ANNUAL REPORT 2016

LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUTS

3/4 Moor Street, Lancaster, LA1 1PR 0845 300 1818 join@lonsdalescouts.org.uk www.lonsdalescouts.org.uk



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As always, time has flown by, and it's hard to believe that it's a year since our last AGM. Time for another great occasion though, not only bringing Lonsdale friends together, but also giving us all a chance to look back and celebrate the year just gone, and just as importantly to join together to look forward with enthusiasm and commitment to the year ahead.

I know we're going to hear lots of stories and reports during the evening about what our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Network Members have been up to over the past year, not to mention various Cub Centenary Celebrations - some already held and some still in the pipeline, and believe me, the variety of activities and achievements our young people all have to shout about is as impressive as ever.

Apart from the more obvious achievements and activities, a great feather in Lonsdale's cap over the past year has to

be in relation to growth. Nobody can fail to be impressed to hear that in 2015 we grew to a total of 1834 members (both young people and adults), which represents an increase of 12.6% on the 2014 membership figure, and as well as locally, Scouting nationally has seen an equally steady growth especially over the last decade.

It's a huge achievement, and could only have been accomplished by the continuing commitment of our adult volunteers, and the leadership of our superb District Team headed by Craig. It simply couldn't and wouldn't happen without them, and Scouting in Lonsdale owes them all a great debt of gratitude for what they do.

Congratulations to everyone involved with such an impressive year and here's to the next one. May it be equally successful!

Suzie Reynolds

DISTRICT PRESIDENT Lonsdale District Scouts

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Some of you will know that I have - since I moved to Lancashire - also been associated with another uniformed youth organisation. I'm frequently asked by those commanding that organisation why the Scouts are so successful. That organisation has not achieved the growth in the number of adolescents that have been achieved both locally and nationally within The Scout Association.

My reply [to such enquiries] often focuses on the work we have done to identify those Groups needing additional support or where there are gaps within our coverage. Part of our success has been the support provided by Barbara Hughes (our link Development Officer). Just one example has been the opening our newest Scout Group: Westgate (at the start of the year under review). We certainly identified a 'gap in the market'.

Our President has already mentioned the overall percentage growth achieved last year. As a scientist I could bombard you with endless statistics but I will refrain from doing this by highlighting just a few. The last time there were over 1800 young people and adults, within the District, was in 1994 - a total of 1818. After that there was a steady decline to a low of 1178 in 2004. Since then the trend has been mainly upwards - with a few blips. In the last five years we have grown our total by 31%. In the same period the number of young people has increased by 25%. I could go on

The District Executive Committee acknowledges their role as trustees in supporting the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of his role. Much has been achieved within the various areas of our responsibilities but we do know that there are still challenges to face. I echo the remarks of others: to acknowledge our leaders' dedication to their volunteer role(s), which is reflected in the myriad of activities provided for our young people and the linked growth in membership this means. Thank you.



A WORD FROM THE DC

Another record-breaking year! It's quite a headline, but it is true. We have more young people and adults enjoying Scouting than at any point in our history. We have more young people achieving top-awards. We have more young people benefitting from a year on year increase in the number of nights away offered. Last year, we had more young people on international adventures than at any point in our memory. We have enjoyed a year on year increase in the number of adults achieving adventurous activity permits, and we opened a new Scout Group and a new Explorer Scout Unit. By any measure, Lonsdale is a place where Scouting is alive with fun, friendship and adventure for all.

I enjoy nothing more than visiting sections, and taking part in the wonderful programmes on offer. It amazes me, that even over a century since our founding, new an exciting programme ideas stand along side our traditional activities. This year the giant game of hungy-hippos, using skateboards seems to have been a particular favourite. In the year ahead we must continue to innovate our programme, so that it is always relevant to the young people we serve, whilst keeping our core activities, such as camping, at the heart of what we do.

