



Scouts

Lonsdale



Annual Report 2020

1554
Young
People

439
Adults

24 Scout Groups

26
Colonies

27
Packs

25
Troops

9
Units

421
Beaver Scouts

471
Cub Scouts

414
Scouts

163
Explorer Scouts

85
Scout Network

2 Active Support Units

6306 Nights Away

672 Overseas Nights Away

World Scout Jamboree, Zellhof, Haarlem Jamboree, Explorer Belt, Nepal and Uganda

15 Group Headquarters

Remaining Groups meet in schools and other community facilities

2 Activity Centres plus District Headquarters

President and Chair's Foreword

2019 - the period covered by this report, which coincides with our accounting year - has been another eventful, enjoyable and successful year. We focus on just a small number of events but, rest assured, Scouting in Lonsdale continues, week-by-week, to provide a varied programme of experiences for young people within our area: #SkillsForLife. It is too early to reflect on our response to the enforced cessation of face-to-face Scouting experienced for much of 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic: more of that next year.

It's not just about numbers but the Census taken at the start of 2020 recorded an increase of 77 youth members, thus making us the second largest District in West Lancashire. There was an increase in the membership of all four Sections - notably a 19% increase in Explorer Scouts (in part as a new Unit was opened, during the year, based in Caton). A more detailed breakdown of our membership is given elsewhere in this report.

Our leaders, young leaders and supporters tirelessly devote many hours to support and encourage our young people. For this we are most grateful. What would we do without them? Many wear uniform and there are also significant numbers in support roles - including members of Group Executive Committees etc. Some have more than one role within our Groups or District. For everyone: it is 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.

Our membership database, affectionately known as 'Compass', records the details of approximately 780 adult volunteers. This figure differs from that given elsewhere in this report as some support groupings are not included in the annual Census. With some approximations, we calculate that, in total, our volunteers have committed nearly 5,000 years of service to the Movement. Much has been solely within West Lancashire but for a few it has also been in other Counties or Nationally. Some individuals alone have exceeded 60 years but more than 60% have supported us for less than five years each.

Such sustained, individual commitment is recognised by submitting recommendations for Good Service Awards. A small Awards Advisory Committee works with the District Commissioner to consider possible recommendations - a process that often starts months prior to any announcement. Many volunteers have been recognised during the year, with more to come. It has been good to welcome many recipients to our awards receptions at Leighton Hall to celebrate these achievements.

We also acknowledge support the District has received from the wider local community. Of note, £5,000 was received from The Harris Charity plus £2,000 from The Elizabeth and Richard Wilson Charitable Trust; these have been used to support the infrastructure of our Activity Centres. An anonymous donor generously provided £400 to enable young people to participate in life-changing events (who otherwise might not have been able to do so).

In concluding, we recognise that 2019 was our District Commissioner Mandy Sweet's first year in her appointment. Much has been achieved through her dedication, commitment and leadership.

Suzie Reynolds DL
District President

Tony Andrews
District Chair

District Commissioner's Report

I write this report during Volunteers' Week, an annual celebration of the contribution millions of people make across the UK through volunteering. I have spent my first year as District Commissioner celebrating the work volunteers in Lonsdale District do every week. I have seen so many selfless acts and so many hours given to making sure that the young people in our District live up to the values of Scouting and are given the opportunity to confidently make an impact on their own futures.

In Scouting we believe that through adventure we challenge individuals so that they learn and experience new things and enrich their lives.

Every week over 1,550 young people and 439 adult volunteers take part in Scouting projects and activities at the heart of the Lonsdale community. It is our role to ensure that every one of our members has the facilities and support to take part in these activities. To enable us to offer young people the opportunity to develop 'skills for life' in a safe environment it is important that our District has focus and direction. The District Strategy developed in 2019, in line with the National and County strategies, will help the District focus on ensuring continued success over the coming years. We have an ambitious plan to raise our profile in the area, to develop and grow our fabulous activity centres, to effectively manage and support our members and to increase the number of young people who are achieving top awards. These, along with other goals that we have identified, will ensure the success of our District going forward.

This year we have been involved with lots of external events, Pride Marches, Remembrance Sunday Services, St. Georges' Day Parade and a very wet carnival in Morecambe. Through these we have been reminded how much we are respected in the community and how many lives we have touched. I have lost count of the number of people who spoke to me about the wonderful time they had when they were a Cub, or the time they went wild camping in the Lakes with Venture Scouts. Let's use these opportunities to become even more visible in the community and make sure we continue to be recognised as the leading youth organisation in the area.

