



# Creating brighter futures

Annual report and  
accounts 2023–2024



**Scouts**  
West Lancashire



# A year of celebration, learning and change

Our movement is fueled by the kindness and dedication of our volunteers. We look forward to a bright future, celebrating our achievements and 50 years of community impact. It has been a year of accomplishment.

Welcome to the 2024 Annual Report of West Lancashire Scouts.

This year is extra special, as we celebrate 50 years of West Lancashire Scouts. 50 years of this incredible organisation giving so much to young people and to the community of Lancashire. 50 years of proud history but an even brighter future.

There have been some people who have been part of West Lancashire Scouts for all of those 50 years, and many more who have joined in recent years. Whatever your length of service, thank you for the incredible part you play in the delivery of Scouting.

As you read through the next few pages, I know you'll be impressed by not only the many things that West Lancashire Scouts does, its scale and its reach, but also the measurable impact that it is having on young people at a time when it is needed the most.

For all the challenges, this organisation and its volunteers and staff are truly inspirational. Through the power of volunteering, this organisation is proud of its past and ambitious for its future, shown in its plans to open more Scout Groups and open a new activity centre at Waddecarr.

I am incredibly proud to be the President of West Lancashire Scouts, and this report once again confirms why.

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



# We're proud to champion young people and serve our communities

Scouts continues to grow, with even more young people joining in West Lancs this year, all gaining skills for life.

It has been another great year in West Lancs Scouts as we continue to offer amazing opportunities for our young people and adult volunteers. We have begun our work to transform volunteering to make it easier, more enjoyable and rewarding. This has included changes to our structure and ensuring we can operate in a way that allows us to support more volunteers to offer amazing life-changing adventures for young people in our communities.

**Transformation:** The power of Scouts to change lives, communities and society in general is clear and we want to continue this work. We have rolled out our Transformation strategy and built teams to ensure we can make volunteering more flexible and easier to begin. This transformation work is explained in our report. Our Trustee Board has also looked at how it operates and has proposed a new constitution and structure to be approved at our AGM. This will ensure that we can continue to focus on good charity governance and allow our Leadership Team the time to focus on support and operational tasks to provide brilliant Scouting to our communities.



**Positive Growth:** We've had another year of growth with more young people wanting to be part of our adventure and adults wanting to join us and 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 and every week and are testament to the great programmes on offer.

**Waddecar:** Our vision to have Waddecar in line with the best Scout Activity Centres in the UK remains, and Trustees have discussed, for many years, the development of a new accommodation block to both update the facilities and enhance our offer. Planning permission has now been approved and a Project Delivery Team is now in place ready to make our vision into reality. By providing an enhanced and larger accommodation facility we can engage with more young people and allow them to enjoy our amazing facility at Waddecar and wonderful Scouting activities. We will need all our supporters and volunteers to work with our team to ensure we move the vision into reality as soon as we can.

**Thanks:** Our county benefits from our fantastic staff team either supporting the site at Waddecar or the Development of Scouting in our 8 Districts. I thank them all for their ongoing work and service to the charity, they too believe in our vision and share our enthusiasm to grow and develop. I would also like to thank in particular the Trustees who are standing down at the AGM, their work in ensuring our charity continues to operate in a safe and strong way, helps our volunteers as they deliver face to face Scouting week in week out.

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

**Richard Charnock**  
Chair – Trustee Board



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**Incorporating Scouts into our curriculum, we're showing our commitment to providing important lifelong skills to our pupils. Skills, such as teamwork, confidence, resilience and so much more. We've delighted to empower the next generation with skills for life.**”

Rehan Patel, Principal- Preston Muslim Girls  
reflecting on launching Scouts



# As Scouts, we believe in creating brighter futures

This year, we've done that by helping even more young people gain skills for life.

We've done that by helping even more young people from across Lancashire gain skills for life. Our 50th Year has been a year of celebration, challenge and change.

For 50 years West Lancashire Scouts has been a leading light in the voluntary youth sector; providing young people with skills for life, life-long friendships and incredible adventures that inspire them to do more and be more.

This year has been no different and we've seen the very best of Scouting – all delivered by our 3000 adult volunteers.

The year has not been without challenge. The World Scout Jamboree in Korea tested our young people and adults beyond measure, and in true Scouting spirit they made the most of a difficult situation. Nationally, we've also been committed to learning from the tragic death of Explorer Scout Ben Leonard, ensuring that we are supporting our volunteers to deliver great activities safely.

This year Andrew Hobson has been leading our transformation work and preparing us all for change. We've embraced team based volunteering and restructured our County teams to better support the movement and make our volunteer roles simpler and easier to understand. We've reformed some of our governance procedures, started using new role titles and preparing for a new membership system in the months ahead.

