

Richmondshire District Scout Council

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2018



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 2018.

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	<i>Chairman</i>	
Colin Lyne	<i>District Commissioner (from 1 September 2017)</i>	
Amanda Hender	<i>Treasurer</i>	
Martha McGarry	<i>Secretary</i>	
	<i>District Explorer Scout Commissioner</i>	
Joe Odziemski	<i>Castle Explorer Scout Unit Leader</i>	
	<i>Half Moon Explorer Scout Unit Leader</i>	
Cllr Oliver Blease		Brenda Milner
Jacky Bottrill	Jane Davenport	Brian Milner
Tracy Conley	Peter Kane	David Tait
Chris Davenport	Audrey McConnell	Alan Walker

The District is financially sound and well managed and our thanks must go to 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.



From the beginning of January 2017 until the end of August 2017 we had a series of acting DCs appointed by, and including, the County Commissioner. We are grateful to all of them for what they did to keep things going. At the beginning of September Colin Lyne became our District Commissioner. Colin brought a fresh view to the role not having been involved in Scouting as an adult, and was happy to question things we all took for granted. Unfortunately Colin decided to step down as our DC at the end of May. A letter from Colin to all is printed below.

Hello everybody,

I wish to thank you all for your help and support during my very short time as District Commissioner for Richmondshire.

During this time, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you, and understand just how much time and dedication you give to the young people, and how hard it is for you to juggle your time with work and family. You are a credit to the community.

I hope that during my short stay, I have helped somebody, somehow, as you have helped me. I am sorry to have let you down.

In conclusion, I wish you well, and extend my very best wishes to you all. Thank you so much for your support.

Kind regards,

Colin

The District officers and Executive are very grateful to all the ADCs, GSLs and leaders for all that they have done to ensure that normal Scouting has continued during this period.

Joe Odziemski became our DC at the beginning of June and we wish him well in his new role.

I was due to step down as District Chairman at the end of January 2017 and again at the AGM last June. Somehow I'm still here! I'm trusting, however, that Joe has my replacement lined up so that I can depart after this years AGM.

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



Treasurer

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

It is fantastic that we have three Explorer scouts representing us for the World Jamboree in 2019. As treasurer, I feel privileged to be able to help these three young people raise funds to allow them to explore the World and enjoy meeting new people spreading the word of how great Richmondshire is.

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 has picked up again this year.

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

Communication remains the principle barrier to organising District activities but some events have taken place.

The visit to Beamish was well attended and great fun. The Beavers enjoyed a full day exploring the museum before sleeping over in the Masonic Hall.

In an effort to get more Beavers outside having fun I organised a Bell-Boat helm course in April aimed at Beaver leaders. As a result, Colburn and Brompton on Swale Beavers have been out and about at Ellerton this summer.

The national initiative to raise awareness of the removal of restrictions on Beavers camping, called The Beaver Damboree is taking place as you read this! Our District's camp at Thornton Watlass was initially billed as a District Camp but only attracted interest from a couple of colonies. I understand Catterick Garrison are also running a separate Damboree elsewhere but I don't have any information about that so



can't give any details.

The handicraft competition had to be cancelled as no colonies were able to attend on the chosen date.

I haven't had any information about District Sports so I assume that is not taking place this year.

Jane Davenport

Assistant District Commissioner (Beaver Scouts)

Cub Scouts

I start this year's cub section report on a rather sombre note, as we have sadly lost 2 cub packs from the district. (hopefully only temporary) These are Catterick St. Annes and Swaledale.

I must pay tribute to the leaders of these two packs for all the time and service they have put into their scouting over the years.

On a more positive note, the county quiz was run over the autumn term with Brompton on Swale and Wensleydale packs representing the district in the final at Thirsk.

Due to the inclement weather the handicraft and skills day had to be postponed.

The swim day in November was once again a popular event with almost a hundred badges being qualified for by fifty-seven cub scouts.

On a lovely spring day in March we organised a hike to raise money for Children in Need, from which the cubs raised £158 for children not as fortunate as we ourselves.

