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# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

When I sat down to write a piece for last year's AGM report, I remember commenting that the growth in our organisation during 2015 had been a great feather in Lonsdale's cap. And while I was writing, I remember thinking that maybe we were close to reaching the peak of our growth, for the time being, and that while 2016 wouldn't see numbers reduce, it might possibly see them remain fairly static.

How wrong could I have been? A year on, and our membership has increased again, and is now at its highest point ever, with a growth in youth membership of 6% - bringing the total membership of young people and adults to 1949, and making us the third biggest district in West Lancs.

So we are now able to celebrate a fifth consecutive year of membership growth, and while doing so, recognise that this has been achieved by excellent leadership from the District Team, as well as the continued commitment and enthusiasm of our adult volunteers who all keep their eyes and ears open for opportunities for expansion, and are often also able to identify possible areas where extra support may be needed.

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This past year, of 2016, was certainly be one of celebration - not only the 100th Anniversary of Cub Scouts and the 30th Anniversary of Beaver Scouts but also another year of growth, for us. We are now bigger, in this District, than we have ever been. Unlike some other organisations, I know of, we are committed to looking forward and identifying areas where there is no youth provision - and then doing something about it. We also support Groups currently facing challenges - be that of leader shortage, lack of support for a programme refresh.

In our weekly meetings, camps and other activities (organised by the Group, District or even County) we provide a whole variety of activities (and events) that many young people would not otherwise experience. As I reflect on my lengthy membership of the Movement there have been many similar experiences that, I believe, have aided my journey along life's path. I feel certain that this is also true for today's young members.

Members of the District Executive Committee acknowledge their role, as trustees, in supporting the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities

On the expansion front, two notable recent successes: at the end of last year we opened a new Scout Group in Galgate and an Explorer Scout Unit in Bolton-le-Sands.

With the Cubs' 100th birthday and the Beavers 30th also taking place during the year, there's also been lots for everyone to celebrate, and I know you're going to read more about these celebrations later in this report.

So congratulations to everyone concerned on another extremely successful year, and a very big thank you, as always, to all our volunteers whose time and effort keep Lonsdale going so successfully. It is enormously appreciated. I'm sure that with your input, when we meet again in 2018, we'll be celebrating an equally successful year.

## Suzy Reynolds

DISTRICT PRESIDENT

of his role. Much continues to be achieved but we acknowledge there is still work to do. I have contact with a number of charities and I acknowledge that we're much better prepared than many other trustees.

As I prepare this report we're in the middle of National Volunteers' Week - a chance to be part of the UK's biggest celebration of volunteering, recognising the contribution of 23 million people who volunteer in their communities across the UK. That's an impressive figure - which includes those from all walks-of-life and a myriad of forms of volunteering (by the young and not so young!). Focussing more locally, we appreciate that without the dedication of our adult leaders and supporters we would not be celebrating our successes of the past year. Thanks to everyone - on behalf of the young people we commit to support week-by-week.

Of necessity, this Annual Report focusses on just a few of our achievements year; to find out more ask

## Tony Andrews

DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

# A WORD FROM THE DC

2016 was, by any measure, an immensely successful year for Lonsdale District Scouts. We celebrated yet another year of membership growth, an increase in the number of nights away, an increase in the number of adults recognised with good service awards, more adults completing their adult training, more top-awards being achieved by young people, more adventurous activities being offered and a range of international opportunities have enabled our young people to unlock the true potential of Scouting: it's 40 million strong membership in almost every Country on Earth.

These successes must be set against the backdrop of two historic markers for us: The Centenary of Cub Scouting and the 30th Birthday of Beaver Scouts.

2016 was a year, more so than normal, when we offered new adventures for our young people and reached out into our communities - raising the profile of Scouting.

In doing so, we have reminded many adults, who were members in their youth, of the opportunities, fun, adventure and friendship that they enjoyed and they are coming back to us!

Helping others, and making an impact in our communities has been at the heart of Scouting for over 110 years. Through Scouting, we engage young people in their communities and encourage them to take ownership and responsibilities as citizens. In 2016, our members, to support charities, raised hundreds of pounds. Community spaces were adopted and renovated to improve the environment. Canals were cleaned up, to support greener, cleaner living in the community. Our young people took part in events to support people with dementia. These are just a few of the ways that Scouting is having an impact.

