



# ***WHARFEDALE DISTRICT***

## **Scouting in 2014-15**



**Charity Number: 524827**

## **THE WIDER DISTRICT**

### **Mark Stageman DC and Sally Harrison DDC**

More opportunity for more young people! It's a great way to describe our last twelve months together here in the Wharfedale Scout District. It doesn't matter how you choose to measure it. If you look at the growing numbers of young people joining our Scouting family, the recruitment of adult volunteers across our District, our adventure together at BIG Camp 2015, the fun and laughter of Chinese Capers, the friendship and support of time together at our District Development Day in March or simply great scouting activities at Curly Hill or the Wharfedale Scout Sailing Centre, in 2014/15 we've enjoyed more Scouting together as a Scouting family. Most importantly, together we've created more opportunity for our young people to have access to and share in the gift of Scouting.

As we all know, Scouting keeps moving. On that note, in 2014/15, we've continued to provide more access Scouting across our district. Our new group at Christchurch under the stewardship of Judith, Peter and team has gone from strength to strength. Menston Scout Group started a second Beaver Colony and Cub Pack, Invictus Explorer Unit was formed and the 1st Ben Rhydding opened their new Headquarters in August last year! Just a few of the great success stories from across our district over the past twelve months.



As for adventure and activities, this report cannot possibly do justice to the sheer volume of adventure and fun that 2014/15 has generated. Whether it was support for the District Grand Depart/French Fun Day last June, pond dipping at the Old Tam, an Easter Egg Hunt at Curly Hill, culinary fun with the Chef's Badge, egg rolling on the Chevin, Teas on the Green at the Village Duck Race, a Christmas Party at the Leeds Climbing Wall, a trip to Hag Dyke or a long standing international exchange with a Dutch group, 2014/15 has certainly given our young people new adventures and memorable experiences. However, over the past twelve months, our groups have not only provided great non-stop Scouting. We've also provided great support for our local communities. Menston Explorer Scouts hit the headlines with their eggs2ipads project providing valuable computer literacy support to the elderly. Otley Bridge held a "Big Breakfast" to raise money for the "Edge Project" - a charity for underprivileged children on the Holmewood estate in Bradford and Burley-in-Wharfedale Cubs rolled up their sleeves and went to work tidying up the local railway station. There are, of course, many other great examples from across our district – this summary is just the tip of the iceberg. Whatever you did and whoever you are, we think we can all be proud of the way in which our young people (and adult volunteers, of course) have played their part to help others in our local communities.

2014/15 has also been a great year for celebrating the talent and commitment of both our young people and our adult volunteers. Whether on stage at the County Awards Ceremony at Bradford Cathedral, at the Awards Dinner in April or as part of a group or sectional activity at a local campsite, the achievements of our young people and adult volunteers have seen many of our proudest moments over the last twelve months. On behalf of all our Scouting family here in Wharfedale, congratulations to all our award receipts in 2014/15. Whatever your achievement, we are proud to have you as part of our Scouting family.

In line with Scouting Vision for 2018, together we continue to make Scouting truly inclusive and available to all those who wish to join our Scouting family. We are starting to make progress on our youth agenda in order to make sure our young people are at the heart of our decision making here in our district. In our year ahead, we'll continue to see more new initiatives as we press on with our ambition to promote youth involvement and decision making at all levels in our movement. Of course, we're sure we'll do more between now and 2018 but we think we can be proud of our progress so far.



With our activity centres in mind, we're delighted to report that we've continued to see great progress at the Wharfedale Scout Sailing Centre at Reva Reservoir under the stewardship of Lester Mulligan and the rest of the team. The team continues to extend the range of activities on offer both in terms of regular courses and open taster days for those who wish to find out more about water sports. In conjunction, we've seen further progress at Curly Hill under the guidance of Mike Roberts and our committed team of wardens and helpers. Much of the work at these centres often goes unseen but never unnoticed. We know the respective teams have ambitious future plans and we wish them well with all they endeavour to do in the name of Scouting. Without these committed volunteers, our Scouting adventure here in Wharfedale would just not be the same. So, thank you to all those who are involved at both centres for all they do for our young people and our adult volunteers.

Our focus in 2014/15 - well, that's to simply continue to create more fun, friendship and adventure; in a safe environment, for more young people. To support that ambition, over the forthcoming months, we'll be announcing a number of initiatives to support the development of local Scouting here in the communities of Wharfedale. In particular, we'll be looking to provide more access to locally-based training for both our sectional leaders and members of our Group Executives to ensure we continue to provide a safe and well managed environment for our young people. And, of course, we'll be making plans to celebrate a 100 years of Cub Scouting. With such a landmark on the horizon, it certainly promises to be a great year ahead!

