

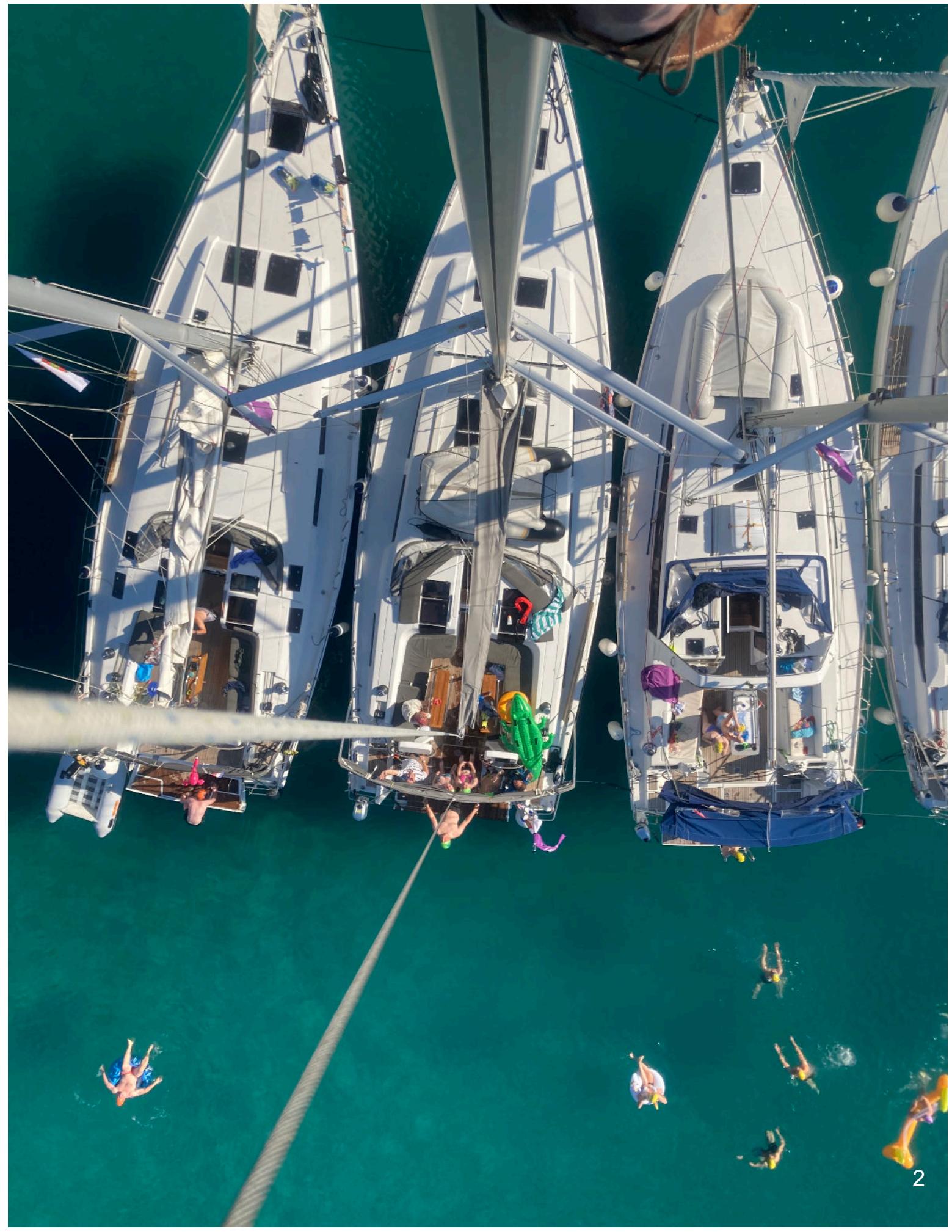


West Lancashire Scouts

Annual Report - 2022

#GOODFORYOU





Welcome from the President



West Lancs Scouts has had a brilliant year of recovery. Young people have needed the chance to come back together again; to socialise and take part in the many activities that help them develop the skills for life.