The main way that Scouting is having an impact is of course, through the development of young people. Our adult volunteers deliver exciting opportunities for young people each week which encourage them to do more than they imagined they could, to lead teams, to push themselves to the limits, to work with other people - and to have a great time in the process. As a result, Scouting in Lonsdale and our wider community, has an exciting future - with immensely talented young people coming through our ranks.

Looking forward, we will continue to ensure that there is a place for all young people who want to be involved in Scouting and tackle the waiting lists which leave too many young people missing out, for too long. To do this, we will continue to invest in developing Scouting in new groups and through opening new sections also in recruiting more adults to join us in leadership and support roles. To achieve this, we need to keep Scouting in the forefront of people's minds - by promoting the wonderful things that we do for young people, and the many advantages that volunteering brings for adults. Scouting can never be an insular organisation - we must reach out to our communities and work with partners to ensure that every young person, whatever their background, can benefit from our brand of everyday, life-changing, adventure. As such, I was delighted that Cal Smith MP accepted my offer to become a Scouting Ambassador and she has already had a huge impact in championing our cause.

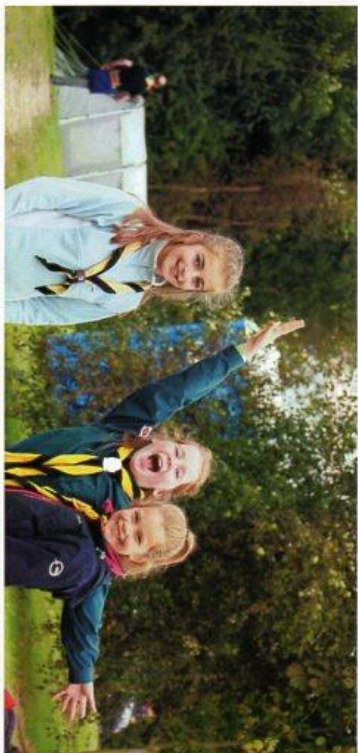
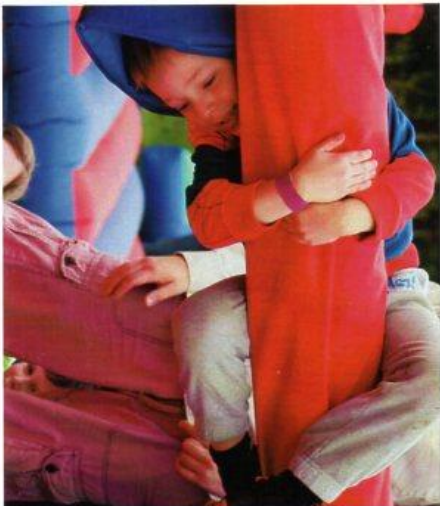
As ever, I am hugely proud to lead this organisation, because of the work of our incredible volunteers - thank you for everything that you do to give young people a better start in life.

## Craig Dewar

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER



# DISTRICT CAMP



# YOUTH SHAPED SCOUTING

Since my appointment, and the refreshed focus on Youth Shaped Scouting, we have worked to celebrate the opportunities we offer our younger members: to be involved in leadership and decision-making roles (and also acknowledge the support we offer them). It is worth taking a moment to thank all members of the District for their support and engagement in embracing the modern approach towards this age-old value.

As District Youth Commissioner, I have experienced no opposition to my role - whereas I am aware other Youth Commissioners, in our County, have. I am therefore grateful and appreciative of your support. It's been an enjoyable to see young people learn and succeed from opportunities to lead; listening to feedback (which is reported back to the relevant adult team); and working with younger members to improve Scouting experiences for all in the District.

A particular highlight this year was visiting 35th Lancaster Scouts during #YouShape month, where their Scouts were given the opportunity to organise and run a camp for themselves - with their Beaver Colony also attending. I was impressed with the level of detail included in the plans: including transportation to and from the camp, risk assessments, activities for the Beavers and a Nights Away Notification form. The event which was overseen by Camp Leader Sarah, who is now an Explorer Scout. The first District Young Leader appointments have finished their term and are now involved with Lonsdale Scout Network.

Many thanks to Beaver DYLs Lydia Mann and Luke Wilkinson and Cub DYLs Adam Buyers and Jack Yates for all your efforts: contributing in meetings; attending events; and championing Youth Shaped Scouting.

As you may well know Youth Shaped Scouting would not be possible without the partnership with and assistance from our adult members. We value the feedback from you in promoting Youth Shaped Scouting equally.

