

Richmondshire District Scout Council

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2017



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

District Registration with The Scout Association – 16407
Charity Registration Number – 1017534



Welcome to the Annual Report for Richmondshire Scout District for the year to 31 March 2017.

The District's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

The District is managed by the District Executive Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout District 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 Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

The District Executive Committee exists to support the District Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment and to provide support for Scout Groups, Explorer Scout Units and any District Scout Network in the District.

The District's Trustees and members of the District Executive Committee during the past year have been:

Andrew Bedford *Chairman*

Richard Good *District Commissioner (to 31 December 2016)*

Amanda Hender *Treasurer*

Martha McGarry *Secretary*

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Steve Woolmer *District Scout Network Leader*

Joe Odziemski *Castle Explorer Scout Unit Leader*

Half Moon Explorer Scout Unit Leader—initially Sam Brookes to December 2017

Cllr Oliver Blease

Jane Davenport

David Tait

Jacky Bottrill

Peter Kane

Alan Walker

Tracy Conley

Audrey McConnell

Jasper Worrallo (to

Chris Davenport

Brenda Milner

October 2016)

Brian Milner

The District is financially sound and well managed and our thanks must go to Richard, Martha and Amanda who ensure that this is the case. I am also very grateful to all members of the District Executive for all that they do.



Richard has done an excellent job as our District Commissioner for the last four years and it has been a pleasure to work with him. His knowledge of Scouting, gained over many decades, has been deployed to the benefit of the District. We wish him well as he retires to run Scouting in Swaledale. A huge thank you must also go to Sheila who has been a great support to him, not least in acting as an unpaid taxi driver. A bar to the Silver Acorn for Richard and a Silver Wolf for Sheila last St George's Day were duly deserved. Both will be thanked properly at the AGM.

Richard indicated that he was stepping down as District Commissioner in October 2015 and a search group was set up by the County. Although two excellent candidates were identified neither felt that now was the right time for them to take on the role. County then asked the District to set up a search group which I asked Paul Adamson to chair. This second search group spread the net wider and a number of serving soldiers at Catterick Garrison and others showed an interest. Unfortunately none, in the end, felt able to take on the role. I am very grateful to Richard for volunteering (and to Sheila for allowing him) to continue as District Commissioner until 31 December 2016. Since January 2017 our Acting District Commissioner has been the County Commissioner, Sarah McAtominey. Sarah stepped down as County Commissioner at the end of April and Mark Edwards, the new County Commissioner, has taken on the role as our Acting District Commissioner and has taken on the task of finding us a new District Commissioner.

Every Group needs a Group Scout Leader, a strong team of uniformed leaders and a pro-active Executive Committee. With this team in place a Group can grow and flourish because the responsibilities are shared. The District Commissioner and his team are there to support the uniformed leaders and the District Executive are there to support the Group Executive, please do not hesitate to ask if you'd like our assistance.

In October last year I indicated to Richard and the District Executive that I would like to step down as District Chairman at the end of January 2017, or earlier if a new District Commissioner was appointed before then. At the January meeting of the Executive I agreed to continue until the AGM unless a new District Commissioner was appointed before then.

My thanks go to all those who have been involved in providing excellent Scouting in the District over the past twelve months.

Andrew Bedford
District Chairman



District Commissioner

Richmondshire Scouting had another very busy & successful year, the thirtieth birthday of Beaver Scouts and the celebration of one hundred years of Cub Scouting were highlights and the reports from the Beaver and Cub ADC,s reflect this. I will just highlight two, the wonderful Beaver Camp organised by a Jane Davenport and the Barton Leaders which ended with a great birthday party and amazing cake. The other event was the Cubs Promise celebration on 16 December in Richmond Castle. Ian Appleyard put on a great event when all our Cubs renewed their promise in front of the Baden Powell plaque.

The Scout section has also had a good year, the Half Moon Explorer unit is a little smaller this year but the Castle Explorers have grown in numbers and activity.

