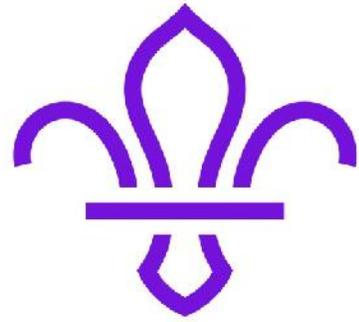


# Scouts



## WHARFEDALE DISTRICT Scouting in 2017-18



Charity Number: 524827

*A Year of Opportunities continued...* It has again been a pleasure for both of us to be a part of another successful year for the Scouting District of Wharfedale.

Due to Alan's family commitments he swapped jobs with Dominic. Alan stepped down as DC and Dominic took over.

During the last year we have seen the District continue the trend of increasing the numbers of young people and adults. At the time of the census the number of adults (leaders and supporters) in the District was 313, an increase of 8% over the previous year. The numbers of young people has grown to 958, an increase of 2.5% on 2017 and 20% since 2012. We are sure you will all agree this is fantastic.

Unfortunately in 2018 we have lost 3 Scouters to illness and a Group treasurer to an accident. We are deeply saddened by the losses and they will be truly missed. A person that departs from this earth never truly leaves, for they are still alive in our hearts and minds, through us, they live on.

Over the last year we have had a significant number of new leaders. This great news has been offset by difficulties in getting regular Appointment Committee meetings caused by Alan's personal circumstances. However, I am pleased to announce that Elizabeth Archer has volunteered to take over from Alan as Appointments Secretary and I am confident that she will help resolve the situation.

I thank all the leaders who have left the District for their many years of service to the movement. A number of other sections in Groups in the District are very short of leaders and it is clear we must try to find more people willing to volunteer as leaders.

In Otley the two Explorer Units merged into one with the new Unit moving its meeting place between the different groups in the town.

A number of leaders received awards for good service in 2017/8. Amongst them was Peter Dickinson who received a Silver Acorn.

The District has a number of 'experienced' Scouters!! Peter Bennett, Bruce Brown, Linda and Stan Burgess and David Hunt have all achieved their 50 year award and Graham Peacock his 60<sup>th</sup>. The District is fortunate to be able to benefit from their experience.

The District Executive Committee has had a particularly challenging year with some real meaty issues where decisions impact the future of Scouting and the wider community. Our thanks to Mike and Graham and the rest of the Exec for steering the District in the right direction. We'd like to pay tribute for the fair, measured and impartial judgement they bring to the District.

So, it's been a busy year, and there's no sign of anything quietening down any time soon! None of this would be possible without all the adult volunteers AND Young Leaders who devotedly put on fantastic programmes, help with administration and provide such excellent leadership for Scouting in Wharfedale District. Yes, sometimes the challenges Scouting sets us seem at the time more than we can manage, but we get over these because we know it's worth it. Thank you so much for everyone who helps to make Scouting in Wharfedale what it is.

**Dom and Alan**

## **Beavers 2018 report**

I am pleased to report that all colonies in the district are doing well.

In February we held our second Chinese Capers at Otley Bridge Church. It was good to see that we had a full turn out of the districts colonies.

We are looking forward to our annual Funday and sleepover at Curly Hill on the 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June. We are hoping that the weather is kind to us this year after we had to cancel the Funday last year although we did go ahead with the Sleepover.

I would like to thank the district Beaver Leaders who are always welcoming when I visit and their enthusiasm and support whenever we hold events

**Pete Dickinson ADC Beavers**

Chinese Caper 2018





Our fabulous leaders and wonderful Cubs at *Addingham, 1<sup>st</sup> Ben-Rhydding Chubb, 1<sup>st</sup> Ben-Rhydding Findlay, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ben-Rhydding, 1<sup>st</sup> Burley Forster, 1<sup>st</sup> Burley Watson, Ilkley Christchurch, Menston Cromwell, Menston Fairfax, Otley Bridge, Otley Parish, Otley Methodist, 2<sup>nd</sup> Otley Thursday and 2<sup>nd</sup> Otley Tuesday* have had a busy year!