Following a meeting with the District's Explorer Scout Leaders we changed how we will run the Explorer Forum. Instead of having a number of Explorer Scouts from each Unit meeting together it was suggested that the Youth Shaped Team complete the Forum in a "roadshow" fashion, visiting Unit separately to gather views. This new approach will be implemented later this year.

Finally, I would like to repeat what I said at the first Leaders' Meeting of the year: the biggest challenge I have found is communicating with Scout Groups that I have not had any previous links with. Therefore, if your Group or Section is planning, or has done, something with a focus on Youth Shaped Scouting or would like some support promoting Youth Shaped Scouting please get in touch.

**Daniel Coulthard**

DISTRICT YOUTH COMMISSIONER

# CUB SCOUT CENTENARY

What an amazing year 2016 was for our 8 to 11 year old Cub Scouts! We barely had time to sew on all the badges achieved, before another adventure was on its way.

It all started with a Snow Ball Fight. Lonsdale Cubs enjoyed a Snow Day at Rossendale: skiing and sledging, and guess what, they even had real snow! It was brilliant!

In our Centenary Year it was right that we paid tribute to all those people who made 100 years of Cub Scouting possible, so we held a 'Thank You' event in The Wreter Gardens in Morecambe. This event showcased Cub Scouting in Lonsdale and gave us the opportunity to thank those who have been part of the section, and its success, over the last 100 years. We were even joined by the Mayor of Lancaster who enjoyed making rope out of toilet paper, sampling arm-pit fudge and firing rockets - to name but a few activities that were on display during the day.

In February, we needed five coaches to transport some very excited Cub Scouts to take over Blackpool Pleasure Beach - along with 8000 other Cub Scouts from across the North West Region and beyond. This was the first time in the history of the Pleasure Beach that exclusive access had been granted. The persistent rain didn't dampen anybody's spirits as we spent the day smiling and laughing; riding roller-coasters, going on the log-flume and having lots of fun. The UK Chief Commissioner, Wayne Bulpitt, joined us for the day along with Cat Smith our local MP and now Scouting Ambassador (who rode on the toboggan ride with some of our Cub Scouts!).

April saw us lacing up our boots, and hiking up Farleton Fell. It was a fabulously attended event that saw lots of tired and weary Cubs at the end of the day, but with yet another badge to find time to sew on.

After a very well attended District Challenge Day, 16th Lancaster Madean and Citon Church Cub Scout Sections went on to be 1st and 2nd in the County Centenary Competition. We were all very proud of them, but then again, we always knew we were the best!

When Disney re-made The Jungle Book into a blockbuster movie, their marketing team got it right when they released it in 2016. This was too good an opportunity to miss (due to the historic links with the book and it's influence on the Cub Scout Section), so a trip to Vue Cinema was arranged. Lonsdale Cubs took over two screens to have an exclusive viewing.

One of the Highlights of the year was The County Cub Camp. The theme was about decades in the last 100 years and Lonsdale were given the challenge of delivering buses around the 1936 to 1946 era. The leaders embraced the task in true Lonsdale fashion and the buses were enjoyed by all of the 1500 young people. The Camp Badge Design Competition was won by one of our very own Lonsdale Cub Scouts and we very nearly won the Leader Tag-of-War, but were thwarted in the final by a very strong Blackpool Team.

With lots of other events taking part throughout the year, it all culminated in the most important event of the year, The Promise Party at the Ashton Hall. Ballroom, a disco, singing and games, built us up into a frenzy for the renewing of the Promise. As we linked up with other Districts across the County, the Cub Section renewed their promise exactly 100 years to the day it all started. The Ashton Memorial was lit up in Green and yellow to mark the day, and we had cake, lots of cake. We celebrated more Cub Scouts achieving their Chief Scout Silver Awards than ever before and even more Cubs starting their Scouting adventure.

We've had a great Centenary, a great year, but the best is yet to come...



# BEAVERS 30<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

In our 30th year we've been celebrating with the busiest ever...

It started with a wonder Birthday Camp at Littledale Scout Activity Centre for our excited 6 to 8 year old Beavers - who enjoyed a weekend full of adventure, making the most of a night sleeping in tents with their friends.

The theme of adventure continued as we embarked on an Activity Day at Guy's Farm in July, with our budding explorers taking part in lots of exciting and challenging activities.

