

# **Richmondshire District Scout Council**

**Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2019**



**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 2019

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:

Richard Good *Chairman*

Joe Odziemski *District Commissioner*

Amanda Hender *Treasurer*

Martha McGarry *Secretary*

*District Explorer Scout Commissioner*

Trevor Dale *Castle Explorer Scout Unit Leader*

Mark Hornby *Half Moon Explorer Scout Unit Leader*

Cllr Clive World

Jacky Bottrill

Tracy Conley

Helen Sunter

Jane Davenport

Peter Kane

Audrey McConn

Brian Milner

David Tait

Sheila Good

Karen Cousins

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.

## **District Chairperson's report**

I start my report by thanking Andrew Bedford for all the work and enthusiasm he put in to the role for six years. The *NEW Team* of Jo as DC and me as Chair of the District started following last years AGM. We have had a good year of Scouting in the District as you will see when you read the various sectional reports.

In December we lost two Members of the District Executive Brenda Milner who had given over sixty years service to Scouting in our District. She had been a Cub Leader with 1st Richmond, District Badge Secretary for around forty years, a very active member of Scout Fellowship and latterly Scout Active Support. Its difficult to remember a District event that did not have Brenda there with a teapot. The District was well represented at her Funeral with the flags of each Group there. Cllr. Oliver Blease had for a number of years sat on the Executive representing Richmond Town Council, he also died in December we will miss his wise council and guidance. We thank Sheila Good for stepping in as interim Badge Secretary and welcome Helen Sunter who takes on the role following the AGM.

I thank all members of the District Executive for their work for and support of Scouting over the last year. A special thanks to Secretary Martha McGarry , Treasurer Amanda Hender and to Brian Milner who continues to battle with the compass computer system as our Membership Secretary.

Joe Odziemski is settling in well to his role as District Commissioner, I know what a challenging but rewarding job being DC is, thank you Jo for all you are doing.

We had a visit to the Executive from the County Chairman, which was helpful. Jason McCleod has been appointed our first District Youth Commissioner and we welcome him to the role.

As reported last year we are in Discussion with the Kiplin Estate about a possible move of our District Campsite to another location on the Estate. Further discussions and investigating some possible partnerships need to take place before the Executive can make a final decision.

Scouting in Richmondshire continues to offer exciting and fun Scouting to the young people of our District with your help and support that will continue next year.

***Richard Good***

***District Chairperson***

## **District Commissioner's report**

In my working life I can find over one hundred different ways to procrastinate before I sit down at a keyboard and write a report. However in my role as District Commissioner, I find reports near enough write themselves. This is only due to the hours of volunteering the amazing leaders of Richmondshire put in to preparing exciting and educational opportunities for the young people within Scouting.

I have the privilege to see emails arriving in my inbox with titles such as; Group trip to Ypres in France, Cubs Gorge waking, Scouts completing in Teko Teko Expedition, Explorer's attending International Jamboree. But Scouting isn't just about adventurous activities, It's also about personal growth of young people and leaders too.

Bex Hornby is a shining example of this, a young lady joined Scouts as a Beaver, progressed through all sections and went on to become a leader and has just been awarded the Queens Scout Award. Well done Bex.

Three of our Explorer's are heading off to Virginia, American next month to participant in the World Scout Jamboree. The following year we have four Explorer's joining the North Yorkshire Contingency for Eurojam, which is being held in Gdansk Poland.

Over the last year we unfortunately had to say our goodbyes to Brenda Milner. Brenda had been a Leader within the District for over 60 years - her warm smile and kind words of support and guidance will be sorely missed.

The District Executive Committee has welcomed two younger members, with Cameron Sykes taking on the role of District Youth Commissioner and he will be joined by Laura Dixon this coming November, who will be our second Youth Commissioner.

Emma Atkinson will be stepping up to the role of ADC Beavers, to fill the void left when Jane Davenport stepped down. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jane for all her work with the Beaver Colonies across the District and welcome Emma to her new role.

The role of ADC Scouts is still vacant at this present moment, so if you feel you are up to the challenge of helping shape the future of this section, or know of someone who might be please let me know. Again I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gavin Ions for all his work in this role.

Talks with Kiplin CIO about the possible relocation of the District Camp site to another area are still on going. At the moment I don't have anything new to report.

Over the past year we have supported and been supported by another local charity, Richmond Leisure Trust, St George's Activity Day is the most recent example of this collaboration, with more dates planned.

As we now look forward to the next twelve months we hope for more co-operation between Sections, Groups and Districts. Across this District and beyond, we have an astounding skill set between Leaders and a huge number of resources – let's make the most of this, and let our Programmes show it!

***Joe Odziemski***

***District Commissioner***

## **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***

## **Cub Scouts**

Summer term 2018 ended with a district camp at Hill Top Farm, Leyburn, hosted by Helen Sunter, of the Wensleydale Cub pack. The camp was a lively and enjoyable one, with a medieval theme.

However, as I reported last year the Wensleydale pack was suspended along with Catterick St. Anne's and Swaledale.

