

# Another year, another adventure...

The Annual Report of Lonsdale District Scouts  
1st March 2013 - 28th February 2014



[lonsdalescouts.org.uk](http://lonsdalescouts.org.uk)

## **Legal and Administrative Information**

A Registered Charity

Charity Commission Number: 1027167

Headquarters Registration Number: 12904

Registered Office: 3 and 4 Moor Street, Lancaster, LA1 1PR

### **Trustees**

Cllr Paul Aitchison (appointed September 2013)

Mr David Bateman (appointed September 2013)

Mr Andrew Blenkinship (appointed September 2013)

Mr Terence Bond (resigned July 2013, re-appointed January 2014)

Mr Stephen Clarke

Mr Craig Dewar

Mr George Long

Mrs Patricia Griffin (resigned July 2013)

Mr John Edwards

Mr Peter Ellwood (died 4th January 2013)

Dr Howard Greenwood (appointed September 2013)

Mr James Holland

Mr David Manning (appointed March 2013)

Mr Mike Nelson (resigned January 2014)

Mrs Nicola Orton (appointed September 2013)

Mr Craig Pyne

Mrs Victoria Powell (appointed September 2013)

Mr Timothy Sargent

Mrs Tracy Seton (appointed September 2013)

### **Reporting Accountants**

Lonsdale and Marsh Chartered Accountants

White Cross, South Road, Lancaster, LA1 4XQ

### **Bankers**

Royal Bank of Scotland, 2 New Street, Lancaster, LA1 1EQ

CAF Bank Ltd. 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

### **Solicitors**

Joseph A Jones, Fenton Street, Lancaster, LA1 1TE

# Foreword

## By Terry Bond, Acting District Chairman

In the pages that lie ahead you will get a small flavour of the wonderful things that Lonsdale District Scouts is doing across our community. Working with children and young people from all walks of life to give them a better start in life by developing a sense of community, leadership skills, team-work and developing skills that prepare them for the World they will grow in.

It is a tragedy that we live in a World where young people so often appear in the media for the wrong reasons, where many people look at young people and see a 'hoodie'. Not us! We see the person wearing it, the talent waiting to be developed, a curiosity to be nurtured and most importantly, the future.

In this report it is clear that Scouting is more popular than ever, and more relevant too. With 74 sections meeting week in, week out, we can be proud that we are changing thousands of young peoples lives. We are ambitious too, we don't want to stop there. This year the District Executive adopted a new, five year strategic plan, 'Vision 2018' and through that plan we will see Lonsdale continue to grow, offering more opportunities to more young people and adults too. Through it's work, the District Executive is committed to developing Scouting, supporting groups and providing the facilities and resources that will ensure that Scouting continues to enjoy such success.

Last year at the District AGM, I stood down as District Chair, succeeded by Peter Ellwood. I did not expect to be writing this report again. Peter was, above all else, a man of enormous integrity, a true Scout; loyal, trustworthy, reliable and a friend to so many. We are poorer for Peter's passing, but stronger for everything that he gave to Scouting. In keeping with his tremendous service, we will now recognise, annually, a group or individual for their contribution to developing Scouting through the Peter Ellwood Memorial Award.

Lonsdale District Scouts is in safe hands, proud of its past and ready for the future. My sincere thanks go to everybody who makes Lonsdale great. Great for young people, great for adults too. We couldn't do it without you...



# District Commissioner's Report...

by Craig Dewar, District Commissioner



Scouting changes lives. Be in no doubt! As District Commissioner it is my tremendous privilege to visit groups, attend events and present awards and not a week goes by when Scouting fails to move me. Watching a Beaver Scout, aged 6, camp in a tent for first time or a Cub Scout lead a team in a competition and demonstrate excellent leadership skills, encouraging their team. Or a Scout who has just realised, by attending an international event, that Scouting is bigger than they could possibly imagine and that they are one of 32 million members World-wide. Or the Explorer Scout who, despite the pressures of school, organises a camp, independently, for the first time. The young leader who runs their first section night and it's a huge section. For me, it's also about leaders and adult volunteers, the friendship, support and teamwork. Scouting is special, and Scouting in Lonsdale is even more so...

In January 2014 we celebrated another year of membership growth with more adults and more young people wanting to join us. With 6% membership growth it's clear that young people vote with their feet. To meet that demand we have had to open more sections with new and second Beaver Colonies opening at 3rd Hornby, 1st Overton, 16th Morecambe and 53rd Lancaster and the re-opening of Scouts at 34th Lancaster and 3rd Hornby.