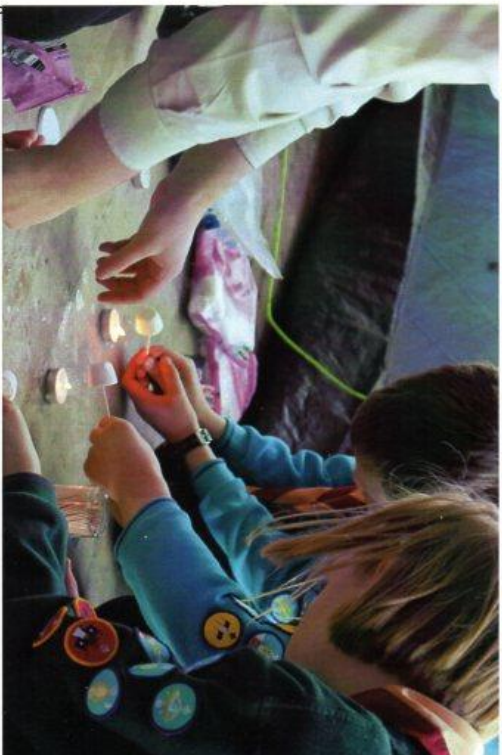
As the autumn weather set in, the Beavers carried on going outside! In October, a 'My World' day was organised at Leighton Moss RSPB nature reserve. As the children became nature detectives, they earned their Explorer Badge.

We didn't just test their survival and physical skills this year, we put their minds to the test, too. Our first ever District Quiz was won by the brain-boxes from 53rd Lancaster who were fiercely challenged by a close second, 16th Lancaster.

All birthdays must come to an end, but not without a party! In December, we hosted a birthday bash like no other at Our Lady's Catholic College. It was hugely popular, with so many people there, including a visit from Father Christmas, who presented the Beavers with a special gift to remember a special year.

30 years on, Beaver Scouting is bigger and better than ever before: with more adventure, more challenge and lots more awards. Congratulations to the many, many Beavers who achieved the top award, the Chief Scout Bronze Award, in 2016 - it's a sign that with an exciting programme our young people achieve extraordinary things.

Here's to the next 30 years....



## ACTIVITY CENTRES

Both of our sites were well used during the past year both by Scout Groups from Lonsdale as well as scouts from around the country. Guides, schools and other youth groups have also used our facilities - many taking part in DofE Award Expeditions. There were 81 bookings for Littledale and 114 for Silverhelme. We count a booking as one group of young people - whether they camp and/or use the indoor accommodation. In total, we had 1,971 visitors to Littledale and 2,925 visitors to Silverhelme.

The lodges (indoor accommodation) at both sites have had new, more efficient heating boilers fitted, with much more work done to improve the general condition of the buildings. At Littledale the washrooms have been refurbished, the rooms painted, as has the outside. At Silverhelme the floor has been renewed in parts and showers replaced.

A great deal has also been done in the outdoor areas. This includes both general and reactive maintenance plus tidying-up to improve the overall appearance of each site. At Littledale the chapel has been renovated.

We've been working to provide both archery and shooting at Littledale following a break-in. This

latter, unfortunate incident lead to us receiving great support from the community (following news of the event in the local press).

At long last, after a wait of about eight years, the toilet block at Silverhelme is to be replaced. Work is programmed to start at the end of August 2017, with the demolition of the existing building; the whole project is to be completed by the end of the year.

Overall, both sites are looking better than ever. Most of the work has been carried out by our wardens and their teams of volunteers (thus keeping the running costs down). We are very fortunate to have Mick Woods at Littledale and Kieron Ryan at Silverhelme - each in the warden's role. Finally, bookings are continuing to come in - efficiently dealt with by our Bookings Secretary, Dorothy Ryan.

The sites are in use nearly every week end of the year; our aim is to provide an enjoyable and safe environment for young people to enjoy the great outdoors.