2015 has been a great year of adventure and travel, with Scouts visiting the World Scout Jamboree in Japan and sharing in the most unique cultural exchange on the planet- what a life changing adventure! The Jamboree reminds me of what makes Scouting special – it is about bringing young people together from all walks of life, from different parts of our World with different religions, cultures and giving them the tools to lead, work as a team, solve problems, live in peace and promote tolerance and understanding. That is exactly what we are trying to achieve in Lonsdale.

In my last report I indicated that being more youth led and more community focused would be a priority for us. We welcomed Daniel Coulthard and Michael Wetton as our Youth Commissioner and Deputy respectively, in the past year they have begun laying the foundations for a future where young people are involved in decision making at every level of our organisation. We have welcomed District Young Leaders to the Beaver and Cub Sections, increased our number of young leaders, and developing the Scout and Explorer Scout Forums aswell as using social networking to get feedback on a range of ideas from our young people. We must seize this opportunity, giving young people the skills to engage in decision-making, and have the courage to let them try, fail, and learn from their mistakes, as leaders, we must also be coaches.

This year has also seen us launch Lonsdale District Network, for all 18-25 members, and appoint Harriet Butterfield as our first ever District Network Commissioner. It's an exciting opportunity for us, to develop a programme of support, skills development and adventure for our Network members, giving them all the opportunity to achieve their Queen Scout Award, like Steven Lyde- who achieved the first one in Lonsdale in six years!

We are a community organisation, and we continue to work hard to be at the centre of our local communities. We continue to enjoy the support of our Friends at the CVS, from Rev Chris Newlands, Lancaster University Students' Union, Morecambe Winter Gardens, The Bay Radio and from one of our MPs and newly appointed Scouting Ambassador, Cat Smith. We share common values, and I am sure we can continue to support each other.

Our real community spirit was born out this year through various Community Impact Projects, where Scouts 'helped other people' as we have done for over a century. When our community was devastated by floods, Scouts sprung into action to help other people, checking on neighbours and helping them protect their homes. 35th Lancaster opened their doors to the community, boiling water and brewing up for those without power. Scout Groups have also adopted areas of land and public spaces, to keep clean and tidy or to develop for the community to enjoy. Others have supported the work of St. John's Hospice or worked with various mental health charities, or organisations that support those suffering from dementia. Everyone involved should be exceptionally proud.

My thanks, as always, go to everyone who plays a part, in whatever role, in making Lonsdale great. We are a team, and work together to give young people a better start in life. We make a difference!

It remains my pleasure to lead Lonsdale District Scouts and I cannot think of a more exciting organisation to be involved with, at a more exciting time. Here is to the future...



ACTIVITY CENTERS



Once again it has been a great year for both centres. Usage has increased by both our own groups and those from further afield. Thanks are due to the wardens of the sites; we have two dedicated wardens in Kieron Ryan at Silverhelme and Mick Woods at Littledale. We have received some encouraging feedback in relation to the work that has been carried-out and the overall appearance of the sites.

To mention just some of the work undertaken: at Littledale, the lodge has been painted both inside and out, the washrooms have been refurbished and all bunks have been repaired. At Silverhelme parts of the lodge floor have been replaced. The roof of the warden's hut has been replaced, after it was discovered to have become rotten. Both sites have had new more efficient heating boilers fitted in the lodges, as the previous ones were beyond repair. All fire alarm and emergency lighting systems have been checked and remedial work undertaken, where identified.

At long last the replacement of the toilet block at Silverhelme is within striking distance; planning permission has been granted for the revised drawings. At the present time quotations are being sought and we plan that work will start as soon as is practicable.

We record our appreciation for all the work undertaken by both our wardens plus the other volunteers who all work tirelessly to ensure that the facilities are available to all.

