



Annual Report 2019



Scouts

President and Chairman's Message

Let's go back to the turn of the century! In 2000 there were 1095 young people members of Lonsdale Scouts. Fast forward to the start of 2019 and that figure had increased to 1477. We've had our ups and downs but, overall, a 35% growth during the period deserves a 'pat-on-the-back.' How did we achieve that?

Firstly, and foremost, we recognise the commitment of our leaders, young leaders and others who tirelessly devote many hours to helping our young people. Be that during our regular weekly meetings or the myriad of other activities organised throughout the year. We're not even going to estimate the number of hours, annually, given by all these volunteers. What would we do without them? Many wear uniforms; there are others committed to support roles - members of Group Executive Committees and the like. We acknowledge that there are some with more than one role within the District (and for that we are grateful). For everyone: it's certainly not just one night a week! As we have visited Groups or District events, we have been much encouraged with the enthusiasm not only of our young people but their leaders.

Secondly: we have never been complacent. We've had an eye on development. Recent years have witnessed, for example, the opening of two new Scout Groups (where a provision did not previously exist). Additional Sections have been opened, to cope with demand. The latest, just-about-to-open, is a new Explorer Scout Unit, based in Caton.

It has been good to recognise the commitment of so many. The Awards Advisory Committee has been working with the District Commissioner to identify those to be recommended for Good Service Awards. Many volunteers have been recognised during the year. Special mention must be made of Alan Hague and David Wilkinson who were both recently awarded the Silver Wolf (the unrestricted gift of the Chief Scout, for services of the most exceptional nature). Like all awards: the nomination process started many months previously and are well deserved. It has been good to welcome many of the recipients to Leighton Hall to celebrate these achievements.

We also acknowledge the support the District has received from the wider, local community. Of particular note: an anonymous donor generously provided £1862 which enabled a significant number of young people to attend camps (particularly Red Rose 2018) who otherwise might not have been able to so.

We cannot close without endorsing the sentiments expressed by Mandy Sweet (our current District Commissioner), later in this report: by acknowledging Craig Dewar-Willox's commitment to this District not just as District Commissioner for the past five and a half years. He grew up in the District and has enthusiastically supported us - whatever the role - for many years.

Suzie Reynolds DL
District President

Tony Andrews
District Chairman



District Commissioner's Report

What another excellent year we have had in Lonsdale. We have seen another period of membership growth, lots of top awards being achieved across all sections and hundreds of 'nights away' spent at our two outstanding Activity Centres. We held a very enjoyable District Camp at Bibby's Farm, which was attended by many of our Members and where we made loads of new friends, learnt lots of new skills and tried many new activities. The 1st Carnforth Scout Group opened their new, impressive 'Base Camp'; well done to the team for their superb fundraising efforts. In 2018 the Activities Team were very busy: we have seen more Adventurous Activity permits presented than ever before, giving us the opportunity to deliver more adventurous programmes to even more young people. The Explorer Section has started the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award across the District with over 30 young people taking-on the challenge. Hopefully this will go from strength to strength with more and more young people having access to achieving the top awards.

2018 saw the launch of the new UK Strategy 2023, Skills for Life, and our thoughts turned to the Lonsdale Strategy 2023. What do we need for a successful future in our District? We are good at so many things but can we be better? What can we improve? What can we start doing? Thank you to everybody who has had input and the ideas that were planted in 2018 will soon become reality as we finish putting together our Strategy 2023.

When I am out and about visiting events, I am always amazed by the commitment and enthusiasm of our leadership teams. We have so much knowledge and so many skills to share with the young people and each other: we should be very proud of that. It is gratifying that so many Good Service Awards have been gained by adults in our District. These are small tokens of praise for the enormous amount of work that they do. We should not be afraid to shout about it, let's get out there and show the local community what we are made of.

Finally, I could not end this report without mentioning Craig Dewar-Willox who stepped down at the end of five and a half years as our District Commissioner. He has been an inspiration for so many people. He has worked tirelessly and unselfishly for the good of the District. He has helped achieve growth across all Sections and assisted many Groups with development projects. He has facilitated the opening of new Groups and new sections. His passion for Scouting and the good it can do is endless. He has left our District in a fabulous position. 'Thank You' Craig for everything that you have done for Lonsdale District and good luck in wherever your next adventure takes you. I am very proud to be the next Lonsdale District Commissioner and I hope that I can continue the great work that Craig has done.

Mandy Sweet

District Commissioner



Activity Centres

As a charity we have a valuable resource (and a significant investment) in our two Activity Centres: Littledale and SilverHelme. The statement of assets and liabilities, on the penultimate page of this report, records a value of approximately £0.8m. This is a little more than when the sites were purchased: Littledale for £430 in 1959 and SilverHelme for £750 in 1963! It is imperative that our centres are maintained, operated and developed to provide a safe environment and that they are well used.

