



LONSDALE
DISTRICT
SCOUTS
REPORT

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am very sorry that I am unable to be present at this evening's AGM. The meeting is always a highlight of the year for me and a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends from Lonsdale and to hear news of what's been going on around the District - so I'm particularly sad to be missing it.

From my point of view, the past year has provided lots of opportunities to see how Scouting is developing and going from strength

to strength in Lonsdale. As I travel round, I always appreciate the warmth of your welcome and invitations to join in various events.

The opportunities that Scouting offers young people seem almost limitless and it's a source of great pride to me to be your President and to be able to recognise the dedication of our volunteers and enthusiasm of all the young people who take part in Scouting in Lonsdale.

"The opportunities that scouting offers young people seem almost limitless"

Have a great evening and best wishes for the coming year, and most important of all, please remember to shout loudly about what's going on in Scouting in Lonsdale. We've got a huge amount to be proud of!

Suzie Reynolds
District President
Lonsdale District Scouts



CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

As an 'incomer' to Lonsdale District, I have been impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment of everyone within the District and thank those who welcomed me to a role I've never experienced before! What I have witnessed is our leaders' dedication to their volunteer role - or roles in not just a few cases - which is reflected in the recent year-on-year growth in the number of young people we support in their formative years.

As trustees of the charity, the District Executive is charged with supporting the

District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of his role. A key focus of our work - as it will be for some time to come - is usually called 'governance.' We have spent some time in reviewing and revising our policies and procedures so that the management of the charity is efficient, effective and open.

It is appropriate to record that a number of our volunteers have stood-down during the period under review. Particularly, the inputs from David Manning (as District Secretary) and Arthur Griffin (as Secretary

of the Activity Centres Management Board) are recorded at this time. We also thank those trustees standing-down at this year's Annual General Meeting for their service.

"... Year on year growth in the number of young people we support..."

Our work as trustees will necessitate some difficult challenges in the near future. Of significance the Activity Centres Management Board

will be preparing a ten year plan for both centres. The financial implications of this will require careful financial planning and possibly some difficult decisions. However, the District Executive is firmly focussed on our core purpose: fun and life-changing adventure for all.

Tony Andrews
District Chairman
Lonsdale District Scouts





DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

What an adventure...what a year! Throughout this report you will see that Lonsdale District Scouts is in good health. In the last year young people voted with their feet, they voted for the fun and adventure that Scouting offers, they voted for the chance to get outdoors explore nature, explore new skills, explore new friendships and in that spirit of exploration we are offering better Scouting to more young people in the area.

With a membership growth of 9.5% (the largest growth in the Scout County), and growth in every section we are well on the way to delivering the objectives we set out in our five year strategic plan 'Vision 2018.' It's encouraging to see more adult volunteers getting involved with us too; helping us make our ambitions a reality.

In such a busy and active District it is hard to pick out a highlight, but if I had to pick one it would be our District Camp in September 2014. The excitement on the faces of so many young people, and the laughter and friendship that filled the site was just fantastic, and a reminder that Scouting is more relevant today, than ever. Scouting brings people together. Young people need the chance to explore their world, to take risks in a safe environment, to be part of a team, to work with people from all walks of life and to challenge themselves to try new things and to be the best that they can be. It is an incredible honour, therefore, to lead a District where I can see that happening every night of the week and every weekend of the year.



Not only do we do that, we do it in style... I am amazed when visiting sections and events to see the weird and wonderful ways that leaders make the programme relevant and exciting for young people and also the opportunities we give young people to lead and shape their Scouting.

The year has not been without its challenges; I have never been particularly good with a compass, but this year 'Compass' hasn't been particularly good for us. Whilst our membership system has presented us with challenges, Scouting hasn't stopped and we haven't stopped doing what we do best - giving young people an adventure!

Moving forward, our focus will be in the continued implementation of our strategic plan - making our dreams a reality. We want to offer Scouting in every part of our community, to every child that wants it. Why? Because Scouting gives young people a fantastic start in life! We want to ensure that we support our volunteers better by making it easier to volunteer in a more flexible way.

We want to reach out to our communities and help other people, to empower young people to take a lead in our organisation, to support more nights away for more young people, support more young people to achieve top awards and to support more adults to lead adventurous activities. We want to develop a clear plan for our two activity centres, our playgrounds of Scouting, to ensure that they serve leaders well today, and will serve us well in future.

