



## Annual Report

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

# Welcome from the President...

By now, I had hoped that Covid-19 would be a word condemned to the past but instead we continue to adapt to new ways of working. Over the past year, West Lancs Scouts has stepped-up to meet the needs of thousands of young people right across Lancashire at a time when many other youth services stopped. This has demonstrated very publicly the strength of our organisation and the determination of our volunteers, staff and supporters to enrich the lives of young people no matter what the circumstances.

Every volunteer in West Lancs Scouts has shown enormous dedication and adaptability in finding new ways to engage young people and to keep the magic of Scouting alive in difficult times.

As sections have started meeting together again three things have become very clear: Firstly, young people have missed Scouts and there has been a surge of new members wanting to join. Secondly, the community has a newfound respect for The Scouts and clearly want to support us. Thirdly, it's clear how much Scouting means to our adults too – the joy of working with others and developing life-long friendships. It's no wonder that the latest recruitment campaign 'good for you' focusses on the benefits of volunteering.

I am so enormously proud to be your President and to reflect on the outstanding achievements of the last year. Thank you to you all for your dedication and determination. I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

**Mrs Gail Stanley MBE, JP, DL,  
County President**



# Foreword by the Chair of Trustees...

Despite the challenges of the last year, I am delighted to report on another year of great progress for our charity.

The Board of Trustees has been firmly focussed on supporting Craig and the County Team to ensure that we protect the charity from the impact of the global pandemic and that we are able to support the movement to recover.

Led by Max Lowe, one of our County Trustees, we quickly developed a hardship fund to provide financial support to the groups most adversely impacted by the pandemic. This fund remains in place.

Additionally, we supported Groups and Districts to access the retail, leisure and hospitality grants, working directly with local councils to ensure a consistent and fair approach was adopted. This resulted in all eligible groups receiving £10,000 to safeguarding their future.

The prolonged closure of Waddecar led to significantly reduced income and the trustees took the decision to furlough most of our small staff team. I am delighted that we have now brought all our staff members back to work and I want to thank them for their patience and understanding through this incredibly challenging period. Jonathan Abbeys, our Chair of Finance and Fundraising, has been in accessing £41,500 of funding from various sources to support Waddecar. This contributed to better financial performance than originally envisaged.

As I write this report it is exciting to note that Waddecar is fully open with an ever-increasing number of young people benefitting from everything the site has to offer. 98% of our groups have also returned to delivering face to face Scouting.

Beyond managing the impact of Covid-19 the Board of Trustees has retained a sharp focus on implementing our ambitious 'Skills for Life' strategy. The decision to extend our strategy until 2025 will ensure that we have the time to realise all our ambitions and to ensure that West Lancs Scouts continues to be a leading Scout County and charity: well-respected in our local community.



The following pages outline how much has been achieved including improving our welcome and induction experience for new volunteers and the formation of a new External Relations Working Group. This group is working to identify community partners who can support us to extend our reach across Lancashire.

Ensuring that we are a safe charity is a key responsibility of the trustees and with the appointment of Catherine Simpson as County Safety Advisor, work continues to ensure that we meet our responsibilities, are compliant and that we provide effective support to the membership.

We regularly review our trustee risk report, diligently overseen by our Deputy County Chair, Tony Andrews, to ensure that we manage our risks carefully and continually strive to improve.

Throughout the year a number of our friends and supporters have 'gone home'. John Stanley provided enormous support and encouragement to West Lancs Scouts. With Gail, County President, he was a great ambassador and champion of the impact that Scouts has on young people. He will be missed by us all.

Our County has managed the challenges of the last 12 months exceptionally well and is clearly on the road to a rapid recovery. That's the results of the enormous efforts of our volunteers at every level. Thank you!

**Mr Carl Hankinson DL,  
Chair of the County Executive Committee**

# Skills For Life

## Our plan to prepare better futures 2019-2025

### Our Vision

By 2025, we in West Lancs Scouts, will prepare better futures by equipping 12,000 young people with skills for life (character, practical, and employability skills). They will enjoy better wellbeing and play a full part in their communities.

### Our Mission

Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

### Our Values

We act with care, respect, integrity, cooperation, exploring our own and others' beliefs.

### Our Goals

As a County, we aim to grow, become more inclusive and youth-shaped, while making a positive impact in our communities.

