



**2020/21**  
ANNUAL REPORT

**Scouts**   
West Yorkshire

# County Commissioner's Report

Thank you all for your amazing dedication, commitment and flexibility to Scouting during the last 12 months ensuring Scouting continued to offer young people fun, friendships, new skills and adventures. You have made such a positive difference to the lives of young people and adults alike through virtual and Covid safe face to face Scouting. Parents often talked about how their children looked forward so much to the scouting section meetings during Covid times.

Yes our numbers dropped unfortunately by some 2000 young people and just under 500 volunteers. Overall we saw a drop in membership from 11297 to 8349 but very positively an increase of 6 new sections, and still one of the largest Scouting Counties in England. These numbers were far better than many predicted and in line with national averages. As we all know it's not about the falling but how we bounce back. Bouncing back we most definitely are doing with some great influxes of both young people and volunteers. It was wonderful to attend an investiture of 9 beavers at a colony in June and I heard so many similar stories over the summer months.

Local Scout Groups really are growing rapidly which is an absolute credit to the creative and imaginative programme that our amazing leaders have continued to offer despite the pandemic challenges. As a County we know the focus needs to be very much on supporting local Scouting to grow their volunteers, provide exciting programmes, keep everyone safe, improve the volunteer experience and support our young people achieve their

Top Awards. The County Commissioner Deputy team are driving five boards to deliver that local support:

*Growth Board - DCC Elaine Clough: Following the brilliant Leeds TV advert series, the coming months will see the launch of our 'Bring a buddy' badge scheme, the launch of supporting material for leaders and parents alike and the development of a partnership with Bradford University to help us recruit new volunteers and support a more creative programme for our older sections. The Growth board meets every two months and are always looking for more members to get involved - if this is for you don't hesitate to email Elaine on [Growth@wyscouts.org.uk](mailto:Growth@wyscouts.org.uk).*

*Protect Board - DCC Gaz Pierce: The 'Protect Board' was formed with the aim of supporting local Scouting to keep our young people, adults and the reputation of our Scouting family, here in West Yorkshire, safe. The timing of the inception of this new board was crucial with the onset of the pandemic and much of the focus has been about supporting the safe restart of Scouting across our County. Staying safe, Safeguarding and looking after each other is absolutely paramount to West Yorkshire Scouts - support and training has been delivered to over 500 volunteers across districts in the new SA Activity Risk Assessment model, supported by a great user friendly pocket guide.*

*Programme Board - DCC Phil Pearson and our ACC Team: The county team have worked incredibly hard to deliver a variety of virtual opportunities throughout the year such as the Beaver JambOOree*



in October, the Hamish Treasure Hunt in December and Wacklympics in January. Our emphasis is now moving to support the Reboot of local Scouting with a mixture of virtual and face to face opportunities. We have access to a lot of equipment which can be borrowed to help make section meetings more exciting and we are planning to support district 'Wow' days to help with recruitment and retention. We welcome Graham Starr as our new ACC Scouts and Dan Breeze our new ACC Squirrels who is taking the lead on introducing the brand new younger Squirrel section.

Top Awards Board - DCC Matt Turner: A County Top Awards board has been set up with a focus on supporting young people to achieve their Top Awards. Offering support and advice to young members and volunteers on Top awards, supporting volunteers to create programmes to allow achievement of Top Awards and supporting young members to become volunteers.

Volunteer Journey Board - DCC Howard Fishwick: The training team are keen to

ensure the volunteer journey for all is improved and particularly the volunteer experience of new volunteers to ensure we make their transition into the Scouting family as smooth as possible.

I strongly believe that it is important to recognise the exceptional and exemplary hard work of leaders across the County. To ensure we do that an Awards Advisory Committee has been created under the chairmanship of Mark Stageman and support of Vicki Pearson. You will see later on in this review our list of amazing award recipients.