A huge range of activities have taken place around the District, including weekly meetings, sleepovers, camps, community projects, charity events, swimming gala, getting badges, quiz evening, cooking competition, going for hikes, challenge event, 5 a-side football, Activity Evening, sports day, water activities at Reva, campfires, playing games, making friends, developing resilience and building life skills.

We've had a blast! **Alison Duckmanton ADC Cubs**

# EXPLORERS

Last July the Explorers had a district evening at Reva. After the water activities had finished, there was a BBQ to cook burgers and hot dogs for all. These went down well and we must thank everyone at Reva for a very successful, enjoyable evening!



Menston Explorers has only 8 active members at present, but they are keen, so we usually have a full complement, except for the Summer exam period. We have been making go-karts with old bike wheels and frames constructed with wood - still to be fettled into full service. We have enjoyed orienteering, hiking over Beamsley Beacon, mountain biking, indoor and outdoor rock climbing. We are planning on wild camp in July and entering a team for the six dales hiking event in September.  
Leader –S. McCann

In September all the Explorer Units in Otley joined together to make Otley Explorer Unit. They are meeting weekly but at a different venue each term. They have had a varied program from carving pumpkins, making Christmas tealight holders, holding a sausage sizzle and going climbing. There have been first aid evenings, scavenger hunts, orienteering and wide games. There was also a very successful evening at Ghyll Beck driving range 9 (perhaps they have the next Tiger Woods)



Ilkley Explorers had a very successful 10 day summer camp in Belgium with their Dutch friends although a little wet at times. They visited war graves, The Caves of Han, took part in a 4 day expedition and had day at an amusement park amongst other things. They have held cooking challenges where a meal has to be made out of ingredients they have individually won, taken part in wide games and hikes together with scavenger hunts, quizzes and team building challenges.



In February 65 District Explorers and leaders went ice skating in Leeds. Some of the leaders took to the ice too!

All the units have held successful wide games, scavenger hunts, done first aid, backwoods cooked and pioneered to name but a few. This doesn't count all the badge and Duke of Edinburgh work that all the Units do regularly.

The 4 District Units obviously have well run programs but we desperately need more leaders to have really successful Explorer Scouting in Wharfedale.

The enthusiasm and hard work given by all our leaders should be recognised and I would like thank all of them for their great efforts to develop Explorer Scouting in Wharfedale.

**Pam Newman**

**District Explorer Scout Commissioner**

# network

## NETWORK SCOUTS

Wharfedale Network is very slowly growing and new members are always welcome.

All young people aged 18 -25 are now automatically members of Network. Here they can continue to work towards the Queens Scout Award participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

It is a great place for all who are leaders in other sections to meet and swap ideas and have fun.

Please contact me for more details.

**Pam Newman Network Leader**



## Wharfedale Scout Sailing Centre (WSSC) Reva 2017/18

### Courses and Training

We offered 3 RYA Sailing Courses this year: 13/14 May, 15/16 July, 23/24 September.

We also ran an RYA Powerboat Level 2 Course and Scout Permit Assessment weekend on 24/25/26 March.

### Lease Renewal

WSSC is waiting for confirmation from Yorkshire Water of Heads of Terms (HOT's) on the Lease Agreement. The new lease will be dated from November 2016 and will last for 20 years.

### Boats and Equipment



WSSC thanks the County Sailing Centre (Green withens) for the loan of their yellow 30' bellboat. A bellboat is a pair of 30-foot-long Canadian Canoes which are bolted together. Up to 14 youngsters can paddle the bellboat with an instructor on board if required.

**WSSC is fund raising for their own bellboat.**

## Water Activities



During 2017 another **20 Water Activity Sessions** have been safely completed this season with as many as **500 young people taking part** in total.

Instructors, Explorers and members have worked hard to make these the success they were. We are encouraged to see more groups from Wharfedale District taking part.