The section Had a good turn out for St. Georges day which again was a beautiful day.

More recently we had a county cub camp at Patley Bridge, at which the Barton cubs represented the district.

Once again none of these activities would not have taken place without the dedication and enthusiasm of all the leaders and helpers in the cub section.

Ian Appleyard

Assistant District Commissioner (Cubs)



Scouts

The time has come for my annual report and I always find myself going back to last year's to check whether anything dramatic has changed. I'm happy to say that things seem to be ticking along nicely in the scouts sections without needing a great deal of input from me.



The regular heartbeat of scouts section district events has continued as ever.

This year we took a different approach to the Brass Monkey and set out a course around Richmond to bring an urban edge to the day. We were very lucky to have a bright sunny day, given the fact that the weather quickly descended back into deepest winter the following week. The event seems to get slicker every year and that's thanks to the volunteers who help in the planning and execution but also because of the well prepared teams we get every year. Congratulations to Holmedale (Scouts) and Half Moon (Explorers) as the winning teams, but also congratulations to those teams who may have been out on their first solo walk and got round in the within the time limit no matter how lost they felt.

Suggestions for a venue for next year are welcome, as are offers of help or leadership for the event.

The cooking competition took place in March thanks to the organisational efforts of Richard Good who booked the venue and organised our excellent judging panel. The standard was as high as ever with some real ambition shown in some of the menus. Well done to 1st Barton for taking both 1st and 2nd place, and Catterick Garrison for placing 3rd. We're looking forward to hearing from County about their cooking competition now, and I hope that Richard will continue to help facilitate the organisation of the competition next year.

Last year there were plans afoot for a regional weekend camp at Flamingo Land which I was more than happy to support, however this was later downgraded to a single day visit so I chose not to follow this up as an event.

Since last year's report where I opened up the option for someone to take over the role of ADC(S) I was persuaded to stay on a little longer, but I continue to feel that if there is someone out there who has more time and availability to put into the job then I would be more than happy to pass the baton.

Gavin Ions

Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts)



Half Moon Explorers

Castle Explorers

2017 to 2018 has been an extremely active year for Castle Explorers.



We joined 7505 other Scout and Guide members for a week at the Lincolnshire Showground for "Poacher 2017" International Jamboree in August. We dashed down to London for the weekend in September, to take part in the "Monopoly Challenge" with four other Explorer Units from North Yorkshire and we celebrated our fifth consecutive year attending Wintercamp at Hawkhurst Scout Activity Centre on the bank of Kielder Water.

When we haven't been travelling the UK, we have been keeping a visible profile in the community by attending Remembrance Day, taking part in the St Georges Day Parade and twice marshalling "Adrenaline Shock ", the charity race for the Army Benevolent Fund which is organised by Adrenaline.

Last December marked the first full year of the Explorer Scouts writing their own programme and we are on track to make it to a second year. Castle Explorer's are truly "Youth Shaped".

Traditional scouting skills feature regularly on the programme with pioneering, map work, hikes and backwoods cooking ... the latter being the most favourable.

I'm personally very proud that a member of Castle Explorer's was awarded their Platinum Award at the St George's Day Parade, which is a first during my time as a Leader, with a number of other Explorer's also tantalizingly close to completing it.

This year also saw a sizeable number of the older Explorer's move on to Network and take up adult leader role within Scouting.

We are presently planning and preparing to take part in "Norjam 2018" International Jamboree in August, County Explorer Camp in September and yes, you guessed it, our annual pilgrimage to Wintercamp 2019.

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.

And finally I'd like to thank the team of adults who regularly contribute their time



and efforts:

Trevor Dale and Gary Brack, for their continued support in the running of the unit.

Linda Odziemski, for assisting with the running of camps

Karen Cousins, for her work in her role as Young Leader Coordinator.

And Tracy Conley, for her meticulous administration of Explorer records.

