

Richmondshire District Scout Council

Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2020

District Registration with the Scout Association 16407

Charity Registration Number 1017534

District Chair's Report 2019-2020

Whilst I am writing this report in late November, bear in mind it covers from April 2019 to 31 March this year. However recent months have been challenging for everyone including Scouting, so I will make some comments at the end of this report.

The year started with a successful District Activity Day, at Colburn Sports Centre, to celebrate St. Georges day in a different way. Activities included a cave-bus, archery, modelling a giant Dragon, fire lighting in a dustbin lid, cooking, making woggles from cartridges and much more. We concluded the day with a short St. Georges Day outdoor service A big thank you to all you worked so hard to make the day such fun for our young people. One of the District's outstanding Leaders Jane Davenport retired as GSL of 1st Barton after many years. During her leadership Barton grew into the District's largest Group. Her Gang Show productions were amazing. Thank you; Jane for all you have done for Scouting.

Unfortunately, the Holmedale Group closed during the year, due to the lack of both Leaders and young people. We hope to be able to restore Scouting to this rural area in the future. The District Executive met during the year, my thanks to our District Commissioner Joe, Secretary, Martha, Treasurer Amanda and all the members for their support of Scouting in Richmondshire. Brian Milner has served as our appointment secretary for over forty years and been in Scouting for over seventy years. Due to failing health Brian retires as appointment secretary at the AGM. He was awarded Scouting's highest award the Sliver Wolf by the Chief Scout in 2008. The District wishes to thank Brian and recognise his outstanding service to Scouting and the Richmondshire District. We are creating the post of Honorary President and hope to elect Brian to that role at the AGM.

Like every other aspect of our lives Coronavirus has affected Scouting in many ways and stopped many of our regular meetings and activities. However, in true Scouting fashion, we have responded, Nationally, at County and District level. Many of Scout Groups have run online meetings and activities (maybe there should be a Zoom users' badge!). From September to the latest lock down several Groups and sections ran outdoor activities. Hikes, water activities and archery among them. Our MP and Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak found time in his busy schedule to have an online "Any Questions" with Swaledale Scouts. I understand Rishi was impressed with their questions. I hope as many as possible will take part in the County's Shortest day event on Sunday 20 December. It promises to be even better than the amazing longest day event back in the summer. Remember if you are starting meeting again to make sure you have done the relevant Risk Assessment and it has been approved. We will have the annual census to complete in January, make sure you have checked on if your Group's current members are continuing in Scouting before completing the form.

Finally, can I thank ALL Leaders, Group Executive members and helpers for the work you do for Scouting. I am sure you will continue to offer, exciting and challenging Scouting to the young people of Richmondshire.

Richard Good District Chair

District Commissioner's Report 2019-2020

Remembering back to a time before words such as social distancing, lockdown and Covid 19 became frequently used, is a challenge. So, this is a slightly different District Commissioner's report, for a slightly different time.

In 2019, Scouting in Richmondshire was moving forward in my opinion. The number of young people and adults taking part in Scouting had increased. The Leaders were pushing the boundaries by offering programmes that were more diverse, challenging and fun to take part in.

Scouting was good and my heartfelt thanks goes out to all the Leaders, Sectional Assistants, Parent Helpers and the wider community we live in, you all made it possible.

The term "The Scout Movement" is used frequently and I believe it has been defined by the Leaders, who when informed that Scouting activities were suspended, adapted their programmes so they could deliver them online. Well done to you all.

I would also like to recognise the Leaders who have had to step back from Scouting temporarily, as their time has been dominated due to stepping up in this time of need, to serve our community, county and country during this pandemic. I am proud to Scout with you.

Final, as we edge slowly closer back to normality, let's not go back to how things were before, let's be the best version we can be.

Joe

District Commissioner

"We prepare young people with skills for life "

TREASURER'S REPORT 2020

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. Last year saw the income from the campsite recover, but again this year there will be a lack of use. Despite the lack of income Kiplin is a valuable resource for the District which provides a great facility for the young people to enjoy.