As a District we have increased our support to Scout Groups, working with Group Scout Leaders and Group Committees to make sure that every adult gets the support they need and that every young person gets the adventure they deserve. We've welcomed new Group Scout Leaders to 5th Lancaster, 13th Lancaster, 1st Slyne with Hest, 3rd Hornby, 34th Lancaster, 35th Lancaster, 1st Silverdale and 1st Warton and refreshed some of the District teams too.

This alone has not led to the membership growth, as a District we have enjoyed an increase in the number of nights away offered to young people. A vital ingredient in the Scouting diet. We have seen more groups presenting Chief Scouts Awards to young people, a further sign of our success.

more young people to join us.

## Beaver Scouts

The Beaver Section, led by Catherine Marsh, (Assistant District Commissioner for Beaver Scouts) have enjoyed another wonderful year. Creative challenges, mini-beast hunts, fire station visits, sleep-overs in libraries and Beavers camping, in tents, for the first time ever and they loved it!

The Beaver Section is alive and kicking, with so many children wanting to join that we had to open more colonies and welcome lots of fantastic new leaders to our team. Thank you. Leaders meetings are seeing an increasing attendance as leaders share programme ideas and we plan for a trip to Blackpool Zoo and a District Beaver Camp in the next financial year. But with all that hard work, it was no surprise that in December we had a long list of Beaver's waiting to be presented with their Chief Scout Bronze Award by Carl Hankinson (County Commissioner) at the Beaver Carol Concert at the Platform in Morecambe. A great year...but next year will be even better!



## Cub Scouts

With so much to shout about this year, the Cub Section had to create it's own chant this year. (Courtesy of Judith Hunter). The Cubs have done near enough every activity you can imagine during their section nights, from marshall-arts to climbing, bivi building to cooking on open fires and of course, camping! They've done it and they've loved it!

Along the way, with help from some Beavers and parents, they have planted over 150 young trees and shrubs at Silverhelme Campsite including 2 saplings for the Jubilee Year from the Royal Oak Tree at The Queen's estate at Sandringham. Community action for you...

The Cubs are a competitive bunch, and the usual round of football, chess and Scouting challenge competitions, with the District Swimming Gala, has kept the Cubs on their toes. But, as always, these young people (and their leaders) rise to the challenge and it has been great to see so many young people achieve their Chief Scout Silver Awards and be presented with their award by Suzie Reynolds, District President before taking over the play-barn at Greenlands Farm.

We've welcomed new leaders to our team too with new ideas and fresh enthusiasm for the new Scouting year ahead.

## Scout Section

A youth organisation, led by young people, in partnership with adults. What happens when you get patrol leaders from across the District together? Well, they tell you how it is...and how it should be! This year, with our patrol leaders forums, we have seen the ideas of young people come out, and ready to be implemented in the year ahead. It's going to be exciting...

In the past twelve months the Scout Section has welcome new leaders, and new members. As ever, our traditional events, like the Knight Hike and County Rally have been extremely popular and we are now in a position, with the Scouts, to look at what our new District Programme should be. John Buckley, District Scout Leader, retired from this role after many, many years organising events for us. Thank you John for all you've done!

Scouts continue to benefit from lots of nights away, hiking, climbing, abseiling, canoeing, mountain biking, backwoods cooking and so much more. Scout troops have been working together to share skills and share experience. Fiona Wetton, District Scout Leader seems to pick up an extra group each time she goes camping!

As ever, it is great to see so many Scout achieve their Chief Scout Gold Award and watch them beam with pride as they are presented their certificate at a special ceremony. The parents beam too! But, in the year ahead we need to do more, to make sure that every young person has the chance to achieve it...

## Explorer Scout Section

When Craig stood down as District Explorer Scout Commissioner in order to become District Commissioner in July, Tracy Seton took over the role and has witnessed another great year for Explorer Scouting.

Clear out the trophy cabinet...Lonsdale Explorers are coming! With almost a clean sweep at County Competitions this year you can understand why Lonsdale Explorers are loud and proud. After rolling around in mud at County Explorer Scout Camp in June and climbing up mountains in the Mountain Adventure Challenge and, orienteering, sea-kayaking, mountain biking and hill waling at the 'Splash and Dash' competition we needed to set up a contract with the local engravers as they etched our names on to the trophy. Great work guys!

Our Young Leader Section is thriving too, with young leaders in every group with the opportunity to attend fantastic residential training. Despite staying up all night, playing games, the young leaders undertook training in programme planning, leadership styles, and lots more. They are such a strength of our District and we should be immensely proud.