We are blessed in Lonsdale to have two Activity Centres that are superbly managed by our volunteer wardens Kieron and Mick and their hardworking teams with the support of the Activity Centres' Management Board. The sites look wonderful and have seen thousands of nights spent both 'under canvas' and in the two residential lodges. With new activities on both sites and a climbing wall at Carnforth Base Camp, shooting range at 13th Lancaster and tomahawk throwing at 3rd Morecambe and Heysham we have lots of opportunities to get out of our Scout 'huts'.

2019 saw five of our District young people go off to the 24th World Scout Jamboree to experience a life-changing trip to America and Canada they will never forget. We also had a District overseas trip to the Zellhof International Scout and Guide Centre in Austria where the contingent experienced a brilliant 10 days of discovery, adventure and fun, and made friendships that will last for a very long time. Thank you to Scott Duncan and his team for making this possible. With further members of our District travelling the globe and making a difference in Nepal, Haarlem, Africa and Eastern Europe and a number of fortunate

Lonsdale members selected for future trips this is only proving, what we already know, that the young people in Lonsdale District are simply the best.

This year we have started on our journey to have 2,021 members in the District by 2021; we are aiming high and have recently opened new sections at 1st Silverdale, 53rd Lancaster and Hornby and Wray Scout Groups. We have opened a new Explorer Scout Unit in Caton and we have our sights set on more expansion in the near future. Growth is about making sure that more young people can gain access to our wonderful organisation and become members of our Scouting family.

Thank you to Suzie Reynolds, our District President, for allowing us to use her beautiful home at Leighton to celebrate the service achievements of our leaders and present some well-deserved Good Service Awards. The passion and commitment of our adult members helps considerably in making us such a successful District - the room was full to capacity, and the cakes were delicious as always!

It is a tremendous honour to be District Commissioner in Lonsdale District. Thank you all for your support and unfailing commitment. I know that if we will all continue to work together Lonsdale will become even stronger.

Mandy Sweet

District Commissioner



Activities Centres

Lonsdale District is in the enviable position of owning two Activity Centres: SilverHelme and Littledale. SilverHelme is located within the Silverdale and Arnsdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Littledale is situated within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Both Activity Centres are easily accessible to Groups within the District and offer both indoor 'lodge style' accommodation and traditional camping, along with a wide range of on-site and local activities suitable for all Sections.

During 2019 we have seen continues regular use of both Centres, with two large bookings during the summer. Again, a significant number of users have been from outside the District; in future years we will be encouraging greater use by Lonsdale Groups.

A new Activity Centres' management structure has been implemented and the focus this year has been the review and update of our safety management systems and the completion of the new toilet block at SilverHelme and an upgraded water system at Littledale. The Centres continue to be operated by volunteers, and again we extend our thanks to the Wardens, Mick (Littledale) and Kieron (SilverHelme), their site teams and the members of the Operating and Management Groups. During 2019 Stephen Rose handed over the role of Booking Secretary to Steph Stephenson, who can be contacted for booking inquiries through the District's website.

Steve Mather

Chair, Activity Centres Management Board



24th World Scout Jamboree

In February 2018 56 Lonsdale Scouts gathered in the car park at the nature reserve in Silverdale. This was the start of a 'Jamboree Journey' for the five soon-to-be-selected lucky participants. The weekend consisted of several team building exercises, skill tests and mini interviews. Our weekend had the biggest turnout of all the Districts in the County with all of us enthusiastically trying to earn one of the sought-after places on the 24th World Scout Jamboree.

The first of six training weekends was, for me, the best feeling of the Jamboree experience. All 36 of us, making up the West Lancashire Unit - from all Districts - arrived not knowing each other at all. We left that weekend as a new group of friends who were going to grow throughout our journey. The remaining training weekends flew by as we completed team building, challenges and mock parts of the Jamboree (such as cooking in patrols and setting-up the campsite).

On the 20 July 2019 we met at the 'Phantom Winger' Car Park, in Preston, for the short journey to Manchester Airport. Once boarded: 200 of the 230 aircraft's seats were filled with those heading to the Jamboree. As you can imagine the feeling was electric - all the way to Toronto Airport where we got our connection flight to La Guardia. Arriving In New York at two in the morning, after 20 hours on a plane and 25 hours travelling, the morale was taking a hit. However, us being the newly named 'Best Lancs Unit' took this in our stride, playing music and singing songs all the way through the airport. After a short sleep, in a university campus, we headed into the 'Big Apple' for the day. We partook in the touristy attractions of New York including paying respects at the Ground Zero Memorial. We also danced a 'flash mob' in Times Square that we had prepared before going on the trip. At the end of the day we took a boat over the river to Manhattan Island taking in the Statue of Liberty and then onward towards the Jamboree site on a coach. We spent the night in the University of West Virginia and the next day finished the 18-hour coach journey.