To support the County to achieve these objectives, we will focus on four pillars of work:

### Our four pillars of work

#### Programme

A fun, enjoyable high-quality programme consistently delivered and supported by simple tools.

#### People

More, well-trained, better supported and motivated adult volunteers and more young people from all backgrounds.

#### Perception

Scouting is understood, more visible, trusted, respected and widely seen as playing a key role in society today.

#### Places

Good quality, practical locations are available to support our Scouting programme across West Lancs Scouts.

# A Year in Review...

**Throughout one of the most challenging years in our history, we've delivered skills for life to thousands of young people across Lancashire, at a time when they needed it the most and we've had an even greater impact on our Community than ever before. Our County Commissioner reflects upon an incredible year...**

Whilst face to face Scouting was suspended for most of the year in review, Scouting was not. Our organisation found new and innovative ways to engage young people in activities online. At a time of great uncertainty for young people, our incredible volunteers learnt to embrace technology and delivered exciting programmes to young people every week in every community across our County. With that, we ensured that young people could stay in touch with their friends, achieve awards and learn new skills but most importantly support their mental health. 'I have heard my child laugh for the first time in months' was the comment received by one parent, after their child joined an Explorer Scout meeting towards the end of the first National lockdown.

This year, it has been my pleasure to attend so many virtual events and to see so many young people smiling away on camera, laughing and joking with one another and being so grateful to be a part of Scouts. We've embraced technology in a way we'd never previously considered and in a way that we will continue moving forward. We've seen incredible innovation in our programme, and I've enjoyed joining sessions where young people have been taking the lead and running games and activities. I've seen six-year-old Beaver Scouts lead zoom calls and deliver incredible activities, enabled by their leaders, in a way that we've just not seen before. We've also had some fantastic examples of parents engaging in our programme too, stating that it had become the highlight of their week.

When the easing of restrictions allowed, we've seen so many groups bounce into action to deliver face to face activities. A new structure for approving activity risk assessments was quickly developed, and each District formed working groups to support that process. When sections started reopening, we saw how much Scouting was in demand with thousands of young people returning or starting with us for their very first time.

For every person who has visited a face-to-face section meeting this year, you'll know just how special it is. The sheer joy of seeing young people just being together and

the friendships reunited amongst our adult volunteers. I believe there's a new appreciation for Scouting: for our togetherness, our friendship, and our values.

At the heart of Scouting is a sense of belonging and belonging to our community. This year, so many young people and volunteers stepped up to serve the community and to live out the values of Scouting at a time of National emergency. Across our County, our members set up foodbanks, supported the homeless, supported vaccination centres and fundraised to support those most in need. These selfless acts all deserved recognition, and we were delighted to hold our first ever community heroes award ceremony in February. You can find out more about our awardees later in the report.

We know that Scouts is a force for good in the World, and with the significant and disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Young People, Scouts has a role to play in supporting a generation of young people that have missed out on so many opportunities and sadly, many who have developed mental health problems. As I write, more than 98% of our groups have returned to face-to-face Scouting and plans are underway to see the return of events and international visits.

We must always remember that it is our programme, and its quality, which has the ability to change the lives of young people, to empower them to take the lead and achieve things they never thought possible. We have so much to look forward to in the year ahead and we must all work together to do more, be more and share more.

Despite the impact of the pandemic, our ambitions for the future of our County have not diminished. In fact, we recognise the need for Scouting now, more than ever and have strengthened our resolve to bounce back better by engaging more young people and adults than ever before.

We want to offer every young person in Lancashire the chance to join us, and have their lives enriched by our programme and the outstanding work of thousands of volunteers. Over the next few pages, you will see, that even in the most challenging of circumstances, when we work together we can achieve a lot. So, I want to thank every single person who has contributed to our success in the last year. From our volunteers to our staff team, our supporters to our parents – Scouting thrives when we work as a team and I want to thank you all.

