



WHARFEDALE DISTRICT Scouting in 2015-16



Charity Number: 524827

Our Year Together: Mark Stageman

It will come as no surprise to you when I say that Scouting continues to thrive here in the communities of Wharfedale. Over the past twelve months, our Scouting family has grown considerably with nearly 6% more young people and 56 more adults (over 33%) making up our current Scouting family of 1077 members (many more contribute behind the scenes!). But never mind the statistics, the message is quite simply - more volunteers, more activities and most importantly, more opportunity for our young people to share in and enjoy the gift of Scouting. However, we care to measure it - that's great news !

Over the past twelve months, our volunteers have opened up new sections - so there now even more opportunity for our young people and adult volunteers to come together, make new friends, experience new challenges and most importantly, have fun. We have seen unilateral growth across the district (always good news) with many groups increasing their numbers across the sections. No wonder our Scouting family has grown by a whopping 10% ! All great news, not only for Scouting but also for our local communities here in Wharfedale.



However, as I said earlier, it's not just about numbers, it's about the fun, friendships and adventure that Scouting brings to our young people and our adult volunteers. 2015/2016 has seen a whole range of great activities and opportunities presented to our young people to enhance their Scouting adventure. Just a few to remind you (as if I needed to) - the competition and pride associated with our Annual Torch Race (with new badges for our competitors, of course), the fundraising efforts of the Burley and Addingham Scouts cleaning aircraft at Leeds/Bradford Airport, the excitement of the Otley Parish Pumpkin Evening and Ilkley Scare Trail in October, the challenge of the 1st Ben Rhydding climbing Ayers Rock, Zoetermeer in the Netherlands, the wonder of the Exploring Science Night with Otley Bridge Scouts, the pride of Christchurch Beavers and their record breaking Chief Scout Bronze Award presentation evening, the friendship of a great campfire experience at Wharfedale District Cub Activity Evening, the adventurous activities and challenge at the District Scout Camp in May, the fun at our district swimming competition in March, the support we give to our communities through the Eggs2iPads with the Menston Explorer Scouts or simply the great colony, pack, troop and unit nights our sectional leaders regularly provide throughout the year. Whatever we do for our young people here in Wharfedale, their Scouting adventure is surely something they will remember for the rest of their lives.



To support our leaders; under the stewardship of Charlotte and Claire, the past twelve months has also seen the continued development of locally-based training to meet the needs of our volunteers here in Wharfedale. More than ever, through the provision of multi-modular weekends, validation days, safeguarding training and first-aid courses, our volunteers have local access to the skills and experience to support them in their Scouting journey.

2015/16 has also been a great year for celebrating the talent and commitment of both our young people and

our adult volunteers. In particular, we said congratulations to our Wharfedale Good Egg recipients - Peter Dickinson, Graham Goldthorpe, Robin Beaumont, Cath Britton and John Sharpe for all they do to help others in the district. We also recognised the dedication and contribution of Graham Peacock, Peter Bennett, Fred King, Christine Paterson and Tom Pickard as St George's Day Award recipients and many more across the district who received Good Service Awards over the past twelve months.

Not forgetting, Daisy, Henry and Shona, of course, who won this year's Torch Race and Cubs100 Badge competitions respectively). Whether it happened at the County Awards Ceremony at Bradford Cathedral, at the County Annual Awards Dinner, as part of our St George's Day celebrations in Burley or as part of a group or sectional activity at a local HQ, the achievements of our adult volunteers and young people have seen many of our proudest moments over the last twelve



months. So, on behalf of all our Scouting family here in Wharfedale, congratulations to all those who were recognised through the receipt of an award in 2015/16. Whatever your achievement, we are proud to have you as part of our Scouting family.



In line with Scouting's Vision for 2018, together we continue to make Scouting truly inclusive and accessible to all those who wish to join our Scouting family. As we all know, Scouting is a gift given to all by our founder Baden-Powell. Today, it is more relevant than ever that we continue to share that gift in our communities and welcome all those who wish to be involved. Whatever our talent and time commitment might be, there is place for us all somewhere in our Scouting family. I'm pleased to say we've also made some progress on our youth agenda; ensuring our young people are at the heart of our decision making here in our district, but there is still much to do. In particular, I look forward to welcoming a new District Youth Commissioner in the near future to support the development of

Scouting's "Youth Shaped" agenda here in Wharfedale.