Another highlight was the opening of a Beaver Colony and a Cub Pack in Hawes last September. It took a lot of mine and members of the District teams time, to get what was one parents idea in a tweet, too two new sections up and running but it was well worth while. It was a great pleasure for me to invest well over twenty young people as Beavers and Cubs. A very big thank you to Cathy and Emma the Beaver and Cub Leaders at Hawes. We were helped in this project a great deal by Peter Thorp of the Scout Association Growth and Development service, thank you Peter. They are additional sections of the 1st Wensleydale Group, which Peter and I set up nearly six years ago.

Most of the Groups in the District are growing in numbers but Holmedale and Swaledale are suffering from the smaller numbers of children in rural areas. Many of our Groups urgently need more Leaders, so we can continue to offer exciting and challenging Scouting to the young people of Richmondshire.

For nearly eight years I have been Deputy DC then DC of this amazing District, there have been challenges but I have enjoyed working with so many dedicated and inspiring Leaders and it has been a great privilege to have served as your District Commissioner.

I conclude by say a very big thank you to ALL the Leaders, Group and District officials who have helped and supported my especially Andrew Bedford who agreed to be our District Chairman the day I took up the DC role.

I wish my successor and all the District every success in the future.

Richard D Good

District Commissioner (to 31 December 2016)



Treasurer

The past year has been busy on the finance front, reflecting all the activity detailed in the various reports, and includes District events.

A big thank you to all that have been involved in the day to day running of Kiplin campsite and those who remain involved overseeing the everyday administration and operation. The campsite was not as busy over the last year, due to some inclement weather.

Thanks once again to every Group/Unit for paying over their subscriptions and thank you to their respective Treasurers for the work they do voluntarily which is so vital in supporting the functioning of the Groups/Units.

Those who regularly donate to our Charity and those who have made donations or supported events in any way during this past year are thanked.

Amanda Hender
Treasurer

Beaver Scouts

All Colonies are running full, active programmes as far as I know although communication remains a problem.

I understand that the new Colony in Hawes is doing well and has moved to a larger venue.

Most took part in our Junk Modelling competition in Leyburn in January. Well done to the winners Brompton on Swale who went on the the County challenge in Thirsk in February and came second.

Thank you to SAS for helping to run the event so that Leaders could take the opportunity to hold a meeting.

The Handicrafts Competition in March was cancelled due to lack of participants.

Beavers from Colburn, Catterick Garrison and Brompton on Swale joined the County Beaver Sleepover at Snowball over the weekend 20th/21st May and had a great time.

I had hoped to offer an evening of Bell-Boating and SUP at Ellerton in June but several attempts to book Ellerton have gone unanswered so this has been



postponed until September.

Leaders and Beavers previously asked for a repeat of the activity day at Kiplin. I suggested 7th October to coincide with the Cub day but there has been no response from Leaders so I assume there is no interest in running this activity.

District Beaver sports is planned for the end of June. SAS will confirm the venue nearer the time.

In December Beavers will have the opportunity to spend a weekend at Beamish, sleeping over in the Masonic Hall.

Jane Davenport

Assistant District Commissioner (Beaver Scouts)

Cub Scouts

This year has been a memorable one for the Cub Scout section as we celebrated the sections centenary.

To celebrate we were given several challenges nationwide which most packs managed to incorporate into their programmes, most of which were mentioned in last year's report.

However, we held a district day of adventure with an actioned packed in Scarborough, which concluded with a picnic at sea on the local pleasure cruiser.

The highlight of the centenary celebrations was the promise party in December, at which all cubs reaffirmed their promise at 1916. This we did in Richmond Castle, beneath the plaque to the founder of the movement Baden Powell, with a spectacular luminaire scouts own followed with a buffet party at Richmond Station.

Other events of note were the charity cyclin event organised by Claire Laverick at Catterick Racecourse. This event raised over £1000 for the local village hall and £500 for other charities. A perfect example of scouts working in the community and helping other people.