With losing three packs from the district, it has been very difficult to run events, due to both low numbers of cubs wishing to partake and not enough leaders to comply with legal ratio. Therefore, only the swimming event in November took place as a district event.

On a more positive note the three afore mentioned packs have now restarted and we look forward to a more active time in the future.

I have made a point of visiting most of the cub packs in the district over the past few weeks and am pleased to report the standard of scouting and variety of programmes was a credit to all the cubs and leaders taking part in their weekly meetings.

The highlight of most cubs is to go camping. Unfortunately, there is a lack of leaders with the appropriate nights away permits to run camps. As a district, we have offered the training, but have had to cancel twice, due to lack of interest.

As a district we need to address this problem.

Once again I have to thank all the leaders and helpers for the time and dedication they put into the development of the young people in their care.

***Ian Appleyard***  
***Assistant District Commissioner (Cubs)***

## Castle Explorers

This is an overview rather than a report, as it's now just over a year since I stepped down from the day to day running of the unit. However when my District Commissioner duties allow, I attend meetings and activities when invited along.

I'm pleased to see the Explorers are continuing to plan their programme with minimal guidance from the leaders and are working towards the Chief Scout Platinum Award, Chief Scout Diamond Award and The Young Leader Belt.

Congratulations to Eddie, who has recently achieved the Platinum Award and is well on his way to the Diamond Award. Indeed a number of Explorers are tantalisingly close to completing Awards and I'm hoping to be congratulating more young people in the coming months.

Jamborees have been a constant feature within the program over the last year.

The unit represented Richmondshire at Norjam last August and in just over three weeks, Kate, Sasha and Harriet will be jetting off to the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, America, as part of the North Yorkshire Contingent, Happy trails.

Just starting out on their International Jamboree adventure are Georgia, James D, James W and Kate. Who all succeeded in securing a place within the North Yorkshire contingent to attend Eurojam 2020, in Gdansk, Poland. I'm confident our District will support these young ambassadors in their journey to Poland.

When the Explorers are not work towards fundraising and making preparations for Jamborees or planning activities to run as Young Leaders. They still find the time to participate in a wide range of Scouting activities, from Camping in Keilder Forest to Geocaching on the Banks of the river Swale, Bell boating at Ellerton to Backwoods cooking at Kiplin - and always with smiles and words of encouragement to one another.

**Joe Odziemski**  
*District Commissioner*

## Scouts

ADC position vacant

## Beaver Scouts

ADC position vacant

## Half Moon Explorers

No report received

## 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. Members also helped at County Cub camp and the District Cub camp mainly running bases. We also provided a soup base for the Brass Monkey hike and helped with the District Scout cooking competition.

We organised and ran the District Beaver Handicraft, which was attended by over 50 children from 5 different Beaver Colonies. The competition was won by Colburn, who now hold the trophy for the year.

It is with deep sadness we said goodbye to Brenda this year. She will be greatly missed as she was a very active member of SAS and helped wherever and whenever she could.

**Jacky Bottrill**  
*Coordinator*

## Website

The District website <http://www.richmondshirescouts.org.uk/> has been updated and generally reflects the new Scout branding. Statistics over the last 12 months show usage is slightly up on the previous year.

Year stats - 1.4k users and 2k sessions averaging about 2 minutes each

Various articles of news have been added and the diary of events updated. It 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.

***Jacky Bottrill***

***Website Coordinator***

## Kiplin Campsite Report

The site has been in use at least two or three evenings a week during the summer term.

Chris Davenport continues to kindly cut the grass, and Jane Davenport takes the bookings.

***Jane Davenport***

## Appointments Committee

During the past year the District have processed 68 DBS for Leaders and Occasional Helpers and 18 new Leaders have gone successfully through the Appointments Committee.

***Brian Milner***

## Badge Secretary

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Brenda Milner in December. Brenda had served as our District Badge Secretary for about forty years and done an amazing job., she will be greatly missed. I took over as Badge Secretary as an interim measure in January. I am delighted that Helen Sunter has agreed to be Badge Secretary following the Annual General Meeting. I have enjoyed doing this job over the last six months and thank Leaders for their support. I continued Brenda's practice of placing an order with Scout Shops during the first week of the month. I am concerned that some Groups are very slow at paying for Badges. The District must pay for them at time of order. It would assist if groups could pay for Badges ordered each month.

***Sheila M Good***

## Jamboree 2019

Sacha and Harriet have completed their Jamboree training. They have received their new uniforms and travel bags and are ready to go in July. We wish them all well and look forward to hearing all about the adventure on their return.

## **Leader training**

### **Report of training activities for Richmondshire District 2018 - 2019**

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

In the district we have ran 1<sup>st</sup> response which was very well attended but cannot say the same for the other courses Getting Started, Modules 12A / 12B and unfortunately the Nights Away course which would have enabled leaders to have the knowledge and skills to plan and run a camp so that they could take their beavers cubs and scouts on a residential experience..

We again had a number of leaders finishing their training and gaining their wood beads. In the last few months our DC has presented some of the leaders with their wood beads. It is hoped that there will be leaders in the near future completing their training and gaining their wood beads.

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***