RECORD BREAKING GROWTH . . . AGAIN

6.3%

GROWTH IN YOUNG PEOPLE





420 Adult Volunteers 39.7% **TTT**

GROWTH IN ADULT VOLUNTEERS



say that Scouting has helped them develop key skills



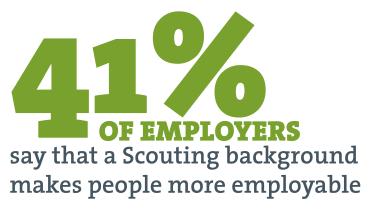
OF COMPANIES

and charities polled that Scouting has benefited their organisation **9100** OF VOLUNTEERS

say that Scouting has helped them develop key skills



say that Scouting has helped them build relationships



WORLD SCOUT JAMBOR

First of all we would like to thank you all for your help and support during our adventure to the World Scout Jamboree in Japan. Although at times we felt as if we would not reach our fundraising target, with everyone's encouragement we achieved more than we believed we could, and had so much fun along the way. The four of us have had an amazing time as part of our unit of 40; we would like to share our most memorable days whilst in Japan.



Patrick - Tokyo:

After a 17 hour journey we had finally arrived in Tokyo. We were quickly whisked away to the National Youth Centre - for a three night stay. After a couple of hours, Unit 53 was already going to the busy streets of Shibuya Crossing - the largest crossing in the world. This was a great place to experience city culture because the atmosphere was amazing. I had a great time because my group of friends found a lovely Japanese restaurant serving delicious food. This night was only a sign of things to come, as the next three days were full of excitement and fun. Next day began with a visit to an earthquake museum where we learnt about the devastating 2011 earthquake in Japan and how it affected the whole country; we even got to go on an earthquake simulator! That afternoon we took a monorail to the Joypolis Indoor Theme Park which was full of rides and arcade machines which kept us entertained. We also got to look around the shopping centre that Joypolis was in and have tea there. The next day began 350m high in the Tokyo Skytree Tower which gave breathtaking views of the city in all directions. But we didn't travel all that way just for the views: we got to visit Senso-ji Temple which was an amazing temple surrounded by traditional market stalls - a great taste of Japanese culture. Finally we made our way to the UK contingent party at Yokohama Harbour. This was filled with culture entertainment and an amazing atmosphere. The party was a great way to finish an incredible time in Tokyo and prepare us for the Jamboree. Luke - Community/Culture Days:

During the Jamboree there was the community day; we visited places in Japan and learnt more about the Japanese culture. My patrol and I visited a school and then the civic centre in the Japanese city of Hikari. At the school we were split off into groups and made traditional Japanese kites out of plastic and bamboo canes, then went outside to the playground and flew them; it was amazing the chain of hundreds of traditional kites filled the sky.

When we arrived the civic centre we were ushered to our seats and waited for the show to begin. We were then presented with a miniature shrine performance which concluded with all the members of the audience, of which there were over 200, on the stage joining in.

Another large aspect of the Jamboree is the cultures of all the different participants and experiencing these cultures. There was one day on the Jamboree that was specifically dedicated to experiencing as many different cultures as possible. All the units were required to set-up an interactive



stand showing their specific regional cultures; West Lancs chose the Blackpool Seafront!! This ranged from games played in the area to a taster session of local cuisine. The many other activities ranged from tasting traditional Finnish pastries to playing traditional Japanese games.

Lydia - Hiroshima:

As we arrived at Hiroshima the mood changed; the Jamboree experience so far had been about making new friends and experiencing new things. The atmosphere was



different, despite the language barrier everyone felt the same. We all shared the feeling of remorse, the tragedy that had happened 70 years ago still effects everyone that visits. We had a tour of the museum: the displays showed the collateral damage that the American's atomic bomb had caused. We saw the impact it had on the families that were living their everyday lives; their way of life was destroyed in an instance. Despite the bomb detonating at the end of World War II its effects can still be physically felt by many today; remaining victims still suffer from exposure to the radiation.

This experience was harrowing for all of us; one day on the Jamboree site the Japanese Scout Association organised a minute's silence; the 40 of us from West Lancs stood at our site in silence remembering what we had seen at the museum. I can remember the moment when the silence began and all 33,000 scouts from all over the world paid their respects to those affected. This was the only time in the 12 days on the Jamboree site that there was no noise at all. This was truly breath taking and showed an international sense of unity among the world of Scouting.

