



# **West Lancashire Scouts**

## **Annual Report**

### **2022- 2023**



**Scouts**  
West Lancashire



**We're growing...**



**Scouts**  
West Lancashire

# Welcome from the President

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report of West Lancashire Scouts.

As you read through the pages that follow I am sure that you will be in awe of the incredible things that the Scouts do for young people and our community in Lancashire. From adventures to Malawi, Bangladesh, Switzerland and more, to our own events here like Red Rose International Camp at Westmorland Show Ground, the Scouts bring people together from all backgrounds with shared values and a shared vision of a better world.

Earlier in the year, Michael Loomes, Vice-President, passed away. Michael was a true Scout: he always thought of others and did his best. Michael was a wonderful friend to so many of us and has left an incredible legacy in the Story of Scouting Museum at Waddecar. I'd encourage you all to visit to see his life's work and the fitting tribute to him.

I am incredibly proud to be the President of West Lancashire Scouts, and this report confirms why. Despite the many challenges facing society, Scouts roll up their sleeves to help other people and give young people the vital skills for life that they need to succeed and have reached even more young people this year. All of this is made possible by the amazing efforts of a talented team of volunteers.

Thank you!

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



# Foreword by the Chair of Trustees

We have had a great year in West Lancashire Scouts as we have been able to move back fully to our usual operations, take time to renew ourselves, look forward to the future and demonstrate the vital role that we play in our communities.



We've celebrated another year of growth with more young people wanting to be part of our adventure and adults wanting to join us to help shape the lives of young people and their own. This report contains further information about this growth, but these figures are down to the work that our volunteers put in each week and are testament to the great programmes on offer.

This year saw the death of our Patron, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. These two events and "The Big Help Out" which Scouting played a key role in, showed our commitment as Scouts to help other people. We were incredibly proud to have had some of our volunteers providing service at the lying-in state and others involved in the Coronation.

As a charity we have, in recent years, been rightly focused on our own operations following the pandemic but this year we also began the very important task of engaging with people and organisations outside of Scouting, helping them to learn about our amazing work and ways that they can support us. Our External Relations Group have been working hard to engage with new ambassadors and business. A key event of their work took place in March when the Rt Hon Lindsey Hoyle, Speaker of the House, hosted an event at Salmesbury Hall where we were able to share with business and civic leaders the impact Scouting has on the lives of young people and our ambitions for the future. Those present were amazed at what they heard and were very keen to help and support. This work, in bringing these organisations with us, will be vital over the next few years as we look to achieve our ambitious vision.

Our vision for Waddecar is that it is 'amongst the best Scout Activity Centres in the UK'. After many years of discussion, the trustee board have committed to the development of a new accommodation block to both update the facilities and enhance our offer at Waddecar.

After significant work and discussion, the Board of Trustees have begun the process of making this happen. We have committed a significant amount of our funds to start this project and will be working with the contacts we made through our external relations work to move this project to a reality. There will be an opportunity for everyone to be involved in a fundraising scheme which will be shared very soon.



An artist's impression of the new accommodation block at Waddecar.

West Lancashire Scouts benefits from our fantastic staff team and I would like to thank them all for their ongoing work and service to the charity. Particular thanks go to Kelly Roberts, one of our County Development Officers who left us for a career-change earlier in the year.

I would also like to thank two trustees who are standing down at the AGM. Jill Dean has been a trustee for the last three years and has chaired our Staffing Committee through the difficult period of Covid-19. Jonathan Abbey has been a Trustee of West Lancashire Scouts for over 20 years. He has chaired several of our sub-committees in that time and most recently our Finance and Fundraising Committee. They have both work relentlessly for the good of our organisation- thanks to them both.

Our work as a Trustee Board remains focused on delivering our strategy and supporting Craig and his team. My heartfelt thanks goes out to every volunteer and staff member who makes this work possible.

**Richard Charnock**  
**County Chair**



**We're more inclusive...**

# 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 our Lead Volunteer...



**If last year's report marked a year of recovery, then this year's report marks a year of achievement.**

**Our County Commissioner reflects on a year full of highlights...**

What a year! By every measure, our County is flourishing and delivering even more for more young people. We've grown our membership in every section, including opening new provision in areas where we've never offered Scouting before. Our newest section, Squirrels is bringing new families to Scouting and it's revitalising our groups. Our growth in young people is a result of our growth in adults too- we are more inclusive and seen as the youth organisation of choice in Lancashire.