The last twelve months has also seen great progress at Curly Hill and Reva Reservoir; our district campsite and sailing centre respectively, under the stewardship of Mike Roberts, Lester Mulligan and Cath Britton. Through the work of committed volunteers, we've continued to develop these valuable assets to provide a safe environment for our young people to make the very most of their Scouting Adventure. So, thank you to all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make this aspect of our Scouting here in Wharfedale such a success. I look forward to seeing further development of these centres over the forthcoming years.

On a personal note, it has been a real pleasure to spend time with members of our Scouting family here in Wharfedale. I can see why Scouting has been so successful here over the years. Committed and enthusiastic volunteers, leading hugely talented young people. It's the perfect recipe for great times, continued success and lots of fun along the way. On that note, I would like to re-iterate my personal thanks to all the Commissioners, Executive Members, Leaders, Trainers and Supporters for all they do to support and develop Scouting here in our district. In particular, the trustees and District Executive members who have provided valuable and much needed operational support to enable the development of Scouting here in Wharfedale over the past twelve months. I would also like to say thank you and recognise the huge contribution the Lionhearts continue to make to Scouting here in our district - supporting district events, contributing to our committees, maintaining and running our facilities or simply supporting our sectional leaders on a weekly basis are just a few of the ways they continue to make an invaluable contribution to our Scouting family here in Wharfedale.



And finally, I would like to say a very special thank you to Sally Harrison for all her support to manage the district over the past 12 months. As I am sure you will appreciate, it has very much been a team effort over the past couple of years. Sally is a wonderful asset to Scouting here in Wharfedale and I wish her all the very best for the future wherever her Scouting journey may take her. It goes without saying, it's a combination of all our efforts that continue to make Scouting in Wharfedale the success it is today - respectful of its heritage, proud of its young people and adult volunteers, relevant to its communities and enthusiastic about its future. Whatever part you played in our success over the past twelve months, we did it together.

Looking to the future, I'm delighted to welcome Alan and Dominic into their new roles as District Commissioner and Deputy District Commissioner respectively. Alan and Dominic's enthusiasm, broad experience and commitment to our Scouting family are the perfect qualities to take our district forward and lead Scouting family here in Wharfedale. I have no doubt Scouting will continue to go from strength under their stewardship. I know you will all join me in congratulating Alan and Dominic on their appointment, support them in their respective roles and wish them all the very best in their future Scouting.

I look forward to hearing more about the development of Scouting here in Wharfedale over the forthcoming years and wish you all the very best for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Incoming DC and DDC report

We are delighted to be able to be making our first report as District Commissioner and Deputy District Commissioner for Wharfedale and it will be our pleasure to be able to lead the District to what we are sure will be a bigger and brighter future.

However, firstly, it would be remiss of us not to recall how fortunate the District has been to have had the services of Mark Stageman and Sally Harrison leading us. Under their stewardship the District has gone from strength to strength and we know that you will all join us in thanking them for their hard work and dedication to Scouting. We wish them all the very best for the future.

Looking forward, a focus for 2016/17 will be to create yet more opportunities for fun and adventure for our young people (and also all the adults involved as well). To achieve this we will be trying to increase the opportunities for the Leaders to access training to enable them to be authorised to lead our young people in a wide a range of adventurous activities as possible.

As new DC and DDC we are being trained by an officer of Scouting HQ. At our first training we were presented with Scouting HQ data relating to Wharfedale and its Groups. The trainer used the words 'never in my wide experience have I seen a District with so many areas which are Green (good) and so few Red areas (for improvement). You have taken charge of a great District'.

We both knew that but it was really encouraging to have it said from outside the District. The fact that we are successful is a testimony to the historical and current leadership and outstanding commitment of our adult volunteers at all levels within the District, Group or Section. However you are involved you can be proud that your enthusiasm and dedication has made Scouting in Wharfedale so successful. Long may it continue.

Alan and Dominic



BEAVER SCOUTS

This year has seen the addition of yet another colony with the introduction of 2nd Otley, Monday Beavers. I visited them recently and was very pleased that I picked the night of their first Investiture.

In the last year we have seen a few of the Beaver Section Leaders move on to pastures new. I wish Sue Hirst (Menston), Simon Quin (2nd Otley) and Becky Dobson (Otley Parish) all the best. I am pleased to say they have left their colonies in good order and the new leaders have settled in well. I would also like to congratulate Christine Paterson (Otley Bridge) on being awarded the Silver Acorn.



at Curly Hill, The theme will be 'Countries'. I am pleased to say that all twelve colonies will be attending. This will be followed by a sleepover where about 80 Beavers from the district will be taking part.