**Craig Dewar-Willox,  
County Commissioner**



## Programme

**Delivering exciting, life-changing programmes for young people is at the very heart of everything we do. We give young people the skills to give things a go, to try and fail, to learn and grow. In short, we prepare young people with skills for life, and in the past year we have achieved so much...**

- ✓ In January we held our first ever virtual camp 'Xplode', not just for all our members, but for young people across Lancashire. Through a weekend of online activities including cooking, den building and fitness we reached over 10,000 people using social media.
- ✓ Throughout the pandemic, our programme team launched the 'Commissioner's Challenge' - a series of activities for every section. Over 2,000 young people took part and achieved the Commissioner's Challenge award as a result.
- ✓ In February, over 100 Scouts, Explorers and Network members came together for 'West Lancs Shape'. This was a forum for them all to give their views on what the County should focus on post-pandemic, and how we can engage young people in delivering our strategy.

- ✓ Young people have taken part in online events with Scout Groups from around the World developing connections and learning more about the World.
- ✓ 475 Beaver Scouts achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Award.
- ✓ 474 Cub Scouts achieved their Chief Scout Silver Award.
- ✓ 220 Scouts achieved their Chief Scout Gold Award.
- ✓ 52 Explorer Scouts achieved a range of top awards.
- ✓ 21 Network members achieved a range of top awards.
- ✓ Young people and adults continued to earn 'Nights Away' by camping at home.
- ✓ Hundreds of young leaders (aged 14-18) used their technology skills to support the delivery of a digital programme for younger members.





## People

**Our people make our organisation the success that it is. Supporting our volunteers, as we navigated a global pandemic was a priority, and so much was achieved...**

- ✓ Our census showed that our membership declined by 21% during the suspension of face-to-face Scouting. This was much lower than anticipated and much better than the national average.
- ✓ We held the second annual Group Scout Leader Conference with over 100 people attending the event virtually. The focus of the day was on reengaging our membership and preparing for the return to face-to-face Scouting. Tim Kidd, UK Chief Commissioner, praised our volunteers for the extraordinary efforts to engage young people through the pandemic.
- ✓ We moved adult training courses online. 736 people attended courses ranging from inclusion to delivering adventurous activities.
- ✓ We relaunched our leadership and management training online to provide better support to our volunteer managers.
- ✓ 88 of our amazing volunteers achieved their wood badge, demonstrating that they have completed their training as an adult leader.
- ✓ We developed a new welcome pack for our adult volunteers to make sure everyone gets a great start to volunteering.
- ✓ We implemented a new induction framework for County volunteers.
- ✓ In the last year, 194 adult volunteers received Good Service Awards for their service to Scouting. This includes George Lowe, who received the Silver Wolf in recognition of services to Scouting of the most exceptional nature.
- ✓ You can find out more about all of our awardees [here](#).



# Perception

**We continue to seek new and innovative ways to promote the great work that Scouting does across Lancashire, and to seek external partners who can help us reach more young people and have an even greater impact.**

- ✓ In the past year we've maintained a strong presence on social media channels with our posts often reaching tens of thousands of people. We've developed our presence on new channels too.
- ✓ We launched a new County Website which better showcases our brand and our vision. It's a great platform for people interested in getting involved.
- ✓ We've enjoyed great coverage of our Community Hero Awards with radio interviews, and articles in all the main local newspapers.
- ✓ Our adult volunteers contribute over £2million to the local economy in youth and community services every single year.
- ✓ We continue to recognise the incredible contributions of individual volunteers who go above and beyond the call of duty to enrich the lives of young people through Scouting and endeavour to do more to promote these volunteering stories across the Community.
- ✓ We have formed a new group, led by Max Lowe, focussed on developing our relationships with external partners, identifying business support and developing the role of Scout Ambassadors.

# Places

**Across West Lancashire, 159 Scout Groups meet in schools, village halls, sports centres, libraries, community centres, Scout owned buildings and activity centres. We continue to invest in our facilities and to seek safe, affordable venues at the heart of every community across the County.**

Waddecar is the home of Scouting in West Lancashire. Housing our County Office, Activity Centre and facilities for training our volunteers. Despite being closed for much of the year the centre has undergone many changes this year. It is also the home of "The Story of Scouting Museum" which is the only purpose-built Museum in the country dedicated not only to the history of Scouting but also Guiding.

We have ambitions to ensure that Waddecar is amongst the best adventure centres in the Country, and this year we've developed our centre even more.