On a final note, we'd like to re-iterate our personal thanks to all the Commissioners, Executive Members, Leaders and Supporters for all you do to support and develop Scouting here in Wharfedale. As we all know, it's a combination of our great Scouting heritage, the talent of our young people and the enthusiasm and commitment of our adult volunteers that together continue to make Wharfedale District Scouts the success it is today. We think we can all be immensely proud of our shared success in 2014/15. Whatever part you played over the past twelve months, we did it together.

We wish you every success for your Scouting year ahead.

**Mark and Sally.**

## **BEAVER SCOUTS**

The weather was mostly fine for our District Funday at Curly Hill in June 2014. The theme was French/Cycling. It was a very enjoyable afternoon with a full turnout from all the Colonies in the district.



February saw “Chinese Capers” our first winter event. It was held at Otley Bridge Church. Over 150 Beaver Scouts attended. Making Fortune Cookies and Dragons as well as recreating the Great Wall of China out of Cereal Boxes(!) were just a few of the many bases on offer.



Plans are well under way for this year’s event in June at Curly Hill. This time it will be Knights of the Round Table.

I am pleased to report that Beavers at Ilkley Christchurch Colony have just celebrated their first birthday. The Cub Pack is planned to start in January.

It’s excellent news that Menston St John’s second Colony is now up and running. I have called to see them and they are doing great.

We have the usual problem where most of the Colonies in the district are full with many having waiting lists, but we are making progress. In the last year the number of Colonies in the district has risen from nine to eleven.

Finally I would like to thank all the District Beaver Leaders for their great support.

**Pete Dickenson ADC BS**

## CUB SCOUTS

During the last 12 months the Cubs in Wharfedale have been very busy. As well as each Group running their own meetings and camps we have had many District events. We had the sports day held in Addingham in June, the cooking competition in Ben Rhydding in November, the quiz at Curly Hill in February, the swimming gala in Skipton in March and the 5 a side football tournament in April.

Our most recent event was the activity evening held here at Curly Hill last Thursday.

Each event has had a good turnout of Groups across the District.

A big thank you to all the leaders who give up their time to ensure the Cubs all have lots of fun throughout the year.



Winning Team of Cooking competition  
2<sup>nd</sup> Otley Cubs

157 Cubs at District Activity Evening campfire

## Marilyn Jennings ADC Cub Scouts

## WHARFDEALE EXPLORER SCOUTS



It has been a good year for Explorer Scouting in the District with numbers increasing and the formation of a new unit in Menston which is up and running successfully as are all our units.

Not long after last year's AGM the Explorers had a district fun evening at Reva. Unfortunately the wind dropped so it was out with the boards and the canoes. As they came in from the water some of the Reva helpers were cooking burgers and hot dogs on the BBQ. All had great fun and we are looking forward to this year's event.



During the summer most of our units were busy with Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and summer camps. After Christmas the District all went to The Cube, ice skating in Millennium square. Over 60 explorers invaded the rink and as usual this proved to be a very popular event.



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 DESC**

## **NETWORK SCOUTS**

The Wharfedale section of the County Network is continuing to grow albeit slowly. Many of the members are continuing to follow the Scout Association Badge Program and some participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Many of the members are also leaders in various sections so it is important they have chance to meet, share ideas and do things for themselves.

Network members had a joint activity with the Explorers this year at Reva and all had a good time.



New members are always welcome!

**Pam Newman Network Leader**

## **DISTRICT SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT UNIT**

### **WHARFEDALE SCOUT SERVICE TEAM 'The Lionhearts' REPORT for 2014/15**

We've had another busy year supporting District events, including running the Cub Quiz at Addingham HQ this year with a good turn-out of 8 Packs and won by 1<sup>st</sup> BR Findlay. We assisted at the Cubs Swimming Gala at Skipton Baths, always enthusiastically supported, with Addingham coming first this year. In contrast the Cubs Sports were less well attended due to date changes because of a certain bike race, i.e. the Tour de France.

The annual Torch Race up Otley Chevin was won this year by Otley Parish Scouts and 1<sup>st</sup> BR won the Explorers race. We provided support for St George's Day at Ilkley Parish Church which was packed, with standing room only at the back! We again provided refreshments for the District AGM, which was also well attended this year.

Our Service Team has been linked with the Fellsman Hike run by Keighley Scout Service Team for nearly 45 years during which we've manned at least five different checkpoints. But 2014 proved to be our last year, at Redshaw, ironically with good weather for a change. Our reducing numbers fit enough to handle the amounts of canvas needed in often hostile weather conditions coupled with transportation problems have finally caught up with us and we've had to stand down this year – 'with a sad heart' as reported by our Chairman. Keighley have thanked us for our involvement over the many years



Also we were expecting that last June's Telecom Three Peaks Race would be the final one, after running for 40 years. Everything went well on the day with around 60 teams entering. The latest news however is that the event may well live on, as a new Organiser has come forward for 2015. So it seems like it could be business as usual for us, except that we have decided to opt out of running two of the summit checkpoints, i.e. Wherside and Ingleborough.