## Membership

WSSC has 2 new group members. We welcome 2<sup>nd</sup> Riddlesden Uniformed Group and 5<sup>th</sup> Keighley/East Morton. Both Groups are self-supporting with sufficient Scout Activity Permits and Instructors.

Group members pay WSSC £100 per year and £1 per Scout each time they attend.

## Fund Raising



In July 2017 we were awarded a substantial grant from the Freemasons of Yorkshire, West Riding. The money is to be spent on purchasing 4 boats, a double stacking trailer and the re fitting of working showers in both the changing rooms.

A generous donation (£120) of specialist metal (anti rust) paint was donated by Manor Coating of Shipley for the repainting of the shipping container. The khaki colour almost makes it disappear!!!

WSSC held it's AGM on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 at Reva.

**Report prepared by Catherine Britton (WSSC/Reva Secretary)**

## **Curly Hill Reservations Annual Report 2018**

The popularity of Curly Hill continues to increase with a consequential rise in income generated for District funds.

In the calendar year 2017 there were 102 visits (up 16% on 2016) with income rising by 12% to £21500. The majority of our visitors are Scout or Guide groups plus many local schools who value our facilities for DoE training. In addition the site is made available for evening use by Wharfedale Scout and Guide groups at no charge - in 2017 22% of visits fell into this category

This high level of activity is only sustained by the group of volunteer wardens who look after our guests. Thanks go to them for their support in enabling Curly Hill to continue to be a successful economic asset for the District. Extra help is always useful and it would be welcome to see all groups in the District nominating at least one volunteer warden so that the workload can be spread. This does not need to be a uniformed member.

With demand ahead of supply it was felt that Curly Hill was underselling itself so at the 2017 review the wardens agreed to a modest rise in charges. However so far this has had little impact on bookings so perhaps we are still a little too cheap!

So far 2018 looks like another positive year with 96 booked visits so far, valued at over £20,400. . An agreement with the Nell Bank Centre for them to promote Curly Hill for their visitors who wish to sample overnight camping should bring us further bookings In July we are pleased to be again hosting a group of French exchange students from Erquinghem Lys.

**Mike Roberts bookings secretary**

### **Community & PR Report**

I continue to assist Groups & District with PR, Fundraising & recruitment.

I attended Ghyll Royd School assembly & gave a talk on Scouting around St George's Day which went down well & was appreciated very much by the Head Teacher.

3<sup>rd</sup> Ben Rhydding Scouts attended Ilkley Town Hall for a tour/Talk & Debate with The Mayor Stephen Butler & Other Groups are welcome to arrange this.

Good recent PR in the local papers was achieved for St George's Day & Torch Race (Double centre Spread) plus the Town Hall visit, 3BR Jamboree fundraising events & St George's Day, Scout service and D of E Awards .

The Newsletter continues to get produced as and when we have enough news. Many thanks to Ashley Frances of Menston for his great assistance in producing this. It is good to acknowledge Awards & achievements etc.

**David Shaw ADC Communications**

## Wharfedale District Nights Away 2017

Group Name	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts	Explorers	Leaders	Total ++ Nights Camped
Addingham		13	43		14	224
Ilkley Christchurch		34			10	88
1 <sup>st</sup> Ben Rhydding	15	165	50	7	48	777
3rd Ben Rhydding		1	51		9	123
1st Burley in Wharfedale		63	44	14	28	487
Menston St John's		38	12		9	79
Otley Parish			52	1	19	99
Otley Methodists		23			7	52
Otley Bridge			36	5	15	280
2nd Otley		30	9	1	8	87
Wharfedale Explorers				91	7	312
District Beaver Camp	68				16	84
Visitors to Wharfedale						
<b>Total in 2017</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>2692</b>
<b>Total in 2016</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>1465</b>

++ Total nights – this is number of campers x nights camped.

Explorers listed in group lines are ones which have been away with the relevant groups.

The figures above are for notified nights away by Leaders in line with nights away forms received.

Some units do not inform me when they are away

**Peter Bennett** Nights Away Adviser