Finally but certainly not least, thank you to all the truly amazing volunteers who are part of the West Yorkshire Scouting family. Scouting could not happen without yourselves. Your enthusiasm and commitment to making a difference to the lives of our young members is exceptional.

Yours In Scouting

Ian  
County Commissioner

## Chair's Report

It's a great honour and privilege to be asked to be Chairman of West Yorkshire County, knowing the caliber of some of the previous chairpersons. Although they are petite feet I had big shoes to fill, in following Linda who has done a brilliant job for 8 years in leading the county executive.

Coming in during the Covid period when scouting was effectively shut down was most unusual and to me a bit like a Monopoly game, do not pass go, do not collect £200 unless you had your own building and it was for many like being in jail, you couldn't do anything only look out.

The great sadness of the year is that approximately 25% of our membership left the organisation and new intakes could not be accommodated but I do feel that numbers will pick up in the Autumn. The motivation to retain the rest of the membership has come from the leaders with some inspiring programmes and projects.

It is times like this when there is new management and a serious situation to re-organise and it was felt that the

county structure with also the loss of the long-standing staff at the Jubilee Centre needed to be amended and therefore it was necessary to put new protocols in place to include for now, WYS Trading and this has now been completed.

It was amazing to be told that the Late Mary Bushell had left the County a significant legacy with no strings attached. Those that remember Mary fondly, will I am sure be pleased that some of her money will be used to benefit scouting both across the county and at Bradley Wood.

Coming in from a District Executive position gave me knowledge of some of the processes within the County structure but I am indebted to the members of the Executive Committee for giving me support and information when necessary.

I am an eternal optimist, and I am sure that things will get better for scouting, although in many cases it will be different and not necessarily to everybody's liking but the main issue is that we continue to offer the best scouting experience to our young people and leaders. **Leslie Peers**



# Youth Shaped Scouting

Over this difficult year youth shaped scouting in West Yorkshire has been ever growing and in 2020 the County welcomed a new Deputy County Youth Commissioner for Programme to join our County youth team. Louis Wood has taken over from Emily Clough as she moves into her new role as 50% of ACC Network. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Emily for all her hard work in the role, making sure the events of the County are run have young peoples voices in mind. We would like to wish her every best wish for the future, and we look forward to working with you to make sure that Network across the County is Youth Shaped. I'm sure you will also join with me in wishing Louis good luck and in welcoming him into the Youth Commissioner Team.

The past year has been a difficult one for many people in many ways but Scouting and our volunteers and young people have as ever stepped up to the mark, with groups delivering and running so many amazing virtual programs and experiences for our young people. Throughout, the District Youth Commissioners have been on hand to support with youth shaped scouting and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for everything they have done throughout this pandemic.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all our amazing adult leaders and helpers that have made this our challenging year, the best it can be for our young people. They have learnt so many skills for life! For this I personally would like to thank you. Youth Shaped Scouting allows our young people to make decisions to form and



develop their own adventure, integrity, leadership, care, and cooperation in partnership with adults to learn skills for life.

We have all been much awaiting the return of face-to-face events! Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this has been impossible overall. However, this has not stopped us from delivering and running so many amazing virtual programs for our young people with a truly youth shaped focus, from launching two Activity Inspiration guides onto the County Website (to give leaders ideas of how to do youth shaped scouting in the different levels of lockdown) to live streaming events to you at home, such as County St. George's Day, Virtual BIG Camp, County Gang Show Pre-Party, JamBOOree, ('in conversation with Toby Hammond'. In these events we reached some of the largest audiences to events

ever, due to the amazing reach of virtual scouting. Our youth shaped resources have also since been used across the whole of the UK by other Counties and HQ.

The Youth engagement team have also been working closely with our amazing District Commissioners to make sure that we have youth shaped scouting happening at every level. We have had so many successful recruitment campaigns despite the pandemic. We are well on our way to making sure that every District in our County has a District Youth Commissioner or Youth Team and we are here to support every district with youth shaped scouting. Our team have also been working alongside and supporting Headquarters with their Youth Shaped Scouting work as well.