As always our Team members rally round to support the annual round of events and were thanked by our Chairman Iain Paterson at the Lionhearts AGM. This all helps to ensure that the Wharfedale District is able to provide high quality Scouting throughout the year. In addition many thanks were given to those of our members who are active on the Curly Hill team and continue to maintain and enhance the Curly Hill Activity Centre.



**Bruce Brown**  
**Wharfedale Scout Service Team Secretary**

## **ACTIVITY CENTRES**

### **Curly Hill Campsite and Centre.**

The Centre and site have again been well used by visitors and are now running almost to capacity. The annual maintenance work was conducted in January when cleaning, painting, polishing and renewals were undertaken. Improvements to the Centre included door closers and hinge protectors as well as new light fittings.

The site boundary fence is in constant need of repair both to the farmer's field from animal damage and the woodland boundary from vandal damage. Winter storms damaged some trees which have been removed and the wood saved for use on the site. Over 400 new trees donated by the Woodland Trust were planted this spring many by the Ilkley Explorer Unit.



Two new water supply points have been completed over the winter for the two east sites of Field and Sunrise areas for ease of use by campers.

There is much still to complete as regulations are constantly being revised and the Wardens intend to maintain a high standard.

**Andrew Walbank**

### **Reva Water Activity Centre**

2014 has been another positive and active year of water sports with the Wharfedale Scouts Sailing Centre at Reva. Facilities, courses, water activity sessions and craft have been made available to members and local Scout and Guide groups.

Reva has once again gained its recognition as a RYA Training Establishment.

We held 2 RYA Start Sailing courses in May and July. In September an RYA Improver course was held for Scouts and members and included the RYA adult advance modules – Seamanship and Sailing with Spinnakers. Regular Scout sailing/canoeing/kayaking sessions have taken place most Monday and Thursday evenings throughout the season. However, Kayak activity is limited due to a lack of Permitted Kayak Skills Instructors. 20 Water Activity Sessions have been completed this season with over 500 young people taking part in total. Instructors, Explorer Scouts and members have worked hard to make these the success they were.

Membership levels for 2014 have increased considerably with new family members joining. Family and individual members have been sailing on Sunday afternoons.

Our AGM was held in September 2014. The meeting covered the necessary elements and afterwards we enjoyed supper and a PowerPoint presentation of recent activities.



We are happy to report that the sewage drain problem (detected during the summer) has been resolved by Yorkshire Water who replaced the collapsed section on their land.

Careful stewardship, shrewd management and an injection of cash (£4,500) from Ilkley and District Round Table has resulted in WSSC being slightly better off financially than in previous years. A “new to us” RS Venture Sailing Dinghy was purchased with the grant prompting us to host an

“Open Day” in May. Over 300 visitors came to Reva to enjoy an action packed day – sailing, rowing, rafting canoeing, kayaking, BBQ and raffle.

21 boats have been donated to WSSC after the closure of Sheffield Scout Sailing Centre. The large variety of sailing dinghies and power boats, although well used, with a £600 budget for parts and a willing team of volunteers, will prove to be a good acquisition for Wharfedale.

We are grateful for the continued support of Wharfedale District Scouts, all our qualified RYA instructors, Water Activity Permit holders, Scout leaders, members and helpers who make water sports at Reva a continued success.

**Cath Britton Reva Secretary**

#### **Wharfedale District Nights Away 2014**

| <b>Group Name</b>        | <b>Beavers</b> | <b>Cubs</b> | <b>Scouts</b> | <b>Explorers</b> | <b>Leaders</b> | <b>Total Nights Camped</b> |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Addingham                | 8              | 8           | 34            |                  | 12             | 171                        |
| 1st Ben Rhydding         | 22             | 130         | 28            | 6                | 37             | 659                        |
| 3rd Ben Rhydding         |                |             |               |                  |                |                            |
| 1st Burley in Wharfedale |                | 91          |               | 6                | 20             | 191                        |
| Menston St John's        |                | 51          | 46            | 1                | 15             | 226                        |
| Otley Parish             | 15             | 21          | 117           | 10               | 37             | 386                        |
| Otley Methodists         |                | 10          | 21            | 1                | 13             | 55                         |
| Otley Bridge             |                |             | 34            | 7                | 25             | 183                        |
| 2nd Otley                |                | 52          | 37            | 3                | 27             | 237                        |
| Wharfedale Explorers     |                |             |               | 108              | 15             | 561                        |
| Visitors to Wharfedale   |                |             |               | 9                |                | 9                          |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>45</b>      | <b>363</b>  | <b>317</b>    | <b>151</b>       | <b>201</b>     | <b>2678</b>                |

The figures above are for notified nights away by Leaders in line with nights away forms received  
 Some units still do not inform me when they are going away (against P.O.R.)  
 Explorers listed in group lines are ones which have been away with the relevant groups