Alice - Home Hospitality:

One of the main attractions that prompted me to apply for the Jamboree was the opportunity to experience a culture that was so different to my own. Therefore, despite the worrying knowledge that I had gained from one training camp that the Japanese shower naked in public baths, I was extremely looking forward to the opportunity of Home Hospitality.

We knew very little about our Home Hospitality before we left for the Jamboree - only that we were visiting Takayama (known as the Japanese Alps). The rest of the experience was a surprise. Home Hospitality concluded our Jamboree experience and it was possibly the most daunting. It was only when we took the bullet train to Takayama that I fully realised that, in just over 24 hours, my buddy and I were going to be sleeping in a home belonging to a Japanese family that we had never met before. However, my nerves were calmed immediately by the warm welcome we received on arrival at the City Hall in Takayama: a ceremony had been organised by local Scout officials. We were then indulged with a delicious traditional Japanese meal before visiting a local dance festival which was extremely fun.

After the success of our first evening and a comfortable

night (due to the combination of a carpeted floor and air conditioning) the whole unit was eager to meet their host families. Following another traditional Japanese meal of sticky rice for breakfast Unit 53 travelled to a local nature park to meet our host families. The English ability varied from family to family but, embarrassingly, they all had much better English than we did Japanese!

The main adventure began after lunch when we all separated into our buddy groups and were taken to our respective host's family's home. Probably my favourite aspect of Home Hospitality was that everyone had a different experience to share with the group when we regrouped the day after. My buddy and I were definitely spoilt by our hosts: given five ice creams and two shaved ices in one day (not that I was complaining!). The 18 year old boy in the family and his three friends gave us a tour of Takayama including the local government buildings, temples, a festival museum and shopping. Back home the two younger girls in the family and their friends were keen



to play bingo and have a water fight with us. We were particularly touched by the preparation the girls had put in and were impressed by their ability to count up to 100 in English. I could go on - I have so many memories!!

It was amazing that we had gone from meeting strangers one afternoon and finding it so hard to say goodbye to them the next. The combination of experiencing a new culture, visiting a more rural area in Japan and making friends with our host family made Home Hospitality, in my opinion, the best part of the Jamboree and an experience I will never forget.

EXPLORER BELT

I applied for a place on the Explorer Belt as I wanted to get involved in a challenging international Scouting adventure. I have only ever been abroad twice: one weekend to Belgium with my family and the other to Belgium with school. So the trip was to be the longest time, and the furthest away, I've ever been.

There were three training weekends: the first at Littledale, where teams were formed. The second was at the Snowball Plantation near York where we held a "mini" Explorer Belt. As part of this we were issued with challenges which included finding someone who's been to Hungary and ask them about the country. With a bit of quick thinking I got chatting to those arranging the event and about their reconnaissance visits for the expedition so we achieved our first challenge before we even left the site! The last training weekend was held at the Phoenix Centre. There had been some team changes but we quickly became friends and worked well together.

Fundraising was a big part of the Explorer Belt for me sponsored swims, bingo nights and raffles. With these and some donations from local businesses plus a well-timed grant from Lonsdale District's International Fund, I was able to get to Hungary and have an amazing adventure.

The week before the expedition I was away doing my Gold DofE Award Expedition and once I came back from that I became very apprehensive about the forthcoming visit and the flight out there - as I've never flown before and never been that far from home; thankfully I enjoyed

the flight!

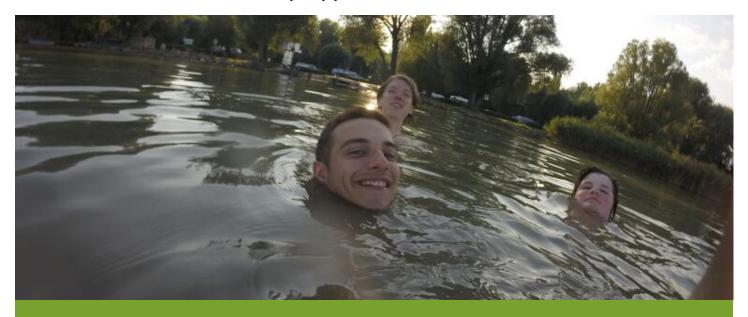
During the expedition we had to do a major project; we decide on looking at emergency services (mainly as one of our team has a slight obsession with fire engines). We also had ten mini projects, which included getting pictures of 50 ginger haired people (this was hard to do).