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.

A massive thankyou to the fund for Dr Philip Welch who have made a considerable donation to the district when the fund was wound up. 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

Cub Report

As mentioned in last year's report, the Cub section in the District was at its lowest ebb for many, many years mainly due to pressure of work of invested leaders and shortage of non-uniformed helpers.

The last two District events were very poorly supported, one had to be cancelled due to lack of support. The first being the District round of the County Cub Quiz which had always been a hotly contested event. Only B,O,S. entered and went straight through to finals. The second event was the CountryFile children in need ramble, for which there had been plenty of enthusiasm. Only one cub turned up.

Since the outbreak of Covid Scouting has been difficult due to the laws of the land. We are anxiously awaiting normality in the near future.

Finally, thanks to the section leaders who have kept contact with the Cubs and myself over these trying times.

Yours in Scouting

Ian



Castle Explorers report

This year Castle Explorers have continued despite the hardships the year presented using online and face to face programs when we can with all of the Explorers working towards their awards with the help of the leaders and some Explorers working towards their young leader modules and training.

The program in the last year has like most years been youth led with the Explorers taking the lead on what they want to do with activities such as backwards cooking, fire lighting and axe and knife work along with chippy hikes around the local area.

The number of young people we have has stayed constant with some becoming 18 and moving on to Network and leadership roles within Scouting but also gaining new Explorers from Scouting sections.

We hope next year to be able to go on more camps since we have not had the opportunity to do so this year and now that the European Jamboree has been cancelled.

We also plan on moving meeting to every other week beginning in the new year as opposed to the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

As we are a relatively small unit, we are available to accept new members so if you have any scouts who are near explorer age please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at [**castleexplorers1@gmail.com**](mailto:castleexplorers1@gmail.com).

I would also like to thank Ava and David for their invaluable support and the explorers for turning up so I don't look like a mad man sat in a room for an hour and a half every two weeks.

Cameron Sykes
District Youth Commissioner and Explorer Scout Leader



Report of training activities for Richmondshire District 2019 - 2020

Sadly, as we all know Scouting has been a victim of coronavirus, because of this no face-to-face courses have been able to be presented since March. We did run a very successful 1st response course with nearly 20 participants before the lock down.

Since we went to red and amber systems some leaders have completed e learning modules on line. In the new year when we hopefully get the green light to meet again a number of leaders will be able to complete their training and gain their wood beads.

Congratulations to:-

Jon McCourt -Barton Darren Clements – Richmond Emma Blades - Wensleydale on completing all their training and achieving their wood beads.

Audrey McConnell
Local Training Manager

District Badge Secretary's Report

I took on the role of District Badge Secretary in February 2020 before we knew what we were about to face. Many thanks to Helen Sunter, the previous badge secretary, for aiding me with the transition into the role. As I'm sure is the case with many roles within Scouting, badge orders have been quiet this year with only two groups and the District explorer section having placed orders since I took on the job.

Heidi McConnell

District Badge Secretary

ANNUAL REPORT FOR SAS 2019 - 2020

SAS has been asked to assist with very few events this year. We provided help at the St. George's Day activity event and drinks at Richmondshire AGM. Some SAS members also help at a Cubs backward cooking day at Kiplin run by Brompton on Swale.

Jacky Bottrill (Coordinator)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR DISTRICT WEBSITE 2019 - 2020

The District website <http://www.richmondshirescouts.org.uk/> has been updated with information on events and articles of news where possible.

It does need to be kept up-to-date, interesting and correct so if you have dates, news, photos or amendments relating to the District, please send the information to me.

The website does mostly comply with the new Scout branding but discussions are on-going to get it reformatted and updated by the originally designers.

Jacky Bottrill (Website Coordinator)

Aug 2020 Update – The new format website is now live.