

West Lancashire Scouts
Annual Report & Accounts 2024- 2025

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Scouts
West Lancashire

We're growing...



Scouts
West Lancashire

Welcome from the President

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report of West Lancashire Scouts.

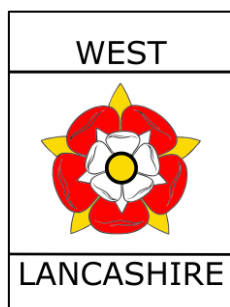
In many ways, it's been a year of new beginnings. As Scouts we welcomed HRH King Charles III as our Patron, continuing a history of royal patronage which reaches back over a century. We also welcomed our inspirational new Chief Scout, Dwayne Fields who embodies the very values of Scouting and is a great role model for young people. Here in Lancashire, our new beginning was marked at Red Rose 2024, at Westmorland Show Ground, as we sang happy birthday and celebrated 50 years of West Lancashire Scouts and look forward to the next 50 years with hope, optimism and ambition.

As you read through this annual report, you will recognise that Scouting is continually evolving and changing, and you'll know that sometimes change can be difficult. But, you should be reassured that Scouting in Lancashire continues to thrive, giving young people amazing experiences that build relationships, strengthen their sense of community, promote life-skills and build resilience. With that, it's clear that Scouting is needed now, more than ever.

None of this is achieved in isolation. Every week, 10,000 young people across West Lancashire get a better start in life because of the selfless dedication of our 3,000 adult volunteers. We benefit enormously from the support of the wider community, and have been delighted to welcome our Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Amanda Parker, to several events this year. We've also received support and sponsorship from several Lancashire businesses enabling us to do more, for more young people across Lancashire.

Thank you!

Mrs Gail Stanley MBE, JP, DL
County President



Foreword by the Chair of Trustees

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report of West Lancashire Scouts.

At our last AGM we marked an important step in our journey as a charity. We completed the national transformation programme and adopted a new constitution which has streamlined our Trustee Board and enabled us to welcome new trustees to our team. Over the past year, the Board has worked effectively to ensure that our charity continues to operate at its best, supporting the operational side of Scouting which delivers life-changing adventure for thousands of young people and adults across West Lancashire. Our focus has remained clear: to keep our charity safe, ensure our finances are well managed, and to equip ourselves for the future.

This year, the Trustees have committed to a significant and exciting project: the development of a new accommodation block at Waddecarr Scout Activity Centre. This modern, well-resourced facility will give countless Scouts the opportunity to experience amazing nights away in the heart of our activity centre. It represents a major investment, but one that speaks directly to our belief in the value of nights away in shaping confident, resilient young people. You can find out more about this project, and how you might support us in securing the finances to bring it to life, on the West Lancs website.

2024 also brought moments of celebration and inspiration. Red Rose, marking 50 years of West Lancashire Scouts, was a truly special event—uniting young people and adults in friendship, challenge and joy. Nationally, we have welcomed our new Chief Scout, Dwayne Fields, whose story and leadership embody the adventurous spirit of Scouting.

None of this, however, would be possible without the commitment and generosity of our volunteers. Week in, week out, leaders, trustees and supporters across West Lancashire dedicate their time and talents to ensure that Scouting continues to thrive. On behalf of the Trustee Board, I offer heartfelt thanks to every one of you for all that you do.

Richard
Chair of Trustees, West Lancashire Scouts





We're more inclusive...

A year in review from our Lead Volunteer...



'In Scouts, we bring young people together to have fun and make friends, creating great memories along the way.'

'This year, we've done that through a period of change, and helped even more young people from across Lancashire gain skills for life.'

What a year! We continued to celebrate our 50th anniversary celebrations, most notably with Red Rose 2024, an event that brought thousands of young people of all ages together, from all backgrounds, in celebration, in unity and to build skills, resilience, independence and team-working skills through the very best adventurous activities that the Lake District had to offer.

This year we've embedded new ways of working, with new teams, new structures and a new digital system. It's safe to say that the new digital tools have not worked in the way we expected, and that's caused frustration. I am grateful that so many people have got stuck in, and worked to overcome the challenges- ensuring that our young people don't miss out.

You'll see over the next few pages, the amazing progress we've made with our strategic plan, which we've brought to an end this year. As we begin to plan the next chapter, and our new plan, we should reflect on the one big, outstanding item within this strategy- a new accommodation block at Waddecarr. We are closer than we have ever been, and with a big team effort with fundraising, we will see the foundations being laid very soon and our commitment to providing young people across Lancashire with adventure, will be secure for decades to come.

Across our four pillars of work, 'Programme, People, Perception and Places' we should take pride in what's been achieved since we launched our strategy in 2019, despite a constantly changing World...



