

Birmingham County Scouts

Annual Report and Accounts 2014



It's hard to believe that a year has now passed since I took on the County Commissioner's role.

Over the last 12 months we've concentrated on building the County team and I'm delighted that we've now filled most of the roles and that we have some great people within the team who I know will be able to help develop Scouting and drive Birmingham forwards.

Not many leaders or supporters of Scouting will have missed the launch of the national 2018 Vision and the Scouting for All project, supported by a set of core objectives that focus on growing Scouting, becoming an inclusive movement where we reflect the communities in which we're located, being increasingly youth shaped, and lastly adding real value to the wider community. The objectives have given us some real structure and a basis on which we're now developing County and District development plans that set out our action plans and focus areas for the next 4 years.

From a growth perspective, 2014 has been a year in which we've consolidated the previous increases in our membership and we've remained stable with 5,000 young people and 1,300 adult volunteers registered within Birmingham. We've focussed on supporting Groups looking to develop and grow, sharing best practice through a New Leaders Workshop, First Time Camper Camp, and Grow Your Group Day that all took place during the year.

We've continued to support the Groups and Districts within Birmingham, providing an excellent programme of activities including Mountain Leadership, Remembrance Service, Bivouac, BrumVenture, iceSCOUT, Faiths for Fun, Family Fun Day, Beaver Fun Day and our sectional competitions including Football, Air Rifle Shooting Archery and Chess. We have also been finalising the plans and delivery for the 2015 Jamboree to Japan, BrumJam 2016 and the National Scout and Guide Symphony Orchestra which will take place in August. Going forwards, the Assistant County Commissioners we've put in place for each of the sections will also be supporting Districts in growing their sections and sharing best practice to develop our leaders.

I committed last year that we would focus on ensuring our leaders have the tools to do their jobs effectively and it's been great to see the County Training team improving the ways in which we're delivering our core training modules and providing more District based training, including a significant increase in the number of First Aid and Safeguarding courses that we're running. We're continued to invest in our leader training provision within the County and most significantly have funded our core training modules which continue free of charge to all leaders. Unfortunately, not all initiatives to provide leaders with the tools to do their jobs have been as successful and we're currently working without access to Compass, our national membership system, I know that this is causing leaders some serious challenges and want to thank them for their patience and hard work in coping with some very manual workarounds.

In April we're holding a new Celebration & Achievement Evening that is hosted by the Pathfinder Lodge of the Freemasons and will provide us with an opportunity to celebrate our 17 Queen Scout Awards, 15 Explorer Belt Awards and the 8 Silver Acorns, Bar to Silver Acorns and Silver Wolves awarded to our leaders in the St George's Day Awards. From a group perspective I'd also like to congratulate the 64th Tame Valley for being presented with a Queens Award for Voluntary Service (the community equivalent of an MBE) which was presented to them in April at the Birmingham Council House.

Our activity centres at Blackwell Court and Pikes Pool continue to go grow with additional investment in new activities and facilities, ensuring that this remains a fantastic resource for Birmingham Scouts. We're currently working with the Blackwell Adventure board to develop a strategy for the activity centres for the next five years and will be able to share this later in 2015.

From an administrative perspective I'm pleased to be able to report that the County's financial performance is strong with a small operating surplus of £3,800 being generated in 2014 (our accounts show a £75,000 outflow of funds relating to Jamboree payments made this year where the income was recorded in the previous year. Blackwell Adventure reported an excellent trading year with a £78,000 operating profit (including an exceptional item relating to a water rates refund of £22,000) which we're re-investing in activities and facilities on the site. The County Shop also reported a good financial year with a £5,000 operating surplus (including exception items relating to YUF funded uniforms, funds for Young Leader Belts and hardship funds for Leader Uniforms).

The County Management Team and the Programme Teams have met throughout the year and are helping to shape our future plans and priorities, to support this we've implemented a new County Website, a more robust County e-mail service and a new County Voice / Internet Conferencing System.

My sincere thanks go out to all of the volunteers within Scouting in Birmingham who I know work tirelessly every week of the year to provide great experiences for our young people and make everything possible.

Andrew Lloyd - County Commissioner

County Services

Volunteers continue to provide services to the County membership at the County office and County shop. Other volunteers cover Communications, Chief Scouts Award administration, Development, Adult Training and Programme working with the sectional Assistant County Commissioners in the administration of the youth sections. Thank you to the team.

County Centres – Blackwell Court and Pikes Pool

Blackwell Adventure are pleased to report another successful year with usage levels by Scouts, Guides, schools and colleges being maintained. Once more the completed customer questionnaires confirm that we are achieving our aim to deliver challenging and adventurous activities within a quality controlled environment. In July we were pleased to welcome Girl Guiding Warwickshire for their major camp and during the year we were also awarded a substantial private sector contract to facilitate the 'Emerging Talents' development programme from one of the largest and most diverse companies working for the public and regulated sectors in the UK.