Our Youth Commissioners and youth team have sat on County Sub Committees and Boards to make sure that all decisions made by the County

have a youth voice, from the Executive Committee, Growth and Development Board, Finance Committee, Protect Board, Top Awards Board, People Board, Adult Awards Board, and the Programme Team to name just a few.

We are of course very excited for the upcoming year and look forward to our scouting family coming together again, face to face (fingers crossed) and in addition some new youth shaped scouting launches coming out from HQ, so keep your eyes peeled for even more information coming out soon.

Our young people are the future of Scouting and that's why it's so important that we guide, support, and give them our time and energy to lead us into the future together.

Toby Hammond  
West Yorkshire Scout Youth  
Commissioner



# How Scouting works...

## **The Purpose of Scouting.**

The purpose of Scouting is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

## **The Scout Method.**

The Scout Method provides an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law, which is guided by adult leadership. In practice the method is best seen when young people, in partnership with adults are: enjoying what they are doing; learning by doing; participating in varied and progressive activities; making choices for themselves; taking responsibilities for their own actions; working in groups; taking increasing responsibility for others; taking part in activities outdoors; sharing in prayer and worship; making and living out their promise.

West Yorkshire Scouts Trustees have a duty to report on the charity's public benefit in the annual report. We have assessed our aims, objectives and activities and believe we have met the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria for both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development.

## **Royal Charter...**

The Scout Association exists by authority of a Royal Charter granted by King George V in 1912 and supplemented by further charters granted by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II. These charters give authority to the

bye-laws of the Association, which are approved by Her Majesty's Privy Council. The bye-laws, in turn, authorise the making of rules for the regulation of the Association's affairs. The rules are laid out in the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association.

West Yorkshire Scouts is an autonomous charity affiliated to The Scout Association, which together with other County, District and Group Charities form the Scout Movement in the United Kingdom.

## **HOW WE OPERATE**

### **Executive Committee...**

The County is managed by the County Executive Committee, the members of which are the Charity Trustees of the County Scout Council which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The County Executive exists to support the County Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment and is responsible for:

- Promoting the development of Scouting in the County;
- Ensuring cooperation between Districts, Groups and other organisations;
- Raising of funds and administration of the County's finance and property;
- The appointments process within the County;
- Appointing any subcommittee that may be required;

- Ensuring sound administration within the County.

The Executive Committee comprises up to 18 members:

- 6 Ex-officio Members (including the officers);
- 4 elected members (including 1 elected youth member) elected annually by the County Scout Council at its AGM;
- 4 appointed members (annually appointed at the AGM);
- up to 4 Co-opted members (annually appointed by the Executive).

The committee meets at least four times each year. An induction process is provided for all new Trustees. Further learning and development opportunities are available.

### **POR...**

The Association has a comprehensive set of policies and rules applicable to the Movement, which are routinely monitored and reviewed by the Association. We are committed to providing the best possible experience for everyone in Scouting, whether they are young people or adult volunteers. To help us achieve this, we work to a number of key policies, through which we can make sure that Scouting continues to develop in a way that is safe, accessible and free from discrimination.

Our key policies include:

- Anti-bullying policy.
- Child protection policy.
- Development policy.
- Equal opportunities policy.
- Religious policy.
- Safety policy.

### **Risk and Internal Control...**

The County has in place systems of internal control that are designed to provide reasonable insurance against material mismanagement or loss. These include 2 signatures for all payments and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

### **Volunteers...**

During the year over 3000 adults volunteered their time, energy, skills and commitment to Scouting at Group, District, or County level. Their roles ranged from regularly leading section meetings and organising camps, to helping with administration, training future leaders and attending meetings at every level. Without this contribution of our volunteers, Scouting in West Yorkshire would be unable to offer a wide range of challenging and inspiring activities that help make Scouting the largest co-educational youth movement in the UK today.