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.

Programme

- ❑ We've had over 13,000 young people attend our County Events and increase of three thousand in the previous year. An increase of over 2,000 young people from the previous year.
- ❑ We've held our first assessors conference, supporting our team to assess more adults to achieve adventurous activity permits
- ❑ We've restructured our County Programme Team to focus on providing greater support and consistency with the week to week programme, as well as with linking and top awards.
- ❑ We showcased our wide range of international and adventurous activities events at our Overseas and Adventure evening, attended by hundreds of people.
- ❑ Our volunteers delivered an incredible international camp, Red Rose 2024 at Westmorland Show Ground as well as trips to Malawi, and camps and expedition across Europe.

The Achievements of our Young People:

- ❑ 279 **Squirrel Scouts** (aged 4-6) achieved the Chief Scout Acorn Awards – An increase of 180 awards on the previous year.
- ❑ 647 **Beaver Scouts** (aged 6-8) achieved their Chief Scout Bronze Award. That's 47% of those eligible.
- ❑ 612 **Cub Scouts** (Aged 8-11) achieved their Chief Scout Silver Award. That's 61% of those eligible
- ❑ 550 **Scouts** (aged 11-14) achieved their Chief Scout Gold Award. An amazing increase of 268 awards on the previous year. That's 84% of those eligible
- ❑ 212 **Explorer Scouts** and **Scout Network Members** achieved a range of top awards including the King' Scout Award, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Scouts of the World Award and Explorer Belts. An increase of 8 awards with an amazing 29 King Scout Awards.



Red Rose 2024



Red Rose 2024 was a week long adventure camp which brought together over 3,400 participants including Scouts, Guides, Explorers and Rangers from across the UK, Ireland and overseas.

The event was supported by 422 incredible volunteer staff.

It was the largest, most adventurous and most inclusive Red Rose camp ever!

For the first time we welcomed over 500 Beavers, Cubs and Squirrels to take part in the adventure.

The programme featured the most diverse range of activities ever delivered on a Red Rose Camp with four full days of offsite activities as well as an incredible onsite offer.

The event team built on previous success with innovations in infrastructure, trading, staff support, welfare and participant support. Feedback from participants indicated 93% of them wanted to return in future!





People:

- ❑ Overall membership increased by 2.3% with a 0.1% increase in youth membership, and a 10.1% in adults volunteering in front-line delivery roles.
- ❑ We've recruited an additional 102 volunteers in to front-line leadership roles
- ❑ We've recruited 128 more volunteers in to trustee and governance roles
- ❑ We now have 600 sections operating every single week across our County. An increase of 27 sections on last year.
- ❑ We've opened 13 brand new Squirrel Sections for our 4 to 6 year-olds. There are now over 770 young people in Squirrels. An increase of 178 young people.
- ❑ 71 more young people are accessing Scouting now, compared to last year.
- ❑ We've opened brand new sections including in places where we haven't offered Scouting before, including at Scarisbrick Hall in Ormskirk, Kirkland and Catterall in Wyre, a new Explorer Scout Unit in Carnforth and more...
- ❑ Over 120 Group Lead Volunteers and Group Chairs came together to share great practice, and focus on supporting all groups to thrive.
- ❑ We've seen a further increase in members from Black and Minority Ethnic Backgrounds.
- ❑ We're offering Scouting to over 1760 young people with disabilities. An increase of over 160 young people
- ❑ We've seen an amazing 98% of adult volunteers complete training courses including new safety training.
- ❑ 452 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 of 28 young leaders since last year.
- ❑ In the last year, 138 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/13bmoxzf/2025-roll-of-honour-updated-100425.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've welcomed Community Leaders and charities to our Red Rose event, to showcase Scouting and share our ambitious plans for the future. We've benefited from further sponsorship from Essity for our yacht, Setanta and our Red Rose event.
- ❑ Our amazing adult volunteers continue to contribute more than £2.5 million to the local economy in youth and community services every year.



Places:

- ❑ We've seen an increase in the number of bookings to use Waddecar during the week from organisations beyond Scouting.
- ❑ The training programme at Waddecar is helping more volunteers gain skills, experience and qualifications in bushcraft, climbing, high-ropes, archery and more.
- ❑ 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 and have developed detailed drawings. We continue to talk to funders to identify finance options.

As I write this report, I do so proud of all that we've achieved together and excited for the future. At the end of March, I stepped down as Lead Volunteer to support Scouts nationally, as Chair of the UK Board. I did so knowing that our County is in safe hands, with Andrew Hobson as Interim Lead Volunteer, and the most brilliant team of volunteers ever. Every person, in whatever role, makes amazing things happen for young people and I am so grateful for the support you've offered me.

Thank you!