We recognise that the management and particularly the day-to-day operation of the centres is heavily supported by volunteers. Our grateful thanks are extended to our two wardens - Mick (at Littledale) and Kieron (at SilverHelme) - who together with their teams have committed uncounted hours to sustain the operation of the centres. Supporting them have been our Booking Secretaries (Dorothy, latterly Stephen) and the Activity Centres Treasurer (Ray).

During 2018 there has been regular use of both centres. It must be noted that the highest numbers, at both sites, have been those from outside the District. Of particular significance: we secured a lengthy booking for Littledale from a company delivering the National Citizenship Scheme; they liked what we had to offer and will return again this year.

Some discussions initiated in 2017 continued into 2018. Spurred on by a number of 'external friends' - professionals in many spheres of management - we took a very critical look at the many facets of the management and operation of our centres. Many issues were identified; we acknowledge that, as a volunteer organisation, there are processes we must improve - so as to be better managers of these valuable resources. The action list is lengthy; we have started to explore them in more depth - it will take time. One workstream, throughout the year, has been a focus on safety: to review critically our risk assessments and implement the findings. Where necessary this has necessitated expenditure on repairs or new equipment. This work continues into 2019.

Going forward: we own two valuable resources - it is imperative they we all take full advantage of facilities available. We will consult with everyone to ensure we correctly shape the future.

Tony Andrews

Acting Chair, Activity Centres Management Board



District Camp

What was six months in the planning? Lasted one weekend in mid-September 2018? Involved 75% of our Groups and Units? Had 550 attendees? A mixture of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers Scouts and Network Members? Lonsdale's Biennial District Camp! It was held at Bibby's Farm - near Chorley - for the second time, after a very successful camp in 2016.

The camp was planned to provide opportunities for our Groups and Units to socialise; learn and network; deliver an extended Beaver Scout opportunity of two nights away; manage the delivery of the water activities; improve the programme provided for the Explorer Scouts; and ensure Network Members were invited and encouraged to be part of our weekend celebrations (plus supporting the programme delivery team). Most importantly we aimed to provide a fun and exciting programme for all participants and leaders.

Thursday began - as most camps do on this scale - with Groups arriving to pitch, build and prepare for the arrival of their young people the next evening. Storms 'Ali' and 'Bronagh' had other thoughts: ripping up tents, dining shelters and flooding tents! Friday afternoon was a tough clean-up operation.

Friday's transport arrived on schedule; the conveyor belt of participants flooded the site - straight into a camp fire and introductory games (with the first inter-section competition: 'who can build the longest snake glow stick') followed by the hugely successful Explorer Scouts' first midnight games programme and marshmallow toasting

Saturday commenced with our youngest and most lively Section arriving: flag break and camp opening before over 30 activities to complete in over six hours. Highlights included: abseiling, climbing, archery, tomahawk throwing plus aerial runway, rope bridge, canoeing and kayaking (for Beaver and Cub Scouts), mountain biking, crossbow and pedal car racing (for the Scouts), clay pigeon (exclusively for the Explorer Scouts) plus exciting Inflatables, laser tag and lots more.

Saturday Night and Lonsdale's very own fun and messy neon disco with the Red-Rose-inspired neon paint canon corner. The sleepy younger ones enjoyed the warmth of a quiet movie! Explorer Scouts and older Scouts got to finish-off their evening with a very competitive and enjoyable 'Dagnet' in the local area.

Sunday began with many tired faces but a few fun hours of group-led bases around the camp theme of 'Around the World in 80 Days' finished off with sunshine, smiles and many very happy campers.

The camp theme, aims and targets were delivered, friendships were made and reinforced, fun was had, laughter was heard and Lonsdale proved again what a wonderful District we are. Thanks to all who helped with the organising, preparing and delivering a successful event. In 2020 let's aim for 750 attendees.