Lonsdale is not short of ambition, we are not short of determination and we are not short of ideas. Time and time again this year we have proved that we are stronger when we work together, when we share our skills and when we help each other. This year has been a wonderful year for Scouting in Lonsdale and I want to thank the hundreds of adult volunteers, in leadership and support roles, that make up the team that makes this all possible. Thank you for what you do for Scouting, and above all, thank you for what you do for young people in our community.

Craig Dewar

District Commissioner

Lonsdale District Scouts



BEAVER REPORT

Lonsdale Beaver Scouts are on the way to the top.

We have a growing number of colonies, members and leaders enjoying a varied and active programme. We have been on trips out, sleepovers and our first Camp. Well done and thank you to all our Busy Beaver Scouts and Leaders.

Catherine Marsh

Assistant District Commissioner
Beaver Scouts

Lonsdale District Scouts

CUB REPORT

In our packs, leaders have provided an enormous variety of activities during their weekly meetings and week-end activities - that's why our numbers are growing! Add to this the other activities and events arranged by the District or West Lancashire County.

We have enjoyed outdoor activities: over 150 from several packs camped in June, on the Indian Village at the County Camp at Waddecar Camp Site. This was an excellent turnout for us! The theme was UNDERCOVER; we were spies ... James Bond and the like. Many more Cubs enjoyed the District Camp, in September, at Littledale Activity Centre. Disappointingly the Beaver/Cub Fun Day at Littledale, in April, was poorly attended but enjoyed by those who did join us.

The District Cub Challenge was won by Hornby; following our District Chess Competition the Lonsdale Team came third in the County Competition. In October the Swimming Gala was well attended and a good evening all-round.

We've raised money for Children in Need: £700: stalls in Marketgate - cakes, tombola, etc. In the spring approximately £1000 was raised - Gang Show at St Paul's Church Hall, Scotforth - in preparation for the centenary of Cub Scouting in 2016. In November we were joined by our President, Suzie Reynolds, at Greenlands Farm, when many Chief Scout's Silver Awards were presented. Also in November, at the Lonsdale Ball, we said farewell and thank you to Pat Armstrong: on her retirement as ADC (Cub Scouts).



Mandy Sweet

Assistant District Commissioner
Cub Scouts

Lonsdale District Scouts

SCOUT REPORT

The Chief Scout's Gold Award is the pinnacle achievement for any Scout. During the year 28 scouts, from 9 Groups within Lonsdale District, received their Certificates at Country-organised Presentation Evenings. It was pleasing to note that some recipients were from Groups where the award had not been achieved for a number of years. Our challenge is to support, particularly, those Troops where members have yet to reach this pinnacle.

We again held the annual Knight Activity but run by a different team of leaders and with a slightly different format. The event was - as ever - a success, with almost every Group in the District being represented.

County Rally was once again attended in May with an excellent representation from Lonsdale District. At this event Scouts get to try-out a variety of activities that they would otherwise not be able to access - whilst having the freedom of the campsite. For the first time there were leaders attending without Scouts: to look at the event with a view to participating the following year.



Paul Sargent

Assistant District Commissioner
Scouts

Lonsdale District Scouts

EXPLORER REPORT

All seven Units met throughout the period. The majority of Units have stable or increasing numbers despite the annual fluctuations in membership, with the exception of the Erics who have reduced to three members and for whom a holding strategy is required in 2015. Moira Mason was appointed as DESComm in October; Tracy Seton continues to support the section as DESA. The section is grateful for the commitment shown by Tracy undertaking both roles and thanks her for her efforts.

One of the highlights of the period was the County Explorer Scout Camp in June, with the District camping together and two teams entering the Sunday morning challenge enthusiastically participating with Lydia and the five boys excelling beyond the guidance given and bringing the Khemi-Khaze trophy home to Lonsdale! We're grateful for the space in HQ to store it!

Looking forward to 2015, our Explorers and Young Leaders will continue to participate in an exciting programme, with many working towards awards and preparing to participate in an International experience.