Other successful events were the swim day in November, at which many cubs once again achieved various staged swimming badges. A successful trip to the Deep in Hull was also held.

Unfortunately, over the year the Holmedale Cub Pack has closed due to the unsuccessful attempts to recruits a new leader.



On the positive side a new cub pack has opened in Hawes and taking part in district held events despite the long distance having to be travelled.

During the year, the cub section has held regular meetings, most of which had representation from all groups, these meetings are always very enjoyable and constructive and a pleasure to attend. This is due to the dedication and enthusiasm of all the cub leaders and helpers which enables us to deliver the best possible scouting for the cub scouts in our charge.

Ian Appleyard

Assistant District Commissioner (Cubs)

Scouts

I have spent less time than ever with the scout sections around the district this year due to one thing and another, not least my involvement in my own group, but I take the fact that I am not having to tear about the place offering my support to be a good indicator that things are going well around the district.



In terms of district events, the Brass Monkey ran again this year in February with the usual 80-odd scouts and explorers heading out across Reeth Low Moor to try to reach as many checkpoints as possible in the 4 hours they were given. The standard of teams was excellent again with a couple of teams achieving the seemingly impossible and getting round all the bases in the time given. Some of the teams looked well prepared to the point that I think they may have done their training on the actual (supposedly secret course). Regardless of preparedness it was an exceptional effort by all involved. I'd like to extend my thanks the scores of leaders from around the district who chipped in on the day to help with the various jobs and I'd especially like to thank the leaders from Barton who spent an extraordinary amount of time out walking the moors and keeping me sane.

The cooking competition ran again in March, kindly organised by Richard Good. A slightly smaller field didn't mean a drop in quality and the ambition of some of the teams to get things done in the short time provided is something to behold. I'd struggle to put out some edible food given the budget and time constraints the scouts have. Well done to everyone.

Into next year there is a regional camp planned in September 2018 at Flamingo Land and I will be promoting that around the district to ensure we are as well



represented as possible. And who knows, I may have recovered sufficiently from my last Winter Camp experience to have another go next year.

Finally, I have been in this role for a number of years now and I can't help the feeling that there may be another scout leader out there in the district with more time, energy and ideas who could make a better job than I can, so if you think that's you then please get in touch and we'll see what can be done.

Gavin Ions

Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts)

Half Moon Explorers

Sam stepped down at the end of December at the same time as a good percentage of the members reached 18.

Kevin took on the role of Explorer Unit communicator to keep the activities running but has had to take a break from Scouting for personal reasons. As a result the unit has been on hold for the past term but will restart in the near future as the next batch of Scouts reach Explorer age and move up.

Jane Davenport

Castle Explorers

Castle Explorers have had a busy year. We continue to work towards Young Leader Training and Validation, together with running a varied programme, the majority of which is written by the Explorer's themselves.



We have completed a number of outdoor skills nights with fire lighting, back woods cooking and shelter building. Team building exercises continue to be fun sociable events.

We braved spooks and ghouls at the Halloween Sleepover and discovered that a lot of patience is required to toast marshmallows over tea lights. Wintercamp 2017 was unseasonably mild and we claimed another first by conducting an Investiture at the top of the Air Bag jump.

Castle Explorers brought the Brass Monkey trophy home again , by achieving the "impossible" and collecting every check point on the course.

The Explorer's have raised the profile of Scouting through selling poppies at Tesco's,



attending Remembrance Day, taking part in the St Georges Day Parade, joining the District Cub Packs on a trip to Beamish for "Empire and Flag Day " and twice marshalling "Adrenaline Shock " , the charity race for the Army Benevolent Fund which is organised by Adrenaline UK.

We are presently planning and preparing to take part in the week long Poachers International Jamboree in August and will be having a practice camp within the coming weeks.

Castle Explorers are booked to compete in the London Monopoly Challenge this October with 98 other Explorers and Leaders from North Yorkshire.