50 years on, and West Lancashire Scouts are still innovating and moving forward. This year we've seen the establishment of more Squirrel Dreys and growth in both our youth and adult membership. More young people have achieved top awards than in the previous year. We've got planning permission for our new accommodation block at Waddecarr. Over the next few pages, you will see why we have so much to celebrate across all areas of our work.

**Craig Dewar-Wilcox**  
Lead Volunteer



# Skills for Life

## Our plan to prepare better futures 2019 - 2025

### Our vision

By 2023, we in West Lancashire 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

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### Our four pillars of work

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

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

# Programme

**Aim:** A fun, enjoyable, high quality programme consistently delivering and supported by simple (digital) tools.

## Goals

- An inspiring programme developing Skills For Life.
- More young people experiencing overseas scouting than ever before.
- Inclusive international scouting opportunities for all our youth members.
- Outdoor and adventurous activities at the heart of our programme.
- More nights away opportunities for all our members.
- Our young people will achieve more top awards than ever before.

## Progress:

- Young people enjoyed 32,859 nights away from home this year.
- We've had over 11,000 young people attend our County Events and increase of 3000 in the previous year.
- As part of our transformation work we've established new teams focusing on programme delivery and increasing the number of permit holders for adventurous activities.
- We showcased our wide range of international and adventurous activities events at our Overseas and Adventure evening, attended by hundreds of people.

- We've seen an increase in the number of adults completing adventurous activity permits this year.
- We launched our County Challenge providing great programme activities linked to our 50th anniversary year.
- Our volunteers have delivered a record 9 international trips sending 400 young people overseas on Scouting Adventures to places including South Korea, Budapest and Croatia.

## The Achievements of our Young People:

- 99 Squirrel Scouts (aged 4-6) achieved the Chief Scout Acorn Awards – An increase of 93 awards on the previous year.
- 711 Beaver Scouts (aged 6-8) achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Award. An increase of 161 awards on the previous year.
- 624 Cub Scouts (Aged 8-11) achieved their Chief Scout Silver Award. An increase of 64 awards on the previous year.
- 282 Scouts (aged 11-14) achieved their Chief Scout Gold Award. An increase of 20 awards on the previous year.
- 204 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. An increase of 6 awards.

# 37.5%

increase in young people at our County Events, with a focus on outdoor and adventurous activities.



# Four pillars of work

To reach our goals, we'll change how we deliver Scouts. Our four pillars of work - programme, people, perception, and places - are a plan of action to support members and extend our reach, so we impact the lives of more young people across Lancashire.

## Programme



## People



## Perception



## Places

# People

**Aim:** More, well trained, better supported and motivated adult volunteers, and more young people from diverse backgrounds.

## Goals

- A high quality, supportive environment for our volunteers.
- As diverse as the communities we operate in.
- Youth shaped scouting at the heart of our operations.
- Build real and lasting relationships in our local communities.

## Progress:

- Overall membership increased by 3%, with a 3% increase in youth membership, and a 3% in adults volunteering in front-line delivery roles.
- We now have 573 sections operating every single week across our County. An increase on last year.
- We've opened 31 brand new Squirrel Sections for our 4 to 6 year-olds, exceeding our target of 30. There are now over 600 young people in Squirrels.
- Emma, our Youth Lead, delivered our first ever 'Ignite' event, which is designed to support young people take on leadership roles in Scouting.
- 318 more young people are accessing Scouting now, compared to last year.
- We've opened brand new sections including at Preston Muslim Girls High School (welcoming another 120 new Scouts) and at Kirkland and Catterall – offering Scouting in places we've not operated before.
- We enjoyed our 24th year of growth in female membership.
- We've seen a further increase in members from Black and Minority Ethnic Backgrounds as well as an increase in members with additional needs and disabilities.
- We're offering Scouting to over 1,600 young people with disabilities.
- We've seen over 850 adult volunteers complete training courses ranging from safeguarding to sailing an increase in the previous year.
- **424** 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. That's an increase on last year.
- Tom McDonald, Mia Culshaw and Anwar Hussain were award Coronation Medals for their role in supporting the coronation of HM The King.
- In the last year, 181 of our incredible volunteers have been recognised with a Good Service Award for their service to Scouting. An increase on last year. You can find out about all the awardees here: <https://cms.scouts.org.uk/media/bpidd420/2024-roll-of-honour-updated-200824.pdf>

# 600

young people 4 to 6 enjoy Squirrels every week. We opened 31 brand new Squirrel Dreys this year.

# Perception

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

## Goals

- Our vision and strategy outcomes will be clearly understood by our members, supporters and partners.
- A clear, identifiable West Lancashire brand.
- A strong, local profile in our community.

## Progress:

- 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 launched a new asset management system to help us manage our assets, including those we share with community partners like our minibus which is shared with Lancashire Wildlife Trust.
- We've benefitted from support and advocacy from a range of community leaders including sporting heroes Dave Ryding and Graeme Thomas.
- Our amazing adult volunteers continue to contribute more than £2 million to the local economy in youth and community services every year.