This year we are celebrating 30 years of Beaver Scouting. I read that colonies should try to find an former leader to tell the children how things were in the early days. I didn't have to look far to find someone who was there right from the start. In fact she is very much not an ex-leader. I am talking about Judith of course. On a personal note we have worked out that this year between us we will be celebrating 70 years of section Leadership.

Last year's Funday at Curly Hill took place on a glorious June Saturday with the theme of 'Knights of the Round Table' shown in the pictures.

This year's Funday will be held on 25th June

Pete Dickenson ADC BS

CUB SCOUTS

Whilst we could be looking back to 2015 much of our time has been geared to arranging local celebrations for the Cub Centenary falling throughout 2016.

This provides an opportunity to promote Scouting in our district in during the year through the **Centenary**. There is a national badge and a programme resource pack this last being paid by county one for each pack.

The Cubs District Swimming gala was held on 12 March at Ilkley swimming pool. Although not all the Groups were represented the event was well supported by parents and the winning team were 2nd Otley

The big event will be a district wide Cub Camp at Bramhope which should give all the youngsters in the district an experience of the wider nature of Scouting beyond their own unit. We are organising lots of activities including the cave bus, laserquest, climbing wall and lots more. We are hoping to have approximately 200 Cubs camping. So, here's hoping for a fine first weekend in July!

Towards the end of the year there will be The Promise Party: a national celebration held locally that will include a promise renewal on 16 December 2016 at 19:16. See: <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=12,746>

SCOUTS



framed certificate with all the four colour Badges.

So far this year the Scouts have been busy. We started with the swimming gala in March, which was a bit of a letdown with only two teams entering and people dropping out at the last minute. 1 BR came first and 3BR a close second, all the Scout enjoyed the night, A big thanks goes to Joann Williamson for helping out at the last minute and organizing the races. Next year it would be nice to have more teams.

The torch race, from Otley and up the Chevin went well. We had a lot of teams this year and the weather was on our side. All the Scouts and Explorers who took part received a badge to wear on their uniforms for one year, next year it's a different colour border. The badge was designed by Daisy Jones from Menston Scouts and she was presented with a



At the start of the year a certain DC (no name mentioned) said to me that it would nice to have a district camp this year, I think that I said yes. We camped here at Curly Hill and had 102 Scouts on site. On Saturday each of the Scouts

had the chance to do water activities at Reva and abseiling at the Cow & Calf. On Sunday morning they were split in teams of four mixing the groups up and then went orienteering in the woods. This was a good weekend despite the weather on Saturday. Our next venture is a district cooking competition in October

Dougie Lawson ADC Scouts

WHARFDALE EXPLORER SCOUTS



It has been a good year for Explorer Scouting in the District with numbers increasing and all units running successfully.

In July the Explorers had a district fun evening at Reva. After the water activities which everyone enjoyed the District Network team cooked burgers and hot dogs on the BBQ for all. As usual these went down well and we must thank everyone at Reva for a very successful evening.

During the summer most of our units were busy with Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and summer camps and 5 of our young people went to Japan to the World Scout Jamboree with other members of the County.

There has been a whole range of different activities that our various units have embarked on. Menston took part in the Eggs2ipads, helping older members of the community successfully get to grips with technology and 1 cup cooking. Otley Bridge did Come Dine with Me, £1 challenge and marble madness. Ilkley have orienteered, street danced, visited Clip'n'Climb and Ready Steady Cooked.



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





Many of our Explorers have also become involved with others Sections as Young Leaders and this

year Adam France from Menston achieved his YL award and Belt



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

Wharfedale Network is continuing to grow slowly. As all leaders aged 18 -25 are now automatically members of Network, I had hoped we would attract more members to our regular meetings! Many 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. Please contact me for more details.

Pam Newman
Network Leader

DISTRICT SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT UNIT 'The Lionhearts' **REPORT for 2015/16**

Our Chairman Iain Paterson thanked members for all their time and energy put in to what has been another busy year for the Lionhearts. Congratulations were given to a number of our members receiving much deserved awards in this year's St George's honours list.