We have continued to invest in the infrastructure of both sites and at Blackwell Court new boilers and showers have been fitted within the main toilets. It is hoped that this level of investment will continue in 2015 with the upgrade of the remainder of this toilet block. The new High Ropes Activity facility at Pikes Pool opened for the summer season offering schools the opportunity of single day activities where residential options are not appropriate and giving Scouts and Guides additional opportunities when using the centre.

The Blackwell Adventure Board expects 2015 to be a year of consolidation whilst awaiting the outcome of the County Strategy Group and, although bookings for the year remain steady, the general cost of running the centres continues to rise. The Board, however, remains optimistic about the year as a whole and recognises the help that both centres receive from our volunteer team who give up so much of their time. Finally we must thank our paid staff for the dedication, skill and expertise that they bring to their collective roles because it is this overall level of service and commitment that gives Blackwell Adventure its unique identity.

Trustees

The Trustees of the Scout Association County of Birmingham are appointed in accordance with the Policy Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association. The Birmingham Scout Association is itself a registered charity (524566) and is part of the national Scout Association which is established by Royal Charter. The Trustees are mindful of their continued duty to assess and monitor the risks to which they believe the Birmingham Scout County is exposed to and to take any actions necessary to mitigate such risks.

County Executive

The County Executive has met four times during 2015 and has dealt with matters on an ongoing basis. There have been four sub-committees operating during the year – this includes the long established Faiths and Beliefs sub-committee, the more recent County Shop sub-committee plus the newly formed Stake Holders sub-committee and revised Appointments Advisory sub-committee. Thank you teams.

County Management Team

The County Management Team (CMT) has met on a monthly basis during 2014 by face to face meetings and conference calls. In June 2014 a review of CMT objectives and improvements to the working relationship with the Executive was made. In addition the Scouting Vision for 2018, the financial management of the County, the continued development of the County's properties, plus the work of volunteers and services offered to the County as a whole has continued to be a focus of the CMT's considerations.

On behalf of the whole County, the CMT members would like to thank all the volunteers in the sections, Groups, Districts and County, together with those who volunteer at Hatchett Street and those that work and volunteer at Blackwell Court/Pikes Pool for all their efforts in helping the County to continue to provide excellent services to all the young people involved with Scouting in Birmingham.



Committee Members Ex-Officio

Andrew Lloyd - County Commissioner
Dave Allen - County Chairman
Nick Fawdry - County Secretary
Linda Gurmin - County Treasurer

Nominated Members (voting)

John Nelson
Paul Little
Cllr Mike Leddy
Janet Sutton
Gerry Russell

Elected Members (voting)

Keith Hemming
Dave Lees
David Phillips
John Smith
Yvonne Woodhall

Co-opted Members (voting)

Youth Representative –
Daniel Bow
Chair of the Appointment Advisory Committee - Simon Cardall
Chair of the Faiths and Beliefs Committee - Daryl Holloway

Invited to Attend (none voting)

Regional Development Manager -
Stephanie Ovens
County Communications Manager -
Amanda Cardall
County Safety Co-ordinator -
Chris Ely
Chair of Blackwell Adventure –
Gerald Peel

Right to Attend (none voting)

Regional Commissioner -
Dave Bramston

County President

David Bradnock MBE, DL, JP, FBHI

County Patron

John Saville DL,JP

Vice Presidents

His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham –
The Most Reverend Bernard Longley
The Bishop of Birmingham -
The Rt. Revd. David Urquhart
Mr Chris Sims - Chief Constable
Cllr Randall Brew
Mr Duncan Cadbury
Mr Tom Cryer
Mr Lawrence Fagg
Hon. Ald. Len Gregory
Mr Gordon Higginson
Mr Rick Keeber
Mr Brian Kimberley
Mrs Sheila Kimberley
Mr Roger Morcom
Mr Pete Oldham
Mr Paul Platnauer
Mr Graham Shaylor OBE
Mrs Marion Simms
Mr Peter Taylor
Mrs Sarah Trinder
Miss Linda Bateman
Mrs Maggie Jones
Peter Perry
Lord Knights (Deceased)

St George's Day 2015 Awards

Silver Wolf:
Bill Askew
Dot Fitton
Ernie Fitton

Bar To The Silver Acorn:

Joe Blackburn
Derek Boole
Pat Shuttleworth
Helen Webley

Silver Acorn:

Dave Crook

The Cornwell Scout Badge:

Amy Keogh



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