### **Our vision for 2023**

By 2023 we will have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders delivering an inspiring programme.

We will be growing more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

### **Our goals**

Our plan is to build on the success of the previous plan: to continue to grow, become more inclusive, to be shaped by young people and to make a bigger impact in our communities.

# Early Years Pilot Project - Hedgehogs and Squirrels

West Yorkshire has been proud to be part of the national Early Years Pilot Project with a Hedgehog section at 5th Shipley Scout Group in Airevalley. Despite the challenges that we have faced over the year, we have welcomed 8 families into our group, 7 of these being new to scouting. This has included the recruitment and socially-distanced investiture of two new young people.

As the rest of the scout group met through zoom, the Hedgehogs were too young to participate in this way however it did not stop them scouting! At the start of lockdown, we set weekly challenges that included participation in the national Care for Care Homes initiative and delivered activity programme kits for the families to engage with at a time that suited them. The Hedgehogs particularly like the bug hunts and the positive rock painting that they then hid on their daily walks for others to find! As lockdown progressed, we worked closely with HQ who created more activity kits and ran online sessions that included meeting a zoo keeper and creative story sessions. The Hedgehogs also really enjoyed joining in the virtual county events including the Virtual Big Camp and the JamBOOree!

In August 2020, the national scout council reviewed the evidence collected from the Early Years Pilot Project and decided that they would launch a new section, Squirrels, starting in September 2021. Over the past year, the leadership team at 5th Shipley have worked closely with HQ to shape and develop this providing feedback and experience from the Pilot Project. As a county, we are extremely excited to be able to launch



this exciting new section. For more information or for help on expressing an interest in launching please email Dan Breeze, Assistant County Commissioner for Squirrels at [squirrels@wyscouts.org.uk](mailto:squirrels@wyscouts.org.uk).

Dan Breeze  
Assistant County Commissioner  
Squirrels

# Roll of Honour 2021

Awards issued between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020  
(Updated 10/06/21)

## West Yorkshire

### Silver Wolf

Colin Parker  
David Andrew Gill  
Jennifer Anne Pearson  
Jennifer Fothergill

### Silver Acorn

Colin Richard Robinson  
Keith Hamilton  
Neil Asling  
Pamela Gillian Newman  
Suzanne Jane Ellis

### Bar to the Award for Merit

Alison Nicola Walton  
Ann Lesley Lovatt  
David Francis Wood  
Enid Doris Senior  
Jacqueline Eltoft Lynn  
Mary Brankin  
Michael James Lovatt  
Paula Jane Burnett

### Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Nigel Peter Lumb

## Aire Valley

### Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Alison Jane Spencer  
Daniel James Breeze  
Jodie Leigh Elliott

## Bradford North

### Award for Merit

Elizabeth Anne Lavan  
Rosemary Watson

## Bradford South

### Award for Merit

Richard Michael Binns  
Simon David Pearson

### Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Andrew Michael Walker

## Huddersfield North

### Award for Merit

John Yorke

### Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Adam Paul Morton  
Riza Retnowulan  
Wayne Nuttall

## Huddersfield South West

### Award for Merit

Elaine Walker  
Jennifer Heald  
Kevan Andrew Shuttleworth  
Steven Ruscoe

### Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Andrew Michael Brown  
David Raby  
Glyn David Jones  
Jane Hodgson  
Joanne Horsfall  
Joanne Simone Jones  
John Roger Daker  
Lauren Carter

## **Spen Valley**

### **Award for Merit**

David Charles Hirst

Jonathan Eric Hainsworth

Linda Anne Cantrell

Peter Anthony Burton

### **Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service**

Duncan Ellis

Helen Sykes

## **Wharfedale**

### **Award for Merit**

Paul Edward Jennings

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**#Skills4life**