With the support of adult volunteers, our young people continue to achieve incredible things. The number of young people achieving top awards has increased in every section, we've got more young leaders and more young people shaping their Scouting.

For many, the highlight was Red Rose 2022- our international camp at Westmorland Show Ground. It was an incredible celebration of Scouting, of being back together and the atmosphere was sensational. It's why we couldn't wait for four years for the next, and we look forward to Red Rose 2024, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of West Lancashire Scouts with great excitement.

It's been another year of us achieving the goals outlined in our strategic plan, outlined on the next few pages. Yet, despite our success, we aren't complacent. We remain ambitious and committed to eliminating our waiting lists, to making opportunities more equitable and delivering Scouting in new communities.

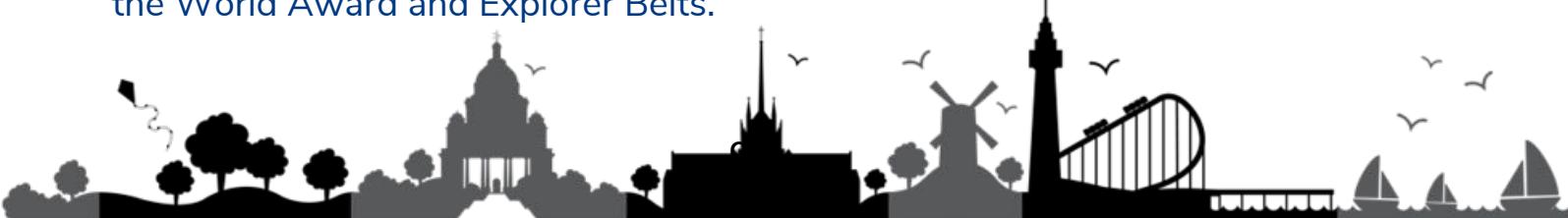
**We've made huge steps forward in achieving our goals in each of the four pillars of our strategy:**

# Programme

- Young people enjoyed 32,607 nights away from home this year. An incredible increase of 24,931 nights away on the previous year.
- Squirrels from Crawford Village, Ormskirk went on the very first nights away for this age range, paving the way for many other overnight events for our 4-6-year-olds-developing independence and adventure from an early age.
- We've had over 8,000 young people attend our County Events
- Our programme lead volunteers surveyed our membership to identify our strengths and areas for development, coming together for a conference 'APEX' to plan an ambitious new programme for 2023 and beyond.
- We held a hugely successful Red Rose International Camp at the Westmorland Show Ground where 2738 members enjoyed a week of glorious sunshine, fabulous activities and entertainment, creating memories to last a lifetime.
- Young People completed a highly successful community project in Malawi including building a toilet block, building sustainable ovens, refurbishing a school and opening a brand-new Scout Group.
- Scouts attended the Swiss National Jamboree alongside thousands of other Scouts from around the World, sharing their culture and traditions.
- Over Christmas, Explorer Scouts visited Scouts in Bangladesh and completed a tour of India.

## The Achievements of our Young People:

- **6 Squirrel Scouts** (aged 4-6) achieved the very first Chief Scout Acorn Awards ever!
- **550 Beaver Scouts** (aged 6-8) achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Award. An increase of 81 awards on the previous year.
- **560 Cub Scouts** (Aged 8-11) achieved their Chief Scout Silver Award. An increase of 94 awards on the previous year.
- **260 Scouts** (aged 11-14) achieved their Chief Scout Gold Award. An increase of 22 awards on the previous year.
- **198 Explorer Scouts and Scout Network Members** achieved a range of top awards including the Queen and King' Scout Award, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Scouts of the World Award and Explorer Belts.



# People:

- ❑ Overall membership increased by 6% exceeding our objective of 4%.
- ❑ We now have 566 sections operating every single week across our County. An increase on last year.
- ❑ We've opened 17 brand new Squirrel Sections for our 4- to 6-year-olds, with a further 30 sections planned to open by the end of 2023.
- ❑ 584 more young people are accessing Scouting now, compared to last year.
- ❑ We've opened brand new groups including at Preston Muslim Girls High School (welcoming 122 new Scouts) and at Kirkland and Catterall – offering Scouting in places we've not operated before.
- ❑ We saw an increase of 4% in the number adult volunteers (up from 3% in the previous year).
- ❑ We enjoyed our 23rd year of growth in female membership.
- ❑ 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 seen over 800 adult volunteers complete training courses ranging from safeguarding to sailing!
- ❑ 423 14–18-year-olds volunteered as part of our young leader's scheme, supporting young people in our youngest sections, and developing as the leaders of today and the future.
- ❑ In the last year, 124 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/21308/2023-roll-of-honour-updated-130723.pdf>



# Perception:

- 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 welcomed over 100 civic and business leaders to Salmesbury Hall to share our vision for Scouting in Lancashire. The evening was hosted by the Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle and has been a platform for us developing partnership with a range of organisations.
- We launched an exciting partnership with Essity, a leading global hygiene and health company. Essity have provided more than £5000 to fund a new set of sails for Setanta, the county's sailing yacht based on Coniston.
- Our adult volunteers continue to contribute more than £2 million to the local economy in youth and community services every year.