The Jamboree site was HUGE. We entered at the front gate on the west side and then drove a further 20 minutes to get to our campsite. In true Lancashire fashion, we had rain whilst we were setting up our



tents. On the first night we were invited to a neighbouring American camp for tea so that we didn't have to cook. What happened in the next 12 days were some of the best times in my life. From holding an Hawaiian evening on our camp, to make up for the one that was cancelled, to meeting the Senator for West Virginia. There was always something new and exciting going on. Some activities that stand out for me were the zipline after which we ended up getting lost, with about 30 other scouts from four other countries (on the side of the main road around the camp and none of us knowing where to go) and going fishing with our Canadian neighbours. We also went clay pigeon shooting with some Bosnian scouts and paddle boarding with some Portuguese.

The closing ceremony was like nothing I could ever have imagined. This was a time for us to reflect on the time that we had had together. After inspiring speeches, from some of the most prestigious people in Scouting and the UN, we had a party where we were treated to acts and performances from many different artists and dancers. At the end of the evening we all stood in a huddle chanting and singing. None of us knew what to do as this had been the main part of our lives for the past two years. Some cried, some laughed but everyone knew they wouldn't be able to go back to normal after the experience.

After the Jamboree we headed to Washington DC for three days where we saw the main attractions, watched a baseball game with the whole UK contingent and had a party on the university campus (where of course a game of rugby between the north and south groups emerged). These final few days in America were the most tiring and hot on the whole trip but the best times with our Unit. We were all dreading the sixth flight of the trip, up to Calgary but most people slept all the way. In Canada we spent time with a Scout Group, where we stayed on their campsite in their bunk barn. We went on walks in the Rockies, swimming in rivers and generally had a good time to finish our three weeks away. On our last night we had pizza by the river and watched the sun go down over some of the most beautiful mountains in the world.

Finally, we had the flight home. As normal, this felt shorter than when we went and of course all of us slept on the plane. We arrived back to the 'Phantom Winger': changed people and better Scouts, having now got the knowledge and experience of one of the most diverse global events in the world. This journey for me has been by far the most interesting, challenging and all-round great experience I have had in Scouting to date. I think I speak on behalf of all five of us when I say 'thank you' to those who made it happen.

Oliver Patterson

24th World Scout Jamboree Participant



Our Time in Austria

On 4 August 2019 25 Lonsdale Scouts, plus six Leaders, arrived at Manchester Airport for the start of what was to be an action-packed and adventurous ten days in Austria and Germany. After waving off some more-than-a-little-anxious parents we began our journey of a flight to Munich and then a coach into Austria.

We stayed at Pfadfinderdorf Zellhof, an old church-owned estate that has been developed by the Salzburg Scouts and Guides into an International Camp Site for young people. It is a beautiful location surrounded by lakes and the most amazing scenery, where we made new friends of many different nationalities and ended most days with a campfire with the Germans, Spanish, French and Irish Scouts.

We started every day by diving (or being thrown in Louis' case) into the lake and our time was filled with new experiences; whether it was outdoors, underground or educational we always had a great time - even our coach journeys were loud and fun, despite our sleep deprivation. I particularly loved flying through the forest on the summer toboggan, exploring the culture in Salzburg and the slides, swimming and sunbathing at both waterparks.

We tried lots of new foods, like bratwursts, wiener schnitzel and goulash, and even tried foods from other European countries on Open Pots night. Paul, Jamie, Izzy and I had a great time trying to find vegan foods - turns out it is extremely difficult when no one can really read German. I think all the leaders loved showing off their cooking skills.

If asked I couldn't choose my favourite moments of the trip, every second was enjoyable, I always felt relaxed and happy, and even in times when I wasn't feeling great it was impossible not to smile when surrounded by such funny and kind people. I am very grateful for this experience and everything the leaders did for us to make it such a perfect trip. Although there were ups and downs, illness and sunburn, our little group became a family and I know that I speak for everyone when I say we would do anything to be back there together again.

