

BIRMINGHAM COUNTY SCOUTS ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

2017

#SkillsForLife



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County Commissioner's Report

I'm pleased to be able to report another successful year for Scouting across Birmingham, not just seen in the numbers that we use to measure our youth and adult membership and our reach into the community, but also in terms of the great experiences we give to all of the young people involved in Scouting within Birmingham every week of the year.

The number of young people and adults who are members of the County has continued to grow. We've seen recent years of growth across the County continue with a 3.4% increase in our membership this year, an additional 247 young people and adult volunteers joining Scouting. Our total membership now numbers 7,619 people which represents an increase of 20% over the last five years. This reflects the amazing programmes and experiences that our leaders deliver each week of the year for their Groups.

In previous years I've commented within the Annual Report upon how the County has been taking forwards the four individual elements of the 2014–18 National Strategy (Growth, Inclusivity, Youth Shaped and Community Impact). As the period of the 2014–18 strategy draws to a close it's been exciting to see the detail of the next iteration of the strategy coming together and many of our members getting involved in the consultation activities that have taken place over recent months. While we'll retain the four key pillars of the strategy, our objectives will centre around three key focus areas: improving the way we support our volunteers through a 'People' objective, improving the quality of our 'Programme' and lastly improve the public 'Perception' of Scouting. All worthy objectives and ones that we will be able to get fully behind as a County as we go forward.

We've seen a number of changes within the County Team over the last 12 months. Paul Little has taken on the District Commissioner role responsible for Sutton Coldfield West, Geoff Shuttleworth has been appointed District Commissioner for Tame Valley, Nick Thomas has been appointed Deputy County Commissioner (Programme), Amelia Connelly appointed Assistant County Commissioner (Scouts), and Alison Hughes appointed Assistant County Commissioner (Special Needs). I'd like to thank Alison Hughes, Ben Hart, and Rob Roche who were previously District Commissioners for Sutton Coldfield West and Tame Valley, for the contribution they made to their Districts.

Sadly, we've also seen a number of current and past members of the County Team called to Higher Service during 2017. The contributions that Nigel Speakman, Marion Simms, Jean Rooke, and David Shipton had made to Scouting in Birmingham were significant over many years and they will all be sadly missed, but very fondly remembered.



2017 saw a different focus for the County on previous years. Where 2016 had been an opportunity for us to celebrate key birthdays for the Beaver and Cub sections, and our International camp, BrumJam, we decided to focus on a number of events aimed at our leaders and supporters last year. We've run a number of successful workshops targeting Programme Support, Executive Roles, and New Leader Inductions. This of course, is in addition to the normal range of activities that the County Team have continued to deliver to support our Groups and Districts, including our Bivouac, BrumVenture and iceScout weekends, Mountain Leadership Training, Faiths for Fun, our County Remembrance Service and a wide range of sectional competitions including Air Rifle Shooting, Football and Chess. We were also delighted to be able to host the National Scout & Guide Symphony Orchestra for a third year in Birmingham and saw fantastic performances from all of the young people who took part in the event.

Throughout 2017, we continued to see a high number of our young people achieve Chief Scouts Awards, with nearly 650 Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond awards being earned during the year as well as 4 Queen's Scout Awards. We held our 4th Celebration & Achievement Evening last month where we also celebrated 29 of our leaders who had been recognised through the St George's Day Awards. None of these awards are easily achieved and I must thank all of our leaders who support and encourage our young people in achieving them.

From an administrative perspective, it's good to see the County maintaining the financial stability we've achieved in recent years. Excluding the seasonal nature of our activity income and expenditure, we've strong financial performance with a small operating surplus of £5,920 being generated during the year, including a contribution of £4,780 from the County Shop (prior to a stock adjustment being taken into account). Donations received during the year have enabled us to continue to operate our Big Idea fund which supports Groups and Districts with financial contributions towards projects they're running. Our activity centres run by Blackwell Adventure have also again reported strong results with a turnover of £781,214 and a net surplus of £12,373 being generated.

I hope you'll agree that 2017 has been another great year for Scouting in Birmingham. We have solid foundations and a great future for Scouting in Birmingham. None of this, however, would be achievable without the superb team of leaders, supporter and parents across the County and I'd like to thank everybody for their continued support and dedication, providing skills for life for all of our young people.

Andrew Lloyd
County Commissioner



Achievement and performance

County Services

Volunteers continue to provide service to the County membership at the County shop. Other volunteers cover Communications, Chief Scout's Awards administration, Development, Adult Training and Programme working with the sectional Assistant County Commissioners in the administration of the youth section. Thank you to the team.

County Centres – Blackwell Court and Pikes Pool

Blackwell Court and Pikes Pool are around 50 acres each just a few minutes from Junction 1 of the M42. These superb properties, owned by the County, are managed as activity centres by Blackwell Adventure, a separate company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity No. 1121161.

The range of activities on offer provided fun, challenge, adventure and excitement to more than 24,000 young people and adults this year from across the West Midlands. Primarily this supports their personal development and allows the opportunity to manage risk within a supportive environment. 14,000 overnight guests and 10,000 day-visitors, in total 879 individual groups visited the centre in 2017 including 200 schools, 285 Scout Groups and 75 Girl Guide units.

This year we have welcomed students from Canada, Australia, New Zealand,

Costa Rica and Spain under the Latitude Global Volunteering Scheme.

Whilst the development of more indoor accommodation has not moved forward due to planning constraints, the Trustees are working through options to bring forward in the 2018 – 23 strategic plan. Work on upgrading all the toilet and showering facilities is nearing completion. This investment, over the past three years, is in excess of £150,000 and has made a significant difference to the facilities on the campsites.