- The team at Waddecar have added new facilities and renovated existing ones, including the completion of camping pods, cross-bows and new team-building activities.
- 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.
- We've received planning permission for our new accommodation block at Waddecar. Our attention now turns to making this a reality.
- Despite our challenges, there is so much to celebrate. Thank you to every volunteer, staff member and support for helping make this organisation so successful. For over 50 years we've transformed the lives of young people as West Lancashire Scouts, and we are set to go from strength to strength in the years ahead.



# Places

**Aim:** Good quality, practical locations are available to support our Scouting programme across West Lancashire.

## Goals

- All our members meet in safe, accessible and practical places.
- Waddecar to be amongst the best Scout Activity Centres in the UK.

## Progress:

- The training programme at Waddecar is helping more volunteers gain skills, experience and qualifications in bushcraft, climbing, high-ropes, archery and more.

# Finances

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;		
	2024	2023
INCOME	£	£
Activity centres income	235,654	226,197
County and international events	469,576	577,111
Scouting activities, training and sections	96,628	80,263
Rents, dividends and interest received	99,098	86,512
All other income	26,114	17,842
<b>Total income</b>	<b>927,070</b>	<b>987,925</b>
OUTGOINGS		
Staff costs	127,201	131,220
Activity centres operating costs	83,472	82,634
Depreciation and profit on sale of assets	46,711	44,215
County and international events	469,552	587,153
Scouting activities, training & sections	92,600	92,614
Management, administration and other costs	85,734	98,093
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>905,270</b>	<b>1,035,929</b>
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>21,800</b>	<b>(48,004)</b>
Gains on property revaluations	-	125,000
Gain/(Fall) in value of listed investments	139,827	(93,301)
<b>Total surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>161,627</b>	<b>(16,305)</b>

## Statement of the Trustees

These summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 were approved by the Trustees at a meeting of the County Executive on 11 July 2024. 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 11 July 2024.



CA Joyce FCCA  
County Treasurer

Summarised balance sheet at 31 March;		
	2024	2023
ASSETS	£	£
Buildings and equipment used for Scouting	755,002	778,875
Rental properties	1,020,000	1,020,000
Listed investments and share dealing funds	1,711,329	1,557,489
Short term investments	167,884	258,964
Bank and cash balances	749,987	420,759
Debtors and other assets	74,606	87,895
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>4,478,808</b>	<b>4,123,982</b>
LIABILITIES		
Deposits held for future events	318,774	143,894
District subscriptions held in advance	205,840	170,892
Creditors and all other liabilities	75,696	92,325
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>600,310</b>	<b>407,111</b>
<b>Total charity funds/reserves</b>	<b>3,878,498</b>	<b>3,716,871</b>



CP Bithell ACA  
Chair Finance Committee

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**We're Scouts and everyone's welcome here. I wanted to improve things and help people. It gives me a chance to use my existing skills for the better with my fellow volunteers and with young people. I joined, because someone asked me to help and i've loved it ever since.** ”

Paul, Activity Team Leader (South Ribble)



# County Officials

Our County Officials (as of 5th September 2024)

## 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 Lead Volunteer
Mr Richard Charnock	County Chair
Dr Tony Andrews	Deputy County Chair
Mr Peter Willingham	County Secretary
Mrs Catherine Joyce	County Treasurer
Mrs Joan Swan	Nominated Member
Mr Charles Bithell	Nominated Member
Miss Gabby Howson-Tax	Nominated Member (under 25)
Mr Max Lowe	Nominated Member
Miss Rachel Hoyle	Elected Member
Mrs Cathie Hall	Elected Member
Mr Oliver Wood	Elected Member
Mr Andrew Neville	Elected Member
Mr Saber L'Bekkari	Elected Member
Miss Emma Aggrey	County Youth Lead

## County Staff

Mrs Helen Gaskarth	County Finance Officer
Mr Damian King	Waddecarr Centre Manager
Mr Mick Brooks	Activities & Facilities Supervisor
Mrs Ewa Hibbert	Bookings Officer
Ms Gill Campbell	Cleaner
Ms Jan Townley	County Development Officer
Mrs Lizzy Baker	County Development Team Assistant

**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

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As well as supporting our Scouts Adventure Challenge Award, our new partner Dacia have provided an **Outdoor Adventure Fund** for all Sections who need financial support for their adventure.”



## **West Lancashire Scouts**

**Charity number**  
521712 (England and Wales)

**Registered address**  
Waddecarr Scout Activity Centre  
Snape Raikes Lane, Goosnargh  
Preston, PR3 2EU

**Contact us**  
[county.office@westlancsscouts.org.uk](mailto:county.office@westlancsscouts.org.uk)



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West Lancashire