I am very proud that the Scouts have provided that for even more young people than in the previous year. It is a sign of the health and strength of the organisation that even in difficult circumstances, great things are being achieved.

The success of West Lancs Scouts belongs to every single volunteer. The commitment, dedication and determination shown by so many is simply inspiring and it is wonderful to see adults coming together, to enjoy the friendship and camaraderie that volunteering brings.

It is a tremendous pleasure to be your president and to reflect on another year of incredible achievements. Thank you to everyone involved.

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

Foreword by the Chair of Trustees

I am delighted to report on a great year of progress for our charity following our return to full time face to face Scouting. Our last AGM was held on-line and there was concern that we may remain online for many of our activities and so it has been wonderful for Trustees to see our county coming together in person for so many excellent events and activities.



The Board of Trustees have been focused this year on supporting Craig and his team as they worked to bring our members back to face-to-face meetings and events following the pandemic. Many of the Trustees have been able to get out and about and visit these events which has been fantastic to see. One many Trustees visited was Red Rose 2022. It was great to see this event in full flow and listen to the young people attending describing the amazing experience they were having.

Oliver Wood, who Chairs our Waddecar Management Committee, has been leading his team and the team at Waddecar ensuring that the site is not only fully open but continuing to develop to ensure more young people than ever can benefit from this amazing activity centre. The Trustees continue to be committed to Waddecar Activity Centre and supporting its development so it can continue to be seen as one of the best Scouting sites in the UK.

The Board of Trustees has continued to focus on our ambitious 'Skills for Life' strategy and supporting Craig and his team to realise our full potential. One key area to highlight is the establishment of the External Relations Committee.

This had begun last year as a Working Group, but the Trustees took the decision to make this part of our regular work recognising that we must not remain insular but look outwards to other organisations and our community to support each other and extend our reach as Scouts.

We have much to offer our communities, but they have so much to share with us and so this new committee will be focused on developing our external relationships.

The area of safety and managing risk is always a key focus of the Board of Trustees and we have been regularly updated on these matters by our County Safety Advisor, Catherine Simpson, who supported a significant amount of work reviewing Waddecar and improving systems to continue to ensure we offer not only an excellent facility but also a safe one. Tony Andrews, our Deputy County Chair of Trustees, has reviewed and developed our risk report to ensure it is more effective in aiding Trustees take action when needed.

It has been a great year for our charity and wonderful to see large events returning. This clearly could not happen without the time, dedication, and service of so many of our wonderful volunteers. Thank you to everyone who works so hard to ensure our movement continues to offer amazing experiences to young people across our county.

Richard Charnock
County Chair



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 | People | Perception | Places |
|---|---|--|---|
| A fun, enjoyable high-quality programme consistently delivered and supported by simple tools. | More, well-trained, better supported and motivated adult volunteers and more young people from all backgrounds. | Scouting is understood, more visible, trusted, respected and widely seen as playing a key role in society today. | Good quality, practical locations are available to support our Scouting programme across West Lancs Scouts. |

A year in review from the County Commissioner



A Year in Review:

This year will be remembered as a year where we worked together, rolled our sleeves up and delivered great adventures for the young people of Lancashire, at a time when it was needed the most. Our County Commissioner reflects on a year which has seen us bounce back...

The last few years have reminded us all how truly special Scouting is. We bring people together, from different generations and different communities and learn that we have more in common. We help one another, we help our communities, and we live by our Scouting values. It is that spirit of Scouting, that has steered our organisation through the challenges of the pandemic, to this point: an organisation which is bouncing back with vigour and enormous strength.

The impact of the pandemic on young people is still being felt. A rise in mental health issues, a deterioration of social skills and feelings of isolation are common. These are challenging times. Yet we remain determined to reach more young people through exciting programmes that deliver true skills for life. We've extended our reach, and work with approximately 10,000 young people every week across nearly every community in our County. We've witnessed, first hand, the joy of bringing young people together and giving them the opportunity to learn new skills, work in teams, explore the outdoors, try new adventurous activities, travel the World and be part of something bigger; part of something special.