Moira Mason

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Lonsdale District Scouts

TRAINING REPORT

Getting to grips with this new role has been demanding. I have met dozens of new members at the Appointments Evenings - to advise them about their training needs for their new roles in Scouting. To complete this task we have developed a small team: Sarah Cruickshank has helped with Getting Started as my technical support - with video clips and screen shots of HQ and Lonsdale websites and how to access online training. She has also helped to create some interactive sections of the course. We have delivered the modules 1, 2 and 3 to 44 new members. Carolyn Blyth has continued delivering Safeguarding Training - we've reached 66 members with this essential subject.

Another essential subject for all members either as refresher or brand new is First Aid. Dan Horton has delivered several full day sessions; we have reached 54 members during 2014.

Members of the training team have also helped as facilitators for County Courses held in Lonsdale. Our new leaders have all been keen applicants on such County Courses.

Validation of training is the final essential part and involves the member and a training advisor having a discussion after the training event - asking and answering certain key questions to see if the course hit the mark and did in fact help the new leader in their scouting role. We have a good spread of validators throughout the District and have done nearly 100 validations throughout the year. All this work has created paperwork and record keeping has been competently done by our training admin Tony Barker. The completion of training results in Wood Badge being awarded. We've achieved 14 this year and there are more in the pipeline.

Pat Griffin Local Training Manager Lonsdale District Scouts

ACTIVITIES REPORT

With the greater emphasis on Scouting getting outdoors and taking part in engaging and exciting activities this has been a busy year.

Lonsdale leaders have been busy being assessed for, renewing, or upgrading activity permits. New or upgraded permits have been given to leaders in canoeing, caving, climbing, dinghy sailing, hill walking, kayaking, power boating, rowing, and yachting - all of which enable more young people to take part in, and enjoy, adventurous activities, led in a safe and exciting way by suitable qualified instructors. In 2015 there will be an even greater emphasis on adventure, so plans have been made to offer more opportunities for leaders to train and be assessed for adventurous activity permits.

During the course of the year, there has been ongoing support to the Activity Centres Management Board to improve the activities being offered at Litledale and Silverhelme. The climbing crag at Silverhelme has been inspected and routes cleared of vegetation, while dangerous loose rocks have been identified and fenced off. There has been a big push to improve the offer of shooting for groups in Lonsdale. In May there was a shooting leaders' course, when six Lonsdale leaders were trained and successfully assessed for the National Small-bore Rifle Association YPS Tutor Award. Meanwhile, significant improvements were made to the shooting range to enable safe shooting to take place, with a range of different targets which will enable young people to try out shooting and then to progress in the sport.

During the year, leaders were trained in safety management through running the National Water Safety Management Programme for leaders who operate in, on, or near water margins, and also the British Canoeing Foundation Safety and Rescue Training. Through these two courses a total of 15 leaders have gained more skills in keeping young people safe during water activities.

In July a group of Lonsdale Explorers undertook a Gold DofE expedition in canoes, travelling the River Tay, the longest river in the UK, from Killin to Perth over five days. They had to negotiate one of the biggest lochs in Scotland, and travel via some serious rapids at Grandtully and on other stretches of the river, while wild camping on the river bank each night. All completed their expedition successfully with the support of the ADC Activities who provided training for, and supervision during, the expedition.

Stuart Lockton Assistant District Commissioner - Activities Lonsdale District Scouts

ACTIVITY CENTRES REPORT

Both of our centres at Littledale and Silverhelme have continued to provide opportunities for outdoor activities to all sections. Most weekends have seen the lodges in use by Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with additional day visits and events organised by the District. Over the winter months there have been camps under canvas by some very intrepid groups.

Our hard working wardens and volunteers have continued to look after the sites to ensure that all users have the best experience that we are able to provide. We have also benefitted from the input from the recently formed Active Support Unit.

Littledale water supply has been upgraded with the installation of new water filters. Also a water supply is now available to the toilets on the top field.

Silverhelme hosted the BBC Autumn Watch by providing the shelter for the studio from which the live broadcast was beamed to the Nation.