I truly believe that..... "We prepare young people with skills for life"

Joe Odziemski

Explorer Scout Leader

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 ran a Nights Away course this year so now have leaders planning to run a camp for their assessments so that they can take their beavers cubs and scouts to camp. The course gives the leaders the knowledge and skills to then run a residential camp, this is done under supervision to enable them to gain a permit to run a camp or sleepover. One of the activities enjoyed by all was the pioneering where they built a swing which was tested by most of the group.

We again had a number of leaders finishing their training and gaining their wood beads. In the last few months our former DC presented some of the leaders with their wood beads, it is hoped that there will be leaders at the AGM to have their wood beads presented.

Again there are some leaders who are very near to completing all the validation of modules, hopefully we will see them being presented with their beads very shortly.

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

Audrey McConnell

Local Training Manager



Scout Active Support Unit

SAS has been asked to assist with various events this year. We provided marshals and refreshments for St. George's Day and drinks at Richmondshire AGM, JOTI/ JOTA, County Cub quiz (District round) and District Cub hike. We also ran a soup base for the Brass Monkey hike and helped with the District Scout cooking competition.

Unfortunately, the District Beaver sport was cancelled due to the weather and the District Beaver handicraft was again not run because of lack of commitment from Groups.

We wish to thank Jean Olney and Alan Walker for all their efforts to Scouting over many years. Jean has left SAS due to commitments at home and Alan has stepped down as SAS Manager but continues as part of the SAS team.

Jacky Bottrill
Co-ordinator

Website

The District website <http://www.richmondshirescouts.org.uk/> has now been up and running for over a year and the number of accesses to the site is slowly increasing.

It provides general facts about Scouting, information about the different Groups in the District, as well as important dates in the diary, a gallery of photos, news articles and a contact us facility. It also has links to the County and National Scout websites.

It is our website and does need to be kept up-to-date, interesting and correct so if you have dates, news, photos or amendments, please send the information to me and I will update it.

Jacky Bottrill
Website Coordinator

Kiplin Campsite Report

Kiplin Campsite has been in regular use over the past year especially during the summer term.

The lock on the toilet was broken recently and is awaiting replacement when time allows.



The trustees have informed us that they will be closing the site next year and they have offered a new site nearby. I understand various meetings are taking place but I don't have any further information at the moment.

Chris Davenport
Campsite warden

Appointments Committee

During the last year 16 prospective Leaders have been through the Appointments Committee with success and 53 were through the DBS.

Brian Milner
Appointments Secretary

Badge Secretary

Another year has passed without any major changes. There have been a few badge alterations but nothing major and sales have been slightly higher.

Once again there does not seem to be anyone eager to take over Hon Badge Secretary so I would like everyone to try hard to find someone to take over as soon as possible as I did say last year that I would definitely be finishing this year.

Brenda Milner
Hon Badge Secretary

Jamboree 2019

Richmondshire District is very proud to have three of our young people attend the 24th World Scout Jamboree next summer in North America. The Jamboree features many elements focusing on culture, spirituality, physical recreation, global development and world peace. This, combined with the culture and traditions of the 3 host scouting nations means a completely unique experience for them and an adventure of a lifetime.



All Unit members are working very hard to raise their £3,620 funding. Please continue to support them whenever you can.

The idea of this page is to promote the 24th WSJ 2019 and to hopefully inspire both leaders and participants to apply for future WSJs.

I have invited our three participants to say a few words about what going to the WSJ means to them:

For the Jamboree I am looking forward to the different activities that are on offer like zip line and water rafting, but also making new friends and experiencing new cultures.

Kate Biggins

The reasons for me wanting to go to the WSJ.

It would be a great opportunity to meet many like minded people from all over the world, from different backgrounds, countries and religions.

Also to be a brilliant life experience, explore cultures other than my own and to travel to another country.

Harriet Rye

Going on the World Jamboree will be an amazing experience and it will be good to learn about Scouting in different countries.

It will be an amazing way to make new friends and meet new people. I am very grateful that I have been given the opportunity and thank the District Scouts and people who have supported me.

Sacha Cole