We've made huge steps forward in achieving our goals in each of the four pillars of our strategy:

Programme

- We've seen the return of our large-scale County Events in all sections. We've also introduced new events like 'Puddle and Waddle' for Beaver Scouts and Patrol Leaders Camp in Scouts.
- Over 100 Scouts, Explorers and Scout Network members gathered at Blackpool Pleasure Beach in February to take the lead on shaping the future of our movement as part of our Youth Shape Event.
- More than 40 Explorer Scouts, Network Members and leaders took part in a sailing expedition around Croatia. They combined adventurous activities with international programmes and delivered the only Scout International Trip in the UK last year.



- ✓ 7676 nights away from home were completed by our Young People.
- ✓ 469 Beaver Scouts (aged 6-8) achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Award.
- ✓ 466 Cub Scouts (aged 8-11) achieved their Chief Scout Silver Award.
- ✓ 238 Scouts (aged 11-14) achieved their Chief Scout Gold Award.
- ✓ 138 Explorer Scouts (aged 14-18) achieved a range of top awards including Queen Scout Awards.
- ✓ 29 Network Members included a range of top awards including Queen Scout Awards, Scouts of the World Award and Explorer Belts.
- ✓ Over 400 young people (aged 14-18) participated in our Young Leaders Scheme- supporting the delivery of programmes in younger sections, whilst developing their own skills.



Perception:

- ✓ We appointed our first ever Scout Ambassador, Olympic Skier Dave Ryding.
- ✓ We've delivered over 100 assemblies in Primary Schools to ensure all young people, in every community, know about what The Scouts has to offer.
- ✓ We've increased the regularity of our communications to members, with a fortnightly newsletter.
- ✓ We've increased our output on social media channels and introduced new channels to communicate with a wider audience.
- ✓ Our adult volunteers continue to contribute more than £2 million to the local economy in youth and community services every year.
- ✓ Our new External Relations Committee have been identifying and forming new partnerships with businesses across the community.



13%

Membership Increase...

18

New sections

1400

More young people

People:

- ✓ Overall membership increased by 13% - our largest one-year membership growth in our history.
- ✓ We have started the roll out of the first new programme section in 35 years for 4-6 year olds, Squirrels. We've opened 10 new Squirrel dreys and counting...
- ✓ We opened 18 new sections to support the increased demand for Scouting.
- ✓ We welcomed 1400 more young people than in the previous year.
- ✓ We saw an increase of 3% in adult volunteers working directly with young people.
- ✓ We enjoyed our 22nd year of growth in female membership proving that Scouting really is for everybody.
- ✓ We've seen an increase in members from Black and Minority Ethnic Backgrounds as well as an increase in members with additional needs and disabilities.
- ✓ We've trained mental health first aiders for young people and adults in every part of our County.
- ✓ We've seen over 800 adult volunteers complete training courses ranging from first aid to fire-lighting!
- ✓ In the last year, 217 of our incredible volunteers have been recognised with a Good Service Award for their service to Scouting. You can find out about all the awardees here: <https://cms.scouts.org.uk/media/18110/2022-roll-of-honour-updated-090822.pdf>

Places:

- ✓ We secured a significant grant of £46,750 from BBC Children in Need to further develop our activity and facilities provision.
- ✓ The team at Waddecar have introduced new water activities, crossbow shooting and a new low ropes course. Our archery facilities have also been upgraded.
- ✓ The recently installed high-ropes complex, new tented village and tomahawk activities have proved extremely popular with the return of face-to-face Scouting.
- ✓ Be Prepared- The Story of Scouting and Guiding, or the 'Little Gem' is an outstanding facility that showcases the history of Scouting and Guiding and is based at Waddecar. It is the first purpose-built museum of its kind, and the envy of the Scouting community around the World.
- ✓ The Waddecar Management Committee are drawing up ambitious new plans for further developments at Waddecar, including plans for a new activity centre.

The above achievements are just a few highlights of the incredible things that have been achieved this year. They demonstrate clearly the breadth of talent we have in the volunteers in our County, our ambition, and our determination to give every young person a better start in life. My sincere thanks to every single person who contributes to our continued success. Thank you!