Apart from our usual round of annual events, specific mention was made of the Telecom Three Peaks Race which seems to have regenerated itself with some old and new faces at the helm. Despite covering fewer mountain top checkpoints now, we still do all the refreshment stops, and our team did a great job and the event went very well, and hopefully its immediate future at least is assured.





After a year's absence following our retirement from Fellsman Hike checkpoint duty in 2014, we were asked by Keighley this year if we'd like to man the teashop at the start of the Hike in Ingleton Community Centre. With no marquees to erect and dismantle everything went really well and enjoyably, so this may be the start of a new involvement with the Hike. Some research by our Secretary reveals that our history with the Fellsman goes back to the 1960s before the official Scout Service Team started and when we were the Otley Rover Crew with early checkpoints at Redshaw and Kingsdale. Since then we've spent many hikes at several checkpoints - Stonehouse (7 years), Fleet Moss (2 years), Cray (20 years) and Redshaw (15 years).

We've also been involved with the Calderdale Hike for a lot of years and this April we had a good day once again at White House checkpoint on the summit of Blackshaw Head in the South Pennines. A number of our members attended the magnificent Big Camp at Harrogate Showground last May. Our 'official' duty was to run the District teashop, which wasn't too onerous for our numbers, but we soon found other uses for our talents helping out elsewhere on the event.



A new challenge for us this year is to provide and manage the catering for the Cubs 100th Anniversary District Camp at Bramhope in July. This could be one of the biggest events we have been asked to cover for some time, but no doubt we will rise to the occasion.

So as the Lionhearts enter another busy year we look forward to working with our new DC Alan Pratt and Deputy DC Dominic Dobson. Our regular meetings are on the second Tuesday each month in the Red Lion Hotel Burley at 9pm and anyone wishing to join us will be very welcome.

Bruce Brown

Wharfedale Scout Service Team Secretary 12 April 2016

ACTIVITY CENTRES

Curly Hill Campsite and Centre.

The Campsite and Centre have been used on 86 separate occasions in 2015 of which 20 were used free by District organisations and groups. 52 different groups used the property, some as many as four times, and came from as far away as Colchester and Wisbech in East Anglia. Ten non scout visitors used the facilities, mainly schools completing their Duke of Edinburgh training and some their assessment. The range of visitors from Beavers and Brownies to Explorers all enjoyed the facilities.

The Campsite and Centre generated over £21,000 as income but the services of gas, electricity, ware, insurance rates, refuse collection, fire detection and servicing of the cooker and boiler have to be offset when calculated.

Improvements during the year include finger guards and closers to the bedroom and kitchen doors, a projector screen for the main hall, new coat hooks for the entrance lobby and LED panel lights for the main hall.

The campsite has been provided with two new water points. 800 more trees have been planted and dying trees removed for safety and saved for the wood store, and a boundary fence has been constructed to the farmer's field at the east and north boundaries.

There is still much to do as the intense use of the facilities requires very regular and detailed maintenance for which all Wardens are thanked for their continued commitment.

Andrew Walbank Lead Warden

Reva Water Activity Centre



2015 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.

Regular Scout sailing/canoeing/kayaking sessions have taken place most Monday and Thursday evenings throughout the season. Our recently increased and refurbished Topper fleet is very popular with the Scouts. See photo.

18 Water Activity Sessions have been completed this season with over 500 young people taking part in total. Volunteer Instructors, Scouters, Explorer Scouts and members have worked hard to make these the success they were. The Water Activity Sessions and RYA Courses provide the income we need to pay the rent and insurance. Donations and fund raising efforts (Inc. the tuck shop) provide finance for fuel, boat repairs, new sails/kit etc.

Membership levels for 2015 have increased slightly. Demand for Water Activities within Wharfedale has increased..

Our AGM was held in September 2015. The meeting covered the necessary elements and afterwards we enjoyed supper and a PowerPoint presentation of recent activities.

Towards the end of the year WSSC received confirmation that a designated area of Reva Reservoir could be classified as C Water. This allows us to operate certain activities without Adventurous Activity Permits. Careful supervision of all water activities in this area, as in all areas will be maintained. A document containing the operating procedures has been drawn up and signed off. Team building (amongst the committee, instructors and members) is vital, so we had some social gatherings such as BBQs, meals out and family race events. These have been enjoyed by the members and more will be planned for 2016!



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 watersports at Reva a continued success.

Cath Britton Reva Secretary