## Places:

- We've seen an increase in the number of school bookings at Waddecar.
- The team at Waddecar have added a new camping pod to our accommodation offer and cross-bows to our activity offer.
- 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 have had detail drawings, costed plans and initial surveys undertaken to start the work on our new accommodation block.

**Under each area of our strategy, we've made huge progress. The achievements indicate a Scout County that is in good health and delivering incredible things for young people and the community. Yet, we are not complacent, and we remain ambitious for our future. All of this is made possible by an incredible team of over 3,000 volunteers and staff. They are everyday heroes and I thank them all.**

**Craig Dewar-Willox  
County Commissioner**





**We're shaped by  
young people...**



**Scouts**  
West Lancashire

# Treasurer's Report...

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

Summarised Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March;		
	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Activity centres income	226,197	90,195
County and international events	577,111	11,802
Scouting activities, training and sections	80,263	10,255
Rents, dividends and interest received	86,512	75,511
Youth Investment Fund grant	-	46,750
CJRS ("Furlough") grants	-	7,213
Government/Local Authority Covid grants	-	12,000
All other income	17,842	13,934
<b>Total income</b>	<b>987,925</b>	<b>267,660</b>
<b>OUTGOINGS</b>		
Staff costs	131,220	115,535
Activity centres operating costs	82,634	59,644
Youth Investment Fund related expenditure	-	47,544
Depreciation and profit on sale of assets	44,215	44,574
County and international events	587,153	9,557
Scouting activities, training & sections	92,614	29,180
Management, administration and other costs	98,093	92,048
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>1,035,929</b>	<b>398,082</b>
<b>Operating deficit for the year</b>	<b>(48,004)</b>	<b>(130,422)</b>
Gains on property revaluations	125,000	-
(Loss)/gain in value of listed investments	(93,301)	37,214
<b>Total deficit for the year</b>	<b>(16,305)</b>	<b>(93,208)</b>

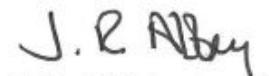
## Statement of the Trustees

These summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 were approved by the Trustees at a meeting of the County Executive in July 2023 and signed on their behalf on 5 September 2023. 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 5 September 2023.



CA Joyce FCCA  
County Treasurer



J. R. Abbey MIET  
Chair F&FR

Summarised balance sheet at 31 March;		
	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Buildings and equipment used for Scouting	778,875	796,649
Rental properties	1,020,000	895,000
Listed investments and share dealing funds	1,557,489	1,742,003
Short term investments	258,964	254,660
Bank and cash balances	420,759	518,904
Debtors and other assets	87,895	44,362
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>4,123,982</b>	<b>4,251,578</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Deposits held for future events	143,894	283,643
District subscriptions held in advance	170,892	151,095
Creditors and all other liabilities	92,325	83,664
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>407,111</b>	<b>518,402</b>
<b>Total charity funds</b>	<b>3,716,871</b>	<b>3,733,176</b>



**We're making a  
difference in our  
communities...**



**Scouts**  
West Lancashire

## COUNTY OFFICIALS (as of 7th September 2023)

### COUNTY PRESIDENT

Mrs Gail Stanley MBE, JP, DL

### COUNTY VICE PRESIDENTS & LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs Jean Frew, Mr Dick Griffiths, Mr George Lowe, Mr Bernard Pendlebury & Mr David Thornton

### 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 Max Lowe	Nominated Member
Mrs Jill Dean	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

### COUNTY STAFF

Mrs Helen Gaskarth	County Finance Officer
Mr Damian King	Waddecar Centre Manager
Mr Mick Brooks	Activities and Facilities Supervisor
Mrs Ewa Hibbert	Bookings Officer
Ms Gill Campbell	Cleaner
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

**Charity Number:** 521712

**Tax exemption number:** X89058

“

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



**[www.westlancsscouts.org.uk](http://www.westlancsscouts.org.uk)**