**Craig Dewar-Willox
County Commissioner**



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; | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|
| | 2022 | 2021 |
| | £ | £ |
| INCOME | | |
| Activity centres income | 90,195 | 282 |
| County and international events | 11,802 | - |
| Scouting activities, training and sections | 10,255 | 545 |
| Rents, dividends and interest received | 75,511 | 70,013 |
| Youth Investment Fund grant | 46,750 | - |
| CJRS ('Furlough') grants | 7,213 | 69,826 |
| Government/Local Authority Covid grants | 12,000 | 41,500 |
| All other income | 13,934 | 10,966 |
| Total income | 267,660 | 193,132 |
| OUTGOINGS | | |
| Staff costs | 115,535 | 110,812 |
| Activity centres operating costs | 59,644 | 15,437 |
| Youth Investment Fund related expenditure | 47,544 | - |
| Depreciation and profit on sale of assets | 44,574 | 50,212 |
| County and international events | 9,557 | - |
| Scouting activities, training & sections | 29,180 | 4,120 |
| Management, administration and other costs | 92,048 | 72,855 |
| Total costs | 398,082 | 253,436 |
| Operating deficit for the year | (130,422) | (60,304) |
| Gains on property revaluations | - | - |
| Gain/(fall) on listed investments | 37,214 | 353,498 |
| Total surplus/(deficit) for the year | (93,208) | 293,194 |

Statement of the Trustees

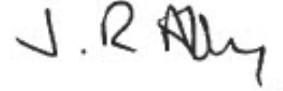
These summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 14 July 2022. The statutory Trustees Report and Audited Financial Statements, which contain the full details of the financial affairs of the charity, will be submitted to 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 14 July 2022.

CA Joyce FCCA
County Treasurer



J Abbey
Chair F&FR



| Summarised balance sheet at 31 March; | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | 2022 | 2021 |
| | £ | £ |
| ASSETS | | |
| Buildings and equipment used for Scouting | 796,649 | 832,199 |
| Rental properties | 895,000 | 895,000 |
| Listed investments and share dealing funds | 1,742,003 | 1,700,132 |
| Short term investments | 254,660 | 252,077 |
| Bank and cash balances | 518,904 | 428,742 |
| Debtors and other assets | 44,362 | 43,983 |
| Total Assets | 4,251,578 | 4,152,133 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Deposits held for future events | 283,643 | 169,993 |
| District subscriptions held in advance | 151,095 | 81,432 |
| Creditors and all other liabilities | 83,664 | 74,324 |
| Total liabilities | 518,402 | 325,749 |
| Total charity funds | 3,733,176 | 3,826,384 |



COUNTY OFFICIALS (as of 7th September 2022)

COUNTY PRESIDENT

Mrs Gail Stanley MBE, JP, DL

COUNTY VICE PRESIDENTS

Mrs Jean Frew & Mr Bernard Pendlebury

COUNTY TRUSTEES

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr Craig Dewar-Willox | County Commissioner |
| Mr Richard Charnock | County Chair |
| Dr Tony Andrews | Deputy County Chair |
| Mr Peter Willingham | County Secretary |
| Mrs Catherine Joyce | County Treasurer |
| Mr Jenson Thomas | County Youth Commissioner (under 25) |
| Mr Jonathan Abbey | Nominated Member |
| Miss Gabby Howson-Tax | Nominated Member (under 25) |
| 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 | Elected Member |
| Mr Saber L'Bekkari | Elected 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 Officer |
| Ms Gill Campbell | Cleaner |
| Mrs Kelly Roberts | County Development Officer |
| Ms Jan Townley | County Development Officer |

Auditors:

McMillan & Co LLP, 28 Eaton Avenue, Buckshaw Village, Chorley, PR77NA

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

“

**Scouts made me
forget the
butterflies and go
for it! ”**



Thank you

Things have been tough over the past two years, and everyone has had a lot to deal with, often under great pressure. But despite all that we've got stuck in and got the job done! We are heading out of the storm and into new exciting times.

Thanks to you our volunteers and supporters.