**Nigel Pullen**

CHAIRMAN, ACMB

LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Unrestricted Funds 31/12/2016	Unrestricted Funds 31/12/2016	Restricted Funds 31/12/2016	Endowment Funds 31/12/2016	Total Funds 31/12/2016	Total Funds 31/12/2016
<b>Receipts</b>						
Membership subscriptions	50,787	-	695	-	51,482	48,708
Less Paid	(36,166)	-	-	-	(36,166)	(34,167)
	14,621	-	695	-	15,316	14,541
Donations	641	1,126	-	-	1,767	6,372
Fundraising (Lamborne)	-	45,916	-	-	48,456	5,300
Letters and Associated Income	2,550	1,141	-	-	4,691	46,929
Other Income	35	643	-	-	778	1,170
Youth Programme and Activities	29,369	-	-	-	29,369	36,402
Training	560	-	-	-	560	1,470
Badge Sales	6,335	-	-	-	6,335	5,580
Investment Income	295	514	100	-	909	2,126
Expenses	-	-	3,464	-	(3,464)	2,742
SASU	-	-	211	-	(211)	245
Kingsway	203	-	-	-	203	537
Cubs 100	-	-	11,934	-	11,934	930
<b>Sub Total</b>	54,609	49,340	16,424	1,366	121,729	124,234
<b>Asset and Investment Sales, etc.</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>54,609</b>	<b>49,340</b>	<b>16,424</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>121,729</b>	<b>124,234</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Youth Programme and Activities	27,846	2,814	-	-	30,660	34,269
Rent and Hall Hire	6,615	8,124	-	-	14,739	6,615
Heat, Light and Water	748	1,196	-	-	1,944	10,210
Repairs and Maintenance	203	27,145	-	-	27,348	18,151
Capital Expenditure	527	211	-	-	738	8,418
Insurance	700	2,829	-	-	3,529	6,895
Printing, Postage and Telephone	70	1,478	-	-	1,548	1,829
Governance and Trustees Expenses	1,050	-	-	-	1,050	1,297
Campsite Shops	-	766	-	-	766	882
Bank Charges	60	10	-	-	70	4
Professional Fees	530	2,100	-	-	2,630	4,490
Grants to Outposts	700	-	-	1,715	2,415	600
Badge Costs	5,750	-	-	-	5,750	5,475
Training	1,196	-	-	-	1,196	1,845
Team Expenses	1,215	-	-	-	1,215	1,782
Expenses	-	-	5,896	-	(5,896)	2,391
Development	643	-	-	-	643	1,033
Miscellaneous	194	1,702	-	-	1,896	85
Donations	300	-	-	-	300	5,123
Jamboree	-	-	-	-	-	1,916
Cubs 100	333	-	14,072	-	14,405	14,405
SASU	-	-	10	-	10	141
<b>Sub Total</b>	48,680	47,179	19,978	1,715	117,552	113,839
<b>Asset &amp; Investment Purchases, etc</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>48,680</b>	<b>47,179</b>	<b>19,978</b>	<b>1,715</b>	<b>117,552</b>	<b>113,839</b>
<b>Net of Receipts/(Payments)</b>	<b>5,929</b>	<b>2,161</b>	<b>(3,554)</b>	<b>(359)</b>	<b>4,177</b>	<b>10,455</b>

LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL  
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Unrestricted Funds 31/12/2016	Unrestricted Funds 31/12/2016	Restricted Funds 31/12/2016	Endowment Funds 31/12/2016	Total Funds 31/12/2016	Total Funds 31/12/2016
<b>Cash</b>						
Current Accounts	5,084	32,873	696	734	39,587	35,257
Deposit Accounts	25,704	45,000	9,642	35,063	115,609	105,610
Term Deposit	-	-	-	64,000	64,000	74,000
Cash	16	189	-	-	205	337
<b>Total Cash Funds</b>	<b>30,784</b>	<b>78,062</b>	<b>10,738</b>	<b>99,797</b>	<b>219,381</b>	<b>215,204</b>
<b>Other Monetary Assets</b>						
Small Loans Outstanding	405	-	-	-	405	609
Amounts Owning to District	355	-	-	-	355	-
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>609</b>
<b>Investment Assets</b>						
Lancaster Scout and Guide Shop	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	6,783
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>6,783</b>
<b>Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use</b>						
Badge Stock	3,963	-	-	-	3,963	3,875
Campsite Shop Stock	-	1,023	-	-	1,023	1,148
Complete Land and Buildings	-	735,000	-	-	735,000	210,000
Complete Fixtures and Fittings	6,400	35,500	-	-	41,900	35,500
District Fixtures and Frings	-	-	-	-	-	6,400
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>10,363</b>	<b>771,523</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>781,886</b>	<b>256,873</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Accounts not yet Paid	(670)	-	-	-	(670)	-
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>(670)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(670)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Assets less Liabilities</b>	<b>46,238</b>	<b>848,585</b>	<b>10,738</b>	<b>99,797</b>	<b>1,006,358</b>	<b>479,469</b>

The financial information in this report has been taken from the independently examined financial statements for the period 1 January - 31 December 2016, which were approved by the Trustees at their meeting 18 May 2017. The full financial statements contain an unqualified report from the Independent Examiner and have been submitted to the County 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.