None of the above would be possible without the commitment from the Explorer's themselves, the support of their parents and the back up we receive from the District.

I would especially like to thank Karen Cousins, for all her hard work as ESL YL and Tracy Conley for keeping myself organised, which is an achievement in itself. :-)

Joe Odziemski

Leader Training

Over the last year leaders have attended courses both within the District and at County venues.

In the district we have ran 1st response, Getting Started, Modules 12A / 12B and Safeguarding courses, some have been better attended than others.

We decided to not run a Nights Away course this year but have one scheduled for early 2018, this gives the leaders the knowledge to then run a residential camp under supervision to enable them to gain a permit to run a camp or sleepover.

We have also had an increase in the number of leaders finishing their training and gaining their wood badges. We have 4 leaders who have recently completed all their training and validated the necessary modules to be awarded their wood beads, it is hoped that these will be presented at the District AGM.

As I write this there are some leaders who are very near to completing all the validation of modules, hopefully we might have more than four to present with their beads.

I would like to give my thanks to the Training team and the Training Adviser's for all their hardwork preparing leaders for their role in scouting.



A positive note is that we welcome four new TAs to the team so now all new leaders should be in touch with a TA.

Audrey McConnell
Local Training Manager

Scout Active Support Unit

SAS has been asked to help with various events at District and Group level.

We helped at several District events including providing refreshments for St. George's Day, drinks at the Richmondshire AGM, marshalling at the Cub's 100th Birthday celebration, assisting with the running of the Beaver Scrapheap Challenge, and ran a soup base for the Scout Brass Monkey hike. Various groups have asked for our assistance so we have helped at Catterick Garrison's AGM and at the open evening for the new Hawes Group.

Unfortunately the annual District Beaver Sport was not run this year and the District Beaver Handicraft was cancelled because of lack of commitment from Groups. We hope to organise both these events in 2017 -18 and that there will be more interest in participating.

SAS is only a small band of Scouters, many of whom have other posts in the District, but do keep asking for assistance and we will try to help if we can. If you would like to join us please contact Alan or Jacky.

Alan Walker
Manager

Jacky Bottrill
Co-ordinator

Website

Some time ago the District Executive agreed to fund a District website and this has now been built by a group of web designers who specialise in Scout websites.

It provides general facts about Scouting, information about the different Groups in the District, as well as important dates, a District diary, vacancies, a gallery of photos, news articles and a contact us facility. I have been involved in providing the content and, although it has mistakes and omissions, it has gone live so everyone can come back with corrections. The website is: -

<http://www.richmondshirescouts.org.uk/> so please have a look.



It is our website so we need to keep it up-to-date which I can only do if I am provided with the information. If you have dates for District events or meetings, could write a few words about an event and include a photo or just have some interesting photos send them to me and I will attempt to update the website.

Jacky Bottrill
Website Coordinator

Kiplin Campsite Report

Kiplin has been quiet over the winter due to the poor ground conditions but is now up and running again.

The Kiplin Hall trustees have moved the fence along the border of the site behind the toilet block making the site considerably larger and they have also cleared trees from around the toilet block.

The lock on the gates had to be changed after it was cut off during an attempted break in in December 2016. The new lock has a 5 digit code which will be given to users when booking.

Although Chris is still warden and continues to cut the grass, Jane resigned from the booking side of things.

Chris & Jane Davenport

Appointments Committee

During the last year we have had 16 prospective leaders through the appointments meeting all of who were passed through to Groups. We have also processed 61 DBS through Atlantic Data successfully.

Brian Milner
Appointments Secretary

Badge Secretary

This year has been difficult with the changes to badges hope HQ have got it sorted out at last, the demand has been quite high with new sections starting up. So far I have had no one offering to taken over Badge Secretary I will not walk out this year but will definitely finish in 2018 I will have done it for forty years and enjoyed the contact with the Leaders and will miss them all.

Brenda Milner
Hon Badge Secretary