Nigel Pullen *Chairman, Activity Centre Management Board* Lonsdale District Scouts



LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE TEN MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	Unrestricted Funds 31/12/2014 District	Unrestricted Funds 31/12/2014 Campsites	Endowment Funds 31/12/2014	Total Funds 31/12/2014	Total Funds 28/02/2014
Receipts					
Membership subscriptions	43,757	-	-	43,757	41,500
Less Paid	(31,164)	-	-	(31,164)	(29,400)
	12,593	-	-	12,593	12,100
Donations	5,363	10	-	5,373	5,291
Fundraising (Jamboree)	5,064	-	-	5,064	-
Lettings and Associated Income	2,994	39,047	-	42,041	32,414
Other Income	132	1,103	-	1,235	794
Activities	11,524	410	-	11,934	10,842
Training	1,621	-	-	1,621	1,348
Badge Sales	4,764	-	-	4,764	3,967
Investment Income	307	77	2,105	2,489	4,863
Explorers	5,760	-	-	5,760	2,848
SASU	-	-	-	-	726
Gift Aid Tax	-	-	-	-	937
Kingsway	1,680	-	-	1,680	-
Gilwell Cubs	2,662	-	-	2,662	-
Sub total	54,464	40,647	2,105	97,216	76,130
Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	54,464	40,647	2,105	97,216	76,130
Payments					
Youth Programme and Activities	11,401	178	-	11,579	10,191
Rent and Hall Hire	6,514	-	-	6,514	6,300
Heat, Light and Water	740	5,760	-	6,500	8,085
Repairs and Maintenance	-	15,516	-	15,516	18,189
Capital Expenditure	-	9,899	-	9,899	4,860
Insurance	671	652	-	1,323	5,506
Printing, Postage and Telephone	195	1,644	-	1,839	1,763
Governance and Trustee Expenses	1,125	-	-	1,125	1,041
Campsite Shops	-	1,008	-	1,008	1,475
Bank Charges	-	17	-	17	10
Grants to Groups	-	-	1,263	1,263	1,035
Grants to Individuals	-	-	-	-	1,000
Badge Costs	4,842	-	-	4,842	3,981
Training	1,615	-	-	1,615	2,376
Team Expenses	954	-	-	954	1,409
Explorers	6,539	-	-	6,539	3,704
Development	909	-	-	909	513
Miscellaneous	371	-	-	371	651
Donations	355	-	-	355	-
Jamboree	6,420	-	-	6,420	-
Gilwell Cubs	1,454	-	-	1,454	-
SASU	312	-	-	312	-
Kingsway	1,079	-	-	1,079	-
Sub total	45,496	34,674	1,263	81,433	72,089
Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	45,496	34,674	1,263	81,433	72,089
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,968	5,973	842	15,783	4,041

LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	31/12/2014	31/12/2014	31/12/2014	31/12/2014	28/02/2014
	District	Campsites			
Cash					
Current Accounts	10,019	60,306	2,934	73,259	67,646
Deposit Accounts	21,458	10,000	44,421	75,879	55,618
Term Deposit	-	-	55,422	55,422	65,422
Cash	30	159	-	189	281
Total cash funds	31,507	70,465	102,777	204,749	188,967
Other Monetary Assets					
Small loans outstanding	811	-	-	811	1,574
Amounts owing to District	-	-	-	-	958
Sub Total	811	-	-	811	2,532
Investment Assets					
Lancaster Scout and Guide Shop	6,907	-	-	6,907	6,266
Sub Total	6,907	-	-	6,907	6,266
Assets Retained for the Charity's own use					
Badge Stock	2,880	-	-	2,880	2,642
Campsite Shop Stock	-	919	-	919	1,508
Campsite Land and Buildings	-	210,000	-	210,000	210,000
Campsite Fixtures and Fittings	-	35,500	-	35,500	32,163
District Fixtures and Fittings	6,400	-	-	6,400	6,400
Land and Buildings in Kingsway, Heysham (sale proceeds in 2015)	100	-	-	100	12,900
Sub Total	9,380	246,419	-	255,799	265,613
Liabilities					
Accounts not yet paid	-	-	-	-	(3,000)
Sub Total	-	-	-	-	(3,000)
Total Assets less Liabilities	48,605	316,884	102,777	468,266	460,378

The financial information in this report has been taken from the independently examined financial statements for the period 1 March - 31 December 2014, which were approved by the Trustees at their meeting 18 May 2015. The full financial statements contain an unqualified report from the Independent Examiner and will be submitted to the Charity Commission. This summary information may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of Lonsdale District.

The full report will be available for download from the District web site after the AGM. If there are any questions regarding the financial statements please contact the District Treasurer, Stephen Clarke.