We met a lot of interesting people, including the man who shouted "BE PREPARED" across the metro station at me, which scared me out of my skin, at first, until I worked out what he had said. We met a group of Catalonian Girl Guides and Scouts cycling from Vienna to Budapest who helped us to complete some of our projects.

We spent seven days hiking (we covered a minimum of 100 miles on foot) round Lake Balaton which of course I couldn't help but swim in; I don't think I've yet managed a Scout camp or trip where I haven't got soaked.

After the expedition I had time to reflect on what it has done for me: I've grown in confidence - it now doesn't bother me to ask for directions - but previously talking to people I didn't know scared me. I am about to start at university and meet a lot of new people including hopefully a new Scout District and I feel that the Explorer Belt has helped me to feel more ready for this.

Callum Seton



KANDERSTEG



In the summer of 2015 a party of 36 Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Young Leaders and Leaders from Lonsdale District travelled to Kandersteg International Scout Centre. While we were there we did lots of activities and made friends with Scouts from around the world - some who we are still in touch with.

When we finally arrived at the campsite it was late, dark and very wet. Luckily the Leaders who went a day before, in the van with our luggage, had put our tents up. So all we had to do was sleep after a long day of travelling.

The next morning we woke up to an amazing view of the Alps. After breakfast we made our lunch and we had our first walk up the Alps to an Alpine Lake. When at the top, I bought my most expensive ice cream!!

The next day the Young Leaders, Explorer Scouts and older Scouts went on another walk up the Alps but this time it was a lot harder and stepper than the day before. While they completed their challenge the younger Scouts took part in the Swiss Explorer Badge. We had to complete different challenges around Kandersteg.

While we were on camp we took it in turns to cook, wash up and recycle. Kandersteg recycle everything, so it took ages to separate all the rubbish into the separate piles - sorting the food waste was disgusting.

One of the activities was swimming in the outdoor pool and afterwards we went to a party with all the other groups. The water was freezing but the view was fantastic.

During our stay it was Swiss National Day. We took part in international activities around the campsite. At night we joined in with the gigantic parade from the campsite into Kandersteg: there were speeches, traditional music and fireworks - everyone waved their flags. I felt like I was part of the Olympic Opening Ceremony; it was amazing to see so many flags and different Scout Uniforms.

One evening was campfire, it was the biggest campfire I have been to. We sang songs for three hours in lots of different languages. Lonsdale sang the "Boo ger lou".

After seven days of excitement, making new friends and exploring new places, it was sadly time to go home for a proper bed and much needed bath.

Our thanks to all the Leaders who made the trip possible.

Hannah Parker (Scout, 1st Carnforth Scout Group).