More resources have been employed in the customer facing and marketing team leading to a new Blackwell for Business website www.blackwellforbusiness.co.uk specifically aimed at the corporate market.

The management team applied for and gained the Learning Outside of the Classroom (LOTC) accreditation: an outstanding success!

The company has had a good year achieving 96% of forecast with a total revenue of £781,214 and a net surplus of £12,373. Although revenue is lower than 2016 the core revenues from Scouts, Guides and schools has been strong.

The Board of Trustees are very grateful for the commitment and enterprise of the staff and volunteers who have worked enthusiastically throughout the year. Sincere thanks to all!

Paul Fennell
Chair of Blackwell Adventure Board

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 Trustees are mindful of their continued duty to assess and monitor the risks to which they believe the Scout Association County of Birmingham is exposed to and to take actions necessary to mitigate such risks.

County Executive

The County Executive has met four times during 2017 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 and the more recent County Shop sub-committee, Stakeholders sub-committee, Appointment Advisory sub-committee, the County Centres Strategic Development sub-committee and The Big Idea sub-committee. Thank you teams.

County Management Team

The County Management Team (CMT) has met on a monthly basis during 2017 through face to face meetings and conference calls. During the year the CMT has focussed upon its working relationship with the Executive, the Scouting Vision for 2018, the financial management of the County, the development of the County's properties, plus the work of volunteers and services offered to the County.

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

Charity Details

Charity name: The Scout Association
County of Birmingham
Other name the charity is known by:
Birmingham County Scouts
Registered charity number: 524566
Registered charity date: 25th March 1964
HQ Registration number: 00103
HQ Registration date: 16th March 1931

Charity registered address:
Centenary House, 89-91 Hatchett Street
Newtown, Birmingham B19 3NY
Tel: 0121 330 1212, Email:
headquarters@birminghamscouts.org.uk
Web: www.birminghamscouts.org.uk

Other Charity name: Blackwell Adventure
Other Charity principle address:
Blackwell Court, Agmore Road,
Blackwell, Worcester, B60 1PX
Tel: 0121 445 1285,
Email: info@blackwelladventure.co.uk
Web: www.blackwelladventure.co.uk

Custodian Trustees:
The Scout Association Trust Corporation

Bankers

HSBC Bank plc,
130 New Street, Birmingham B32 4JU
Lloyds Bank plc,
25 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HN

Auditors

PKF Cooper Parry Group Limited,
Park View, One Central Boulevard,
Blythe Valley Park, Solihull B90 8BG

Investment Managers

Charles Stanley & Company Limited,
55 Calthorpe Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham, B15 1TH

Committee Members Ex-Officio (trustee, voting)

Andrew Lloyd – County Commissioner
Dave Allen – County Chairman
(County Officers)
Nick Fawdry – County Secretary (County
Officers) (from 01/01/2017 to 30/09/2017)
Amanda Cardall – County Secretary
(County Officers) (from 01/09/2017)
Linda Gurmin – County Treasurer
(County Officers)
Sean Kelly – County Youth Commissioner

Committee Nominated Members (trustee, voting)

Harry Fowler
Pete Oldham
David Gilburn
Paul Little
Adam Brinkworth
Maggie Jones (from 15/05/2017)

Committee Elected Members (trustee, voting)

Heidi Guest
David Archer
James Holmes
Abigail McMillan
Alex Harverson

Committee Co-opted Members (trustee, voting)

Chair of the Appointment
Advisory Committee –
Simon Cardall
Chair of the Faiths and Beliefs Committee –
Daryl Holloway
Chair of the County Shop Committee –
Gerald Peel

Committee Invited to attend (not trustees, nonvoting)

County Safety Co-ordinator – Chris Ely
Chair of Blackwell Adventure – Paul Fennell
(from 5/05/2017)

Charity Supporters 2017 (not trustees) County President

David Bradnock MBE, DL, JP, FBHI

County Parton

John Saville DL, JP

County Vice Presidents

His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham –
The Most Reverend Bernard Longley
The Bishop of Birmingham –
The Rt. Revd. David Urquhart
Hon. Ald. Len Gregory
Cllr Randall Brew OBE, FCA
Mr Duncan Cadbury
Mr Lawrence Fagg
Mrs Maggie Jones
Mr Rick Keeber
Mr Brian Kimberley
Mrs Sheila Kimberley
Mr Pete Oldham
Mr Graham Shaylor OBE
Mrs Marion Simms
Miss Linda Bateman
Mr Tom Cryer
Mr Peter Taylor
Mr Gordon Higginson
Mr Roger Morcom
Mr Paul Platnauer
Mrs Sarah Trinder
Mr Daryl Holloway (appointed 16.05.16)

St. Georges Day 2018 Awards

Silver Wolf

Thelma Kettle	Ann Millington
David Kettle	Jacqui Porter

Bar to the Silver Acorn

Janet Aston	John Millard
Simon Cardall	Roy Smith
Andrew Lloyd	

Silver Acorn

Peter Abbott	Geoff Page
Bob Amatt	Brenda Page
Elizabeth Baizon	Kevin Payne
Amanda Cardall	Peter Rookes
Chris Carter	John Smith
Janet Corr	Steve Thomas
Margaret Drummon	Lynne Whittaker
Steph Fawdry	David Williams
Paul Fennell	Colin Williams
Avon Hopkins	Peter Wilson
Val Moore	

Refer to Financial statements for details of:
Structure, governance and management
Risk and Internal Control
Objectives and activities
Financial review
Reserves policy
Investment Policy



Birmingham County

County Office

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Twitter: @birminghamscout

Blackwell Adventure

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