- ✓ We opened the second (Bleasdale) tented village with capacity for 44 persons and a well-equipped kitchen and a large purpose-built dining facility has increased our tented village capacity to 80 beds.
- ✓ Volunteers have been training to use the new high ropes complex which offers crate stacking, the leap of faith, and a gladiator challenge!

- ✓ We also opened a new facility for tomahawk throwing - another great activity to enhance the site.
- ✓ Our new "Brockbase" bushcraft area and hammock village is proving to be a popular addition to our camping portfolio.
- ✓ We received £41,500 in funding to cover the loss of income as a result of the prolonged site closure.
- ✓ We supported Scout Groups to apply for £10,000 each from the retail, leisure and hospitality grant to safeguard the future of our Scout venues affected by the pandemic.
- ✓ The County developed a hardship fund in conjunction with Districts to support those groups most in need of financial support.
- ✓ Our staff have, in the main, been on furlough for most of the year. But we're now bringing them back to support Scout Groups, prepare for our future and continue to develop Waddecar.



## Community Heroes...

**In February, we recognised the incredible contributions of members of West Lancs Scouts, who stepped up and served their communities. From opening food banks, to raising money for the NHS we celebrated the impact that Scouts had across Lancashire. With messages of support from Local Celebrities, Members of Parliament and the Chair of the World Scout Committee, it was a wonderful celebration of Scouting at its best. Let's meet the Award Winners...**

### **Oliver Jenson, A Cub Scout from Wyre...**

*'Inspired by Captain Tom Moore, Oliver walked a route around his local area 100 times to raise over £400 for the NHS. This was made even more remarkable as Oliver has a diagnosis of brittle bone disease.'*

### **Michael Tax, A Volunteer from Blackpool...**

*'As lockdown began, Michael stepped in to action to support the congregation at his synagogue to move services online. Michael supported members of the congregation to get online and supported others with the delivery of prayer books and food. Whilst the Rabbi was shielding, Michael undertook training to be able to lead funeral services and support those in need.'*

### **Anabelle Corlett, An Explorer Scout from Ormskirk...**

*'With schools closed, Anabelle saw some young people were really struggling. She decided to make time in her own A-Level studies to deliver weekly GCSE revision sessions which were very popular and well attending.'*

### **Alex Eastwood, A Cub Scout from Preston...**

*'Alex wanted to help raise money for the NHS and used his spare time to make rainbow keyrings with HAMA beads. He raised over £600 for the NHS'*

### **Megan and Regan Inglis, Scouts from Preston...**

*'Megan and Regan saw that some older members of their community were struggling to get supplies during lockdown. They set about buying and distributing supplies for people throughout the lockdown and became a lifeline for those who were isolated.'*

### **Ammar Mastan, A Volunteer from Preston...**

*'Ammar noticed that some of the poorest people in his community were struggling to get food. He decided to help and within 24 hours had contacted local organisations, supermarkets and suppliers and set up a food bank. In the first month alone this food bank supported 142 families.'*

### **Gary Heron, A Volunteer from South Ribble...**

*'Recognising that some people would spend Christmas alone or may not be able to afford a Christmas meal, Gary set about working with a local community organisation to provide 150 meals to homeless and vulnerable adults'*

### **Theo Berry and Daniel Middleton, Beaver Scouts from Lonsdale...**

*'When a local hospice had to cancel one of their biggest fundraising events, Theo and Daniel decided they wanted to raise money to help. They raised over £1600 by completing 18 Wainwright Peaks.'*

### **Chris Rumley, A Volunteer from Blackpool...**

*'When Chris lost his job at the start of the pandemic, he started volunteering full time for a food bank. He used his organisation skills to support the foodbank to improve their systems to help them support more than 1200 people a week.'*

### **29<sup>th</sup> Ormskirk...**

*'The team at 29<sup>th</sup> supported the setting up and running of a vaccination centre. Erecting marquees, marshalling and supporting patients. They had a weekly rota and provided invaluable support.'*

# Treasurer's Report...

The summarised statement of financial activities can be viewed below. A full version of the accounts has been reviewed by the Board of Trustees and are available for viewing by contacting County Office.

