell	Fylde	Cyril Crossley	Wyre
Marjorie Crossley	Wyre	William Gilham	Ormskirk
Denis Harrison	Fylde	Lesley Meddings	Blackpool
Desna Sanders	Fylde	Andrew Taylor	County

OTHER AWARDS SINCE LAST YEAR'S REPORT

MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

Anne Parsons	Beaver Scout Leader	Chorley
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BAR TO THE AWARD FOR MERIT

Bernadette Ashworth	Blackpool
William Roberts	Chorley
Paul Wareing	Chorley

AWARD FOR MERIT

Nichola Bonsar	Blackpool	Stephen Brownwood	Blackpool
David Cooper	Blackpool	Diane Farley	Blackpool
Elizabeth Goldsack	Blackpool	Matthew Hornby	Blackpool
Diane Parkinson	Blackpool	Michael Spence	Blackpool
David Taylor	Blackpool	Paul Towers	Blackpool

Roy Turner	Blackpool	Karl Atkinson	Chorley
George Carroll	Chorley	Patricia Cornwell	Chorley
Margaret Ditchfield	Chorley	Peter Goldsworthy	Chorley
Susan Haworth	Chorley	Frederick Hubberstey	Chorley
Mary Hubberstey	Chorley	Susan McGuinness	Chorley
Stephen Riding	Chorley	Catherine Sturgess	Chorley
John Twinn	Chorley	Lorraine Haworth	County
Jennifer Macdonald	County	Michael Simpson	County
Janet Jones	Fylde	Catherine Newburn	Fylde
Cheryl Sedgewick	Wyre		

CHIEF SCOUTS COMMENDATION FOR GOOD SERVICE

Steven Bartlett	Blackpool	Linda Bird	Blackpool
Janine Brownwood	Blackpool	Peter Greathead	Blackpool
Simon Hacking	Blackpool	Amanda Hayden	Blackpool
Clint Jones	Blackpool	Rhiannon Jones	Blackpool
Victoria Kenmare	Blackpool	David Lynch	Blackpool
David Pope	Blackpool	Anthony Pollitt	Blackpool
Lyn Porter	Blackpool	Katherine Pye	Blackpool
Stephen Shaw	Blackpool	David Steen	Blackpool
Elizabeth Steen	Blackpool	Sara Tax	Blackpool
Nigel Tucker	Blackpool	Susan Walker	Blackpool
Sarah Whiteside	Blackpool	Christopher Beesley	Chorley
Russell Bird	Chorley	Edward Brown	Chorley
Amy Calderbank	Chorley	Graham Chadwick	Chorley
Catherine Coxon	Chorley	Gillian Davies	Chorley
Jane Early	Chorley	Pauline Elton	Chorley
Mark Finnigan	Chorley	Deanne Halliwell	Chorley
Dinah Johnson	Chorley	Diane Metcalfe	Chorley
Anne Parsons	Chorley	Michelle Prescot	Chorley
Martin Roebuck	Chorley	Muriel Sage	Chorley
Angela Stevens	Chorley	Raymond Thain	Chorley
Janet Barton	County	Margaret Donnelly	County
Rachel Hoyle	County	Christopher Worthington	County
Trevor Yeoman	County	Lydia Burford	Preston
Andrew Chester	South Ribble	Belinda Holmes	South Ribble
Lesley McDonagh	South Ribble	Anna-Marie Pennington	South Ribble
Tracey Douglas	Wyre	Sarah Lowcock-Clegg	Wyre
Caroline Mortimer	Wyre	Michelle Minshull	Wyre

County President

Mrs Gail Stanley MBE, JP, DL

County Vice Presidents

Mrs Jean Frew

Mr Michael Loomes

Mr Bernard Pendlebury

Mr Brian Woodburn

Mr Rex Wolstenholme

County Trustees

Mr Steve Morton

Mr Mike Simpson

Dr Tony Andrews

Mr Richard Griffiths

Mrs Cath Joyce

Mr Max Lowe

Mr Jonathan Abbey

Mr George Lowe

Mr Oliver Wood

Mrs Joan Swan

Mr Pete Willingham

Mr Steve Williamson

Mr Jim Banks

Mr Darren Clayton

Mr Craig Dewar

Mr Chris Nevill

Mr Andrew Hobson

Mr Ian Holt

Mr David Simpson

County Commissioner (CC)

County Chairman

Deputy County Chairman

County Secretary

County Treasurer

Chair - Finance & Fund-Raising Committee & Deputy CC

Chair - Waddecar Management Committee

Chair – Appointments Committee

County Youth Commissioner to 1st June then Young People's rep.