Scott Duncan

Assistant District Commissioner (Events)



LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	Unrestricted Funds 31/12/2018 District	Unrestricted Funds 31/12/2018 Campsites	Restricted Funds 31/12/2018	Endowment Funds 31/12/2018	Total Funds 31/12/2018	Total Funds 31/12/2017
Receipts						
Membership Subscriptions	50,426	-	690	-	51,116	51,833
Less Paid	(37,950)	-	-	-	(37,950)	(38,345)
	12,476	-	690	-	13,166	13,488
Donations and Grants	1,682	553	-	-	2,235	22,720
Lettings and Associated Income	1,200	57,670	-	-	58,870	50,416
Other Income	1,158	562	-	-	1,720	1,307
Youth Programme and Activities	36,119	428	-	-	36,547	20,436
Training	709	-	-	-	709	1,055
Badge Sales	6,136	-	-	-	6,136	5,647
Investment Income	576	120	-	1,297	1,993	1,821
Loan Repayment	203	-	-	-	203	203
Explorers	-	-	16,749	-	16,749	4,004
Jamboree	-	-	859	-	859	-
Zellhof	-	-	12,368	-	12,368	-
Clothing Sales	536	-	-	-	536	-
Sub Total	60,795	59,333	30,666	1,297	152,091	121,097
Asset and Investment Sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	60,795	59,333	30,666	1,297	152,091	121,097
Payments						
Youth Programme and Activities	34,871	770	-	-	35,641	16,465
Rent	6,615	-	-	-	6,615	5,254
Heat, Light and Water	1,197	7,278	-	-	8,475	6,590
Repairs and Maintenance	171	16,310	-	-	16,481	18,846
Capital Expenditure	1,177	15,119	-	-	16,296	-
Insurance	779	2,938	-	-	3,717	3,933
Printing, Postage and Telephone	279	1,228	-	-	1,507	1,709
Governance and Trustee Expenses	1,149	-	-	-	1,149	1,108
Campsite Shops	-	379	-	-	379	791
Bank Charges	60	65	-	-	125	141
Professional Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants to Groups	-	-	-	513	513	1,677
Grants to Individuals	3,614	-	-	-	3,614	800
Badge Costs	5,359	-	-	-	5,359	5,015
Training	3,093	-	-	-	3,093	1,132
Team Expenses	1,818	-	-	-	1,818	2,204
Explorers	-	-	15,775	-	15,775	2,542
Miscellaneous	1,673	-	-	-	1,673	649
Development	546	-	-	-	546	344
Awards	358	-	-	-	358	368
Recruitment	227	-	-	-	227	-
Donations	67	-	-	-	67	2,594
Jamboree	-	-	8,239	-	8,239	-
Zellhof	-	-	1,239	-	1,239	-
Clothing Purchases	612	-	-	-	612	-
Sub Total	63,665	44,087	25,253	513	133,518	72,162
Asset and Investment Purchases, etc	-	-	-	-	-	94,982
Total Payments	63,665	44,087	25,253	513	133,518	167,144
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	(2,870)	15,246	5,413	784	18,573	(46,047)

LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	31/12/2018	31/12/2018	31/12/2018	31/12/2018	31/12/2018	31/12/2017
	District	Campsites				
Cash						
Current Accounts	1,050	21,734	18,436	362	41,582	8,458
Deposit Accounts	31,807	15,000	-	3,233	50,040	80,609
Term Deposit	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	84,000
Cash	46	239	-	-	285	267
Total Cash Funds	32,903	36,973	18,436	103,595	191,907	173,334
Other Monetary Assets						
Small Loans Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-	203
Amounts Owing to District	-	-	-	-	-	1,557
Sub Total	-	-	-	-	-	1,760
Investment Assets						
Lancaster Scout and Guide Shop	7,721	-	-	-	7,721	5,766
Sub Total	7,721	-	-	-	7,721	5,766
Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use						
Badge Stock	4,162	-	-	-	4,162	4,167
Campsite Shop Stock	-	1,086	-	-	1,086	1,191
Campsite Land and Buildings	-	765,000	-	-	765,000	765,000
Campsite Fixtures and Fittings	-	35,500	-	-	35,500	35,500
Campsite Mowers	-	12,720	-	-	12,720	-
District Fixtures and Fittings	6,400	-	-	-	6,400	6,400
Sub Total	10,562	814,306	-	-	824,868	812,258
Liabilities						
Accounts not yet Paid	(202)	-	-	-	(202)	(200)
Sub Total	(202)	-	-	-	(202)	(200)
Total Assets less Liabilities	50,984	851,279	18,436	103,595	1,024,294	992,918

The financial information in this report has been taken from the independently examined financial statements for the period 1 January - 31 December 2018, which were approved by the Trustees at their meeting 12 June 2019. The full financial statements contain an unqualified report from the Independent Examiner and have been submitted to the Charity Commission. This summary may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of Lonsdale District.

The full report is available for download from the District website. If there are any questions regarding the financial information please contact the District Treasurer, Stephen Clarke.



**Do more.
Learn more.
Be more.**

Lonsdale Scouts.
3-4 Moor Street, Lancaster, LA1 1PR
0845 300 1818
lonsdalescouts.org.uk