Craig Dewar-Willox
Lead Volunteer





Help us make our dream a reality...

We've launched an ambitious plan to build modern, accessible accommodation at Waddecar Scout Activity Centre that will open the door to life-changing experiences for even more young people all year round. Whether it's a rainy weekend or a chilly winter camp, this new space means no young person misses out on the magic of Scouts. Donate, and help us turn this dream in to a reality...

[£100 – Buy a Brick](#) – Your name will be on our **Supporter Display Board** in the new building's lobby, a permanent reminder of your support.

[£250 – Sponsor a Bed](#) – Support one of the 80 beds in the new centre. Your name will be added to a room plaque, helping every young person rest and recharge.

[£1,000 – Sponsor a Stone on the Promise Path](#) – Celebrate your connection to Waddecar. Your engraved stone will become part of the path leading from the heart of the camp to the new building.

[£5,000 – Sponsor a Room](#) – Leave a true legacy. Choose the name of a room in the new centre — your name on the door, your impact felt for years to come.

SCAN ME





**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;		
	2025	2024
INCOME	£	£
Activity centres income	292,808	235,654
County and international events	743,716	469,576
Scouting activities, training and sections	116,950	96,628
Rents, dividends and interest received	107,733	99,098
All other income	60,465	26,114
Total income	1,321,672	927,070
OUTGOINGS		
Staff costs	152,065	127,201
Activity centres operating costs	97,119	83,472
Depreciation and sale of assets	45,947	46,711
County and international events	652,259	469,552
Scouting activities, training & sections	150,116	92,600
Management, administration and other costs	99,025	85,734
Total costs	1,186,482	905,270
Operating surplus for the year	135,190	21,800
Gains on property revaluations	-	-
Gain in value of listed investments	38,460	139,827
Total surplus for the year	173,650	161,627

Statement of the Trustees

These unaudited summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 were approved by the Trustees at a meeting of the Trustee Board on 10 July 2025.

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 on 11 September 2025.

These statutory financial statements 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 10 July 2025.


CA Joyce FCCA
County Treasurer

Summarised balance sheet at 31 March;		
	2025	2024
ASSETS	£	£
Buildings and equipment used for Scouting	728,627	755,002
Rental properties	1,020,000	1,020,000
Listed investments and share dealing funds	1,766,121	1,711,329
Short term investments	177,300	167,884
Bank and cash balances	883,819	749,987
Debtors and other assets	76,246	74,606
Total Assets	4,652,113	4,478,808
LIABILITIES		
Deposits held for future events	305,741	318,774
District subscriptions held in advance	186,848	205,840
Creditors and all other liabilities	107,376	75,696
Total liabilities	599,965	600,310
Total charity funds/reserves	4,052,148	3,878,498


CP Bithell ACA
Chair Finance Committee

**We make a positive
difference in our
communities...**



COUNTY PRESIDENT

Mrs Gail Stanley MBE, JP, DL

COUNTY VICE PRESIDENTS & LIFE MEMBERS

Dr Tony Andrews, Mrs Jean Frew, Mr Dick Griffiths, Mrs Judith Jamieson,
Mr George Lowe, Mr Bernard Pendlebury, Mrs Joan Swan & Mr David Thornton

COUNTY TRUSTEES

Mr Andrew Hobson	Interim County Lead Volunteer
Mr Richard Charnock	County Chair
Mrs Cathie Hall	County Vice Chair
Mrs Catherine Joyce	County Treasurer
Miss Emma Aggrey	County Youth Lead
Mr Charles Bithell	Trustee
Mr Jeremy Boardman	Trustee
Mr Saber L'Bekkari	Trustee
Mr Max Lowe	Trustee
Mr Jamie Scudamore	Trustee
Miss Alexi Walsh	Trustee
Mr Oliver Wood	Trustee

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
Mrs Kelly Roberts	County Development Officer

Auditors:

Solicitors:

Principal Bankers:

Investment Managers:

Property Advisor:

McMillan & Co LLP, 28 Eaton Avenue, Buckshaw Village, Chorley, PR77NA
Naphens LLP 7 Winckley Square, Preston PR1 3JD
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc 97 Fishergate Preston PR1 2DP
Brooks MacDonald, No1, Marsden Street, Manchester, M2 1HW
Charles Bennett, Alderfield, 230 Woodplumpton Road, Preston, PR4 0TA



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It's such an honour being the UK Chief Scout. I want a new generation to learn the skills, friendship and belonging I felt when I needed them most. As Chief Scout, I want to show that the outdoors is a place for all of us to be at our best, and that Scouts is truly open to all.

Dwayne Fields, UK Chief Scout



Scouts

West Lancashire

www.westlancsscouts.org.uk