A steady number of Chief Scout Awards and Duke of Edinburgh Awards indicate the health of our programme, the determination of our young people and effort of the leaders. Next year Lonsdale Explorers want to spread their wings far and wide, and make the most of the international opportunities available.

When Pat Griffin stood down, after over 6 years as District Commissioner in July, she left a District in a strong position to move forward. She worked tirelessly to make Lonsdale great, and it falls to us all to make the most of that opportunity. Thanks Pat.

To seize the opportunities we needed a strategy, 'Vision 2018' a plan to make sure that we move forward, increase youth involvement, work closer with community partners, grow, recruit more adults, embrace a changing World, and help change it. The strategy is on our website, it's ambitious but achievable because we have such fantastic support from volunteers, in lots of different roles. I'd like to thank my District team, and everyone, in whatever role they play that helps make Scouting the best hobby on Earth.

It's been a great year, but our best days still lie before us...

Craig Dewar

District Commissioner

## Adult Support

Pat Griffin may have retired as District Commissioner but she needed a new challenge...Local Training Manager! With reviewed training for adults, and a more flexible approach we have seen more leaders complete training and achieve wood beads. Pat has worked tirelessly with Tony Barker and Judith Hunter to ensure that leader records are accurate with Pat meeting lots of leaders to carry out 1-1 training meetings and validations. It is no surprise that we have seen a reduction of leaders on provisional appointments, because they have completed their training and a huge increase in the number of woodbeads presented. Training is fun, lively, interactive and supportive and Pat always receives great feedback. Congratulations to all leaders who have completed their training this year.

## Activities

Stuart Lockton, (Assistant District Commissioner for Activities) has had a very busy year. A full review of the adventurous activities we offer at our Activity Centres has led to a new set of operating procedures, some technical changes and us offering more activity training for leaders wanting to offer archery, shooting and river - walking. In addition to this, over 35 permits have been issued to leaders who are now able to offer adventurous activities, a vital component in adding excitement and adventure to our programme.

## Activity Centres

Blessed with two activity centres, Littledale and Silverhelme, the District is committed to developing them to offer a base for every leader and every section to deliver Scouting.

At Littledale, the warden's accommodation has been improved and now features a new shop and reception area as well as fridge and freezer for campers. The site has now also been fitted with broadband making it the ideal location for training weekends. A new filtration system has been built to purify the water on site- it's so good we could sell it!

In the year ahead work will begin at Silverhelme to improve the driveway and to build a new toilet and shower block. As ever, both sites are popular with Scouts, Guides and other organisations and bookings are healthy.

Moving forward, a ten year plan will be generated to secure the future of both centres. Thank you to all involved with maintaining and running them.



## **District Officials**

District President: Mrs Suzie Reynolds  
District Commissioner: Mr Craig Dewar  
District Chairman: Mr Terence Bond  
District Secretary: Mr David Manning  
District Treasurer: Mr Stephen Clarke

## **Assistant District Commissioners**

Beaver Scouts: Mrs Catherine Marsh  
Cub Scouts: Mrs Pat Armstrong  
Scouts: Mr Paul Sargent  
Explorer Scout Commissioner: Mrs Tracy Seton  
Activites: Mr Stuart Lockton  
Projects: Mr Craig Pyne  
Scout Active Support: Mr David Wilkinson  
Local Training Manager: Mrs Pat Griffin

## **District Leaders**

Beavers: Lindsey Hall, Lesley Sayer, Mandy Seddon, David Wilkinson  
Cubs: Mark Bleasdale, Margaret Duncan, Helen Holmes, Emma Pearce  
Scouts: Janet Bradshaw, Scott Duncan, Mark Walker, Fiona Wetton.  
Explorer Scouts: Paul Geddes, Pat Nelson

Badge Secretary: Mr John Buckley,  
Appointments Secretary: Miss Judith Hunter  
Local Training Administrator: Mr Tony Barker  
Nights Away Advisors: Margaret Eddowes and Alan Hague  
Want to Join Administrator: Margaret Eddowes

## **Activity Centres**

Chairman: Mr Nigel Pullen  
Secretary/ Bookings Secretary: Mr Arthur Griffin  
Treasurer: Mr Ray Salisbury  
Warden (Littledale): Mr Kevin Greene and Mrs Tracy Greene.  
Warden (Silverhelme): Mr Kieron Ryan and Mrs Dorothy Ryan.