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	31/12/2015	31/12/2015	31/12/2015	31/12/2015	31/12/2015	31/12/2014
	District	Campsites				(10 months)
Receipts						
Membership Subscriptions	48,708	-	-	-	48,708	43,757
Less Paid	(34,167)	-	-	-	(34,167)	(31,164)
	14,541	-	-	-	14,541	12,593
Donations	1 270	F 000			6,372	E 272
Fundraising (Jamboree)	1,372	5,000	- 5,300	-	5,300	5,373 5,064
Lettings and Associated Income	- 2,648	- 44,281	5,500	-	46,929	42,041
Other Income	2,040	1,120	-	-	1,120	1,235
Activities	- 36,052	350	-	-	36,402	11,934
Training	1,470		_		1,470	1,621
Badge Sales	5,580	-	-	_	5,580	4,764
Investment Income	38	119	-	1,869	2,126	2,489
Explorers		-	2.742	1,003	2,742	5,760
SASU	_	_	245	_	245	5,700
Kingsway	537	-	240	-	537	1,680
Cubs 100		_	930	-	930	2,662
Sub Total	62,338	50,870	9,217	1,869	124,294	97,216
	02,000	50,070	5,217	1,003	124,234	57,210
Asset & Investment Sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	62,338	50,870	9,217	1,869	124,294	97,216
Paymanta						
Payments Youth Programme and Activites	33,525	774			34,299	11,579
Rent and Hall Hire	6,615	114	-	-	6,615	6,514
Heat, Light and Water	697	- 9,513	-	-	10,210	6,500
Repairs and Maintenance	326	17,825	-	-	18,151	15,516
Capital Expenditure	520	8,418			8,418	9,899
Insurance	707	6,188			6,895	1,323
Printing, Postage and Telephone	387	1,442	_		1,829	1,839
Governance and Trustee Expenses	1,297	-	-	_	1,297	1,125
Campsite Shops	1,237	802	_	-	802	1,008
Bank Charges	_	4	-	_	4	17
Professional fees	-	468	-	-	468	-
Grants to Groups	-		-	4,490	4,490	1,263
Grants to Individuals	600	-	-	-,-100	600	-
Badge Costs	5,475	-	-	-	5,475	4,842
Training	1,845	-	-	-	1,845	1,615
Team Expenses	1,782	-	-	-	1,782	954
Explorers	-	-	2,361	-	2,361	6,539
Development	1,033	-	_,	-	1,033	909
Miscellaneous	85	-	-	-	85	371
Donations	5,123	-	-	-	5,123	355
Jamboree	-	-	1,916	-	1,916	6,420
Cubs 100	-	-	-	-	-	1,454
SASU	-	-	141	-	141	312
Kingsway	-	-	-	-	-	1,079
Sub Total	59,497	45,434	4,418	4,490	113,839	81,433
		,			-	,
Asset & Investment Purchases, etc	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	59,497	45,434	4,41	4,490	113,839	81,433
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	2,841	5,436	4,799	(2,621)	10,455	15,783

LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	31/12/2015	31/12/2015	31/12/2015	31/12/2015	31/12/2015	31/12/2014
	District	Campsites				
Cash						
Current Accounts	3,259	30,609	-	1,389	35,257	73,259
Deposit Accounts	21,551	35,000	14,292	34,767	105,610	75,879
Term Deposit	-	10,000	-	64,000	74,000	55,422
Cash	45	292	-	-	337	189
Total Cash Funds	24,855	75,901	14,292	100,156	215,204	204,749
Other Monetary Assets						
Small Loans Outstanding	609	-	-	-	609	811
Amounts Owing to District	-	-	-	-	_	<u> </u>
Sub Total	609	-	-	-	609	811
Investment Assets						
Lancaster Scout and Guide Shop	6,783	_		_	6,783	6,907
Sub Total	6,783	-		-	6,783	6,907
	0,700				0,700	
Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use						
Badge Stock	3,825	-	-	-	3,825	2,880
Campsite Shop Stock	-	1,148	-	-	1,148	919
Campsite Land and Buildings	-	210,000	-	-	210,000	210,000
Campsite Fixtures and Fittings	-	35,500	-	-	35,500	35,500
District Fixtures and Fittings	6,400	-	-	-	6,400	6,400
Land and Buildings in Kingsway, Heysham	-	-	-	-	-	100
Sub Total	10,225	246,648	-	-	256,873	255,799
Liabilities						
Accounts not yet Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Assets less Liabilities	42,472	322,549	14,292	100,156	479,469	468,266

The financial information in this report has been taken from the independently examined financial statements for the period 1 January - 31 December 2015, which were approved by theTrustees at their meeting 19 May 2016. The full financial statements contain an unqualified report from the Independent Examiner and have been submitted to the Charity Commission. This summary information may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affiars of Lonsdale District.

The full report is available for download from the District web site. If thereare any questions regarding the financial infroamiton please contact the District Treasurer, Stephen Clarke.



3/4 Moor Street, Lancaster, LA1 1PR 0845 300 1818 join@lonsdalescouts.org.uk www.lonsdalescouts.org.uk