County Trustee

County Trustee

County Trustee for Blackpool

County Trustee for Chorley

County Trustee for Fylde

County Trustee for Lonsdale

County Trustee for Ormskirk

County Trustee for Preston

County Trustee for South Ribble

County Trustee for Wyre

County Officials

Dr Chris Lomas

Deputy County Commissioner

County Employees

Sandra Sowerbutts

Charity King

Damian King

Mandy Sweet

Joanne Whalen

Mark Edlington-Booth

Mike Brooks

Barbara Hughes

Andy Marsden

County Admin /Finance Manager

Waddecar's Centre Manager (up to 7th May)

Waddecar's Centre Manager (from 13th August)

Bookings & Administration Officer (up to 19th May)

Bookings & Administration Officer (from 24th July)

Waddecar's Activities & Facilities Supervisor (up to 20th February)

Waddecar's Activities & Facilities Supervisor (from 3rd September)

County Development Officer

County Development Officer

Other Officials

Mr Andrew Corrie

Mrs Ruth Potts

Regional Commissioner for North West England

Area Growth & Development Manager for North of England

County Personnel – Volunteers (as at 1st September, 2018)

VOLUNTEERS

COUNTY OFFICIALS & COMMISSIONERS

County Commissioner (CC)	Steve Morton
Deputy CC – Adventure & International Programme Support	Chris Lomas
Deputy CC – Operations Support	Max Lowe
Deputy CC – Adult Support	Joan Swan
Deputy CC – Programme 6-25	TBC

County Chairman	Mike Simpson
Deputy County Chairman	Tony Andrews
County Secretary	Dick Griffiths
County Treasurer	Cath Joyce
County Youth Commissioner	Rebecca Webster

ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (ACC)

ACC Beaver Scouts	Fiona Jackson
ACC Cub Scouts	Ann-Marie Fisher
ACC Scouts	Robert Millington
ACC Explorer Scouts	Kerry Harrison
ACC Scout Network	Jenny Macdonald
Scout Active Support Manager	Ian Lonsdale
ACC International	Chris Worthington

ACC Community Impact	Amy Calderbank
ACC Communications	Pete Sturgess
DCC Major Events	Chris Lomas
County Training Manager	Joan Swan
ACC Growth	Jon Minshull
ACC Adventurous Activities	TBC
ACC Scouting Activities	Alan Ven

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS (DC)

Blackpool	Victoria DaSilva
Chorley	Cath Hargreaves
Fylde	Derek Wright
Lonsdale	Craig Dewar

Ormskirk	Michelle Durney
Preston	TBC (team of 3 acting)
South Ribble	June Holt
Wyre	Ian Porteous

COUNTY ACTIVITIES TEAM

Activity Permit Scheme	Stuart Dean
Activity Permit Administrator	Andy Taylor
Air Activities	TBC
Land Activities	Geoff Lyons
Archery	Phil Fairclough
Caving	Rachel Platt
Fencing	TBC
Mountain Biking	Pete Willingham

Nights Away	Ray Hardman
Power Boats	Brian Hull
Power Boats	Philip Beine
Paddle Sports	Stuart Dean
Sail Sports	Kevin Day
Shooting	Leon Pascoe
Snow Sports	Dick Griffiths
Survival Skills	Alan Cornforth
Technology	Steve Williamson

COUNTY ADVISORS

Asset Manager	David King
Safety in Scouting Coordinator	Steve Mather
Buildings Safety	Ian Holland
Safeguarding Awareness Coordinator	Liz Goldsack
Webmaster	Vacant
Internal Communications	Chris Gibson
Human Resources	Karen Campbell

Photography	Sarah Yeoman
Videography	James Hulme
Information Technology	Chris Gibson
Insurance	Colin Monks
Branding	Matthew Alpin
Marketing	Andy Marsden
Additional Needs	Emma Cunningham
Additional Needs	Kyle Woods

COUNTY SCOUTERS

Beaver Scouts	Jo Bearman
	Liz Goldsack
	Judith Jamieson
	Stephen O'Malley
	Marion Yardley
Cub Scouts	Bev McMullen
	Michael Tax
	Kirsten Flint
Scouts	Mark Finnigan
	Ian Illingworth

Scouts (cont)

Explorer Scouts

Scout Network

Explorer Scouts – young leader Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Adviser	Graham Carrington
Admin	Mary Carrington
Expedition Coordinator	Paul Gaskarth

Nick Kasmir	Steve Morton
Phil Haworth	Jonathan Abbey
Claire Wright	George Lowe
Simon McGlen	George Lowe
Gemma Pascoe	
Allen Jackson	

COUNTY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

County Executive	Mike Simpson
Finance & Fund-Raising	Max Lowe
Staffing	Mike Simpson
Global Team	Andrew Lewis
World Scout Youth Events	Richard Charnock

County Team	
Waddecar Management	
Appointments	
Awards	

Steve Morton	
Jonathan Abbey	
George Lowe	
George Lowe	

COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS

County Archivist	Michael Loomes
Training Course Administrator	Marion Yardley
Presentations Manager	David Thornton

County Administrator	Anne Clark
County Administrator	Maggie King
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. Limited
47 St. Paul's Close, Farington Moss, Leyland. PR26 6RT

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 & Activity Centre
Waddecar Scout Camp, Snape Rake Lane, Goosnargh, PRESTON PR3 2EU
Email: countyoffice@westlancsscouts.org.uk
Web site: www.westlancsscouts.org.uk
Phone: 01995 61336

**You too can have fun at our own
County Activity Centre at Waddecarr!**



**Contact: 01995 61336
or www.westlancsscouts.org.uk
or countyoffice@westlancsscouts.org.uk**

#SkillsForLife



Scouts
West Lancashire

Do more

Learn more

Be more

www.westlancsscouts.org.uk