Summarised Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March:		
	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Activity centres income	282	196,585
County and international events	-	60,145
Scouting activities, training and sections	545	92,869
Rents, dividends and interest received	70,013	76,744
CJRS ("Furlough") grants	69,826	-
Government/Local Authority Covid grants	41,500	-
All other income	10,966	28,075
<b>Total income</b>	<b>193,132</b>	<b>454,418</b>
<b>OUTGOINGS</b>		
Staff costs	110,812	139,939
Activity centres operating costs	15,437	82,833
Depreciation and profit on sale of assets	50,212	53,241
County and international events	-	58,446
Scouting activities, training & sections	4,120	101,641
Management, administration and other costs	72,855	87,462
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>253,436</b>	<b>523,562</b>
<b>Operating deficit for the year</b>	<b>(60,304)</b>	<b>(69,144)</b>
Gains on property revaluations	-	14,918
Gain/(fall) on listed investments	353,498	(73,624)
<b>Total surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>293,194</b>	<b>(127,850)</b>

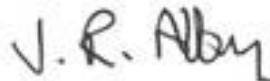
## Statement of the Trustees

These summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 8 July 2021. The statutory Trustees Report and Audited Financial Statements, which contain the full details of the financial affairs of the charity, will be submitted to the Charity Commission after the Annual General Meeting. These will be available to download as a PDF either from the Charity Commission website or the West Lancashire County Scout Council website after the AGM.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees 8 July 2021.



CA Joyce FCCA  
County Treasurer



J Abbey  
Chair F&FR

Summarised balance sheet at 31 March:		
	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Buildings and equipment used for Scouting	832,199	879,894
Rental properties	895,000	895,000
Listed investments and share dealing funds	1,700,132	1,344,116
Short term investments	249,077	345,480
Bank and cash balances	428,742	337,057
Debtors and other assets	46,983	40,564
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>4,152,133</b>	<b>3,842,091</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Deposits held for future events	169,993	101,242
District subscriptions held in advance	81,432	141,694
Creditors and all other liabilities	74,324	65,965
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>325,749</b>	<b>308,901</b>
<b>Total charity funds</b>	<b>3,826,384</b>	<b>3,533,190</b>

## **COUNTY OFFICIALS (as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021)**

### **COUNTY PRESIDENT**

Mrs Gail Stanley MBE, JP, DL

### **COUNTY VICE PRESIDENTS**

Mrs Jean Frew: Mr Michael Loomes: Mr Bernard Pendlebury

### **COUNTY TRUSTEES**

Mr Craig Dewar-Willox	County Commissioner
Mr Carl Hankinson	County Chair
Dr Tony Andrews	Deputy County Chair
Mr Peter Willingham	County Secretary
Mrs Catherine Joyce	County Treasurer
Miss Rebecca Webster	County Youth Commissioner
Mr Jonathan Abbey	Nominated Member
Mr Richard Charnock	Nominated Member
Mr Neil Fletcher	Nominated Member
Mr Max Lowe	Nominated Member
Mrs Jill Dean	Elected Member
Mrs Katherine O'Connor	Elected Member
Mrs Cathie Hall	Elected Member
Mr Oliver Wood	Elected Member
Mr Andrew Neville	Co-opted Member
Mr James Johnston	Elected Youth Member

### **OTHER OFFICIALS**

Mr Andrew Hobson	Deputy County Commissioner
Dr Chris Lomas	Deputy County Commissioner
Mrs Joan Swan	Deputy County Commissioner

### **COUNTY STAFF**

Mrs Helen Gaskarth	County Finance Officer
Mr Damian King	Waddecar Centre Manager
Mr Mick Brooks	Activities and Facilities Supervisor
Mrs Joanne Whalen	Bookings and Administrative Officer
Mr Roy Aldwin	County Development Officer
Mrs Kelly Roberts	County Development Officer

**Auditors:**

McMillan & Co LLP, 28 Eaton Avenue, Buckshaw Village, Chorley, PR7 7NA

**Solicitors:**

Napthens LLP 7 Winckley Square, Preston PR1 3JD

**Principal Bankers:**

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 97 Fishergate Preston PR1 2DP

**Investment Managers:**

Brooks MacDonald, No1, Marsden Street, Manchester, M2 1HW

**Property Advisor:**

Charles Bennett, Alderfield, 230 Woodplumpton Road, Preston, PR4 0TA

**Charity Number:** 521712

**Tax exemption number:** X89058