Hannah Jackson, Zellhof Participant



LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Unrestricted Funds 31/12/2019 District	Unrestricted Funds 31/12/2019 Campsites	Restricted Funds 31/12/2019	Endowment Funds 31/12/2019	Total Funds 31/12/2019	Total Funds 31/12/2018
Receipts						
Membership Subscriptions	53,201	-	-	-	53,201	51,116
Less Paid	(40,413)	-	-	-	(40,413)	(37,950)
	12,788	-	-	-	12,788	13,166
Donations and Grants	800	7,002	-	-	7,802	2,235
Lettings and Associated Income	3,155	50,189	-	-	53,344	58,870
Other Income	-	704	-	-	704	1,720
Youth Programme and Activities	22,987	240	-	-	23,227	36,547
Training	19	-	-	-	19	709
Badge Sales	7,108	-	-	-	7,108	6,136
Investment Income	243	110	50	1,838	2,241	1,993
Loan Repayment	-	-	-	-	-	203
Explorers	-	-	10,174	-	10,174	16,749
Jamboree	-	-	5,629	-	5,629	859
Zellhof	-	-	22,009	-	22,009	12,368
Clothing and Equipment Sales	8	-	-	-	8	536
SASU	-	-	141	-	141	-
Miscellaneous	224	-	-	-	224	-
Sub Total	47,332	58,245	38,003	1,838	145,418	152,091
Asset and Investment Sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	47,332	58,245	38,003	1,838	145,418	152,091
Payments						
Youth Programme and Activities	20,918	1,017	-	-	21,935	35,641
Rent	6,615	-	-	-	6,615	6,615
Heat, Light and Water	1,416	6,272	-	-	7,688	8,475
Repairs and Maintenance	2,468	21,800	-	-	24,268	16,481
Capital Expenditure	-	15,354	-	-	15,354	16,296
Insurance	528	2,610	-	-	3,138	3,717
Printing, Postage and Telephone	280	1,484	-	-	1,764	1,507
Governance and Trustee Expenses	1,252	-	-	-	1,252	1,149
Campsite Shops	-	344	-	-	344	379
Bank Charges	60	60	-	-	120	125
Professional Fees	-	540	-	-	540	-
Grants to Groups	200	-	-	776	976	513
Grants to Individuals	1,900	-	-	-	1,900	3,614
Badge Costs	6,604	-	-	-	6,604	5,359
Training	1,358	-	-	-	1,358	3,093
Team Expenses	1,726	-	-	-	1,726	1,818
Explorers	-	-	10,183	-	10,183	15,775
Miscellaneous	227	-	-	-	227	1,673
Development	-	-	-	-	-	546
Awards	341	-	-	-	341	358
Recruitment	-	-	-	-	-	227
Donations	60	-	-	-	60	67
Jamboree	-	-	4,450	-	4,450	8,239
Zellhof	-	-	32,237	-	32,237	1,239
Clothing Purchases	74	-	-	-	74	612
Sub Total	46,027	49,481	46,870	776	143,154	133,518
Asset and Investment Purchases, etc	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	46,027	49,481	46,870	776	143,154	133,518
Net of Receipts/(Payments)	1,305	8,764	(8,867)	1,062	2,264	18,573

LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	31/12/2019	31/12/2019	31/12/2019	31/12/2019	31/12/2019	31/12/2018
	District	Campsites				
Cash						
Current Accounts	2,571	20,615	3,364	0	26,550	41,582
Deposit Accounts	32,478	25,000	5,304	64,657	127,439	50,040
Term Deposit	-	-	-	40,000	40,000	100,000
Cash	60	122	-	-	182	285
Total Cash Funds	35,109	45,737	8,668	104,657	194,171	191,907
Other Monetary Assets						
Small Loans Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amounts Owing to District	410	-	-	-	410	-
Sub Total	410	-	-	-	410	-
Investment Assets						
Lancaster Scout and Guide Shop	8,610	-	-	-	8,610	7,721
Sub Total	8,610	-	-	-	8,610	7,721
Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use						
Badge Stock	4,417	-	-	-	4,417	4,162
Campsite Shop Stock	-	693	-	-	693	1,086
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	12,720
District Fixtures and Fittings	6,400	-	-	-	6,400	6,400
Sub Total	10,817	813,913	-	-	824,730	824,868
Liabilities						
Accounts not yet Paid	(83)	-	-	-	(83)	(202)
Sub Total	(83)	-	-	-	(83)	(202)
Total Assets less Liabilities	54,863	859,650	8,668	104,657	1,027,838	1,024,294

The financial information in this report has been taken from the independently examined financial statements for the period 1 January - 31 December 2019, which were approved by the Trustees at their meeting 15 July 2020. 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 Finance Officer, Stephen Clarke.

Your Activity Centres Need You!



Set in idyllic locations, either Littledale or SilverHelme (both within our District) are idea locations for your young people to gain basic camping skills and much more. Recent improvements include:

- New toilet and shower block at SilverHelme
- Refurbishment of main toilet block at Littledale
- Replacement water treatment system at Littledale
- Internal redecoration of Mortimer Lodge (plus new mattresses) at SilverHelme
- WiFi access in both Mortimer and Long Panther Lodges.

Information and bookings: www.lonsdalescouts.org.uk/activity-centres/