



Scouts

Birmingham County

Annual Report 2018

#SkillsForLife



Scouts

Birmingham County

County Commissioner's Report



Having served five years as Birmingham's County Commissioner, I'm pleased to be able to report on another successful year for Scouting across the city. Over the last five years we've seen our membership grow by over 20% which is a phenomenal achievement and has seen us continue to develop new Groups and Sections in many new communities.

As we look forward to the coming year I'm also delighted to be able to announce that Birmingham has been selected as the third area nationally to be supported by funding from the Pears Foundation enabling us to run a development project over the next 18–24 months with the objectives to grow Scouting through both the opening or new Groups and Sections as well as working with existing Groups to look at how we can develop and improve our reach.

Our 2018 membership saw modest growth of 0.4% across the County and I'm pleased to report our membership now numbers 5,397 young people being supported by 2,238 adult volunteers. During the year we saw 24 new sections opened across Birmingham, although we have also identified additional opportunities to grow some of our smaller Groups and to target a number of areas of the City in which Scouting is not well represented which we follow up through the Pears Project when it commences in September 2019.

Our young people continue to achieve great things

and it's been a pleasure to see our Chief Scout's Award recipients at our regular presentation days at Blackwell Court during the year. In the last year over 800 Chief Scouts Awards, 20 Explorer Belt Awards and 9 Queens Scout Awards have been presented to Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and members of the Scout Network. I'm also incredibly proud that our adult volunteers have been recognised during the year with 16 Silver Acorns, 3 Bars to the Silver Acorn, and 4 Silver Wolves which is an amazing achievement and evidence of the high levels of commitment and dedication put in by our leaders and supporters.

While, as ever, we see our Groups and Districts delivering great programmes that challenge and stretch our young people, the County Team has been busy organising and running a full programme of activities and competitions across each of the sections including Bivouac, BrumVenture and iceScout weekends, Mountain Leadership and Climbing Training, Faiths for Fun, our County Remembrance Service, and numerous competitions. We've continued to host the National Scout & Guide Symphony Orchestra for the fourth year and enjoyed another successful week of learning and performances last August. Over the next two years we have a number of 'international' events taking place with the World Scout Jamboree being held in the USA this summer, the European Jamboree in Poland next summer and our very

own BrumJam 2020 where we're busy planning to host some 1,500 participants and leaders from the UK and overseas at Blackwell Court. My thanks go to everybody who is involved in supporting both our international events and our wider County Programme for all of the hard work and effort that goes into making them such a success.

Shortly after last year's Annual General Meeting in May 2018, The Scout Association launched our new five year strategy, Skills for Life. The new strategy draws closely upon the key elements of the 2014–18 Scouting for All strategy and focuses upon the same core objectives (Growth, Inclusivity, Youth Shaped and Community Impact) but will do so through three key strands of activity looking at our People, our Programme and how we improve the public Perception of Scouting. Work has kicked off quickly and we're already seeing teams delivering new resources and reviewing how we work and how we support our volunteers and young people effectively. The 64th Handsworth were selected as a pilot Group for a 4–6 year old section called Hedgehogs and we're looking forwards to seeing the results and impacts from the pilot over the next 12–18 months.

The County Team has continued to evolve throughout 2018 with Rachel Wallace being appointed District Commissioner for Rea Valley, David Thebridge as District Commissioner for Sutton Coldfield East and Jake Oliver as our new ACC Activities. Dan Hartles stood down as District Commissioner for Rea Valley,

David Evans as Acting District Commissioner for Sutton Coldfield East and Adam Brinkworth as District Commissioner for Cole Valley South (which I'm now Acting DC for until we find a replacement for Adam). Mary Van Roy also stood down as ACC Beavers following the birth of her son. I'd like to thank Dan, David, Adam and Mary for the contribution they made to their roles.

Sadly, we also saw Roger Morcom, one of County Vice Presidents and ex-District Commissioner called to Higher Service in July 2018. The contribution that Roger made to Scouting in Rea Valley and across Birmingham was significant over more than 40 years and he will be sadly missed.

From a financial perspective, the County has maintained the financial stability we've developed over recent years, enabling us to continue to operate our Big Idea fund which supports Groups and Districts with financial contributions towards projects they're running – last year benefiting from in excess of £8,000 in donations being made.

2018 has been another great year for Scouting in Birmingham, however, none of this would be achievable without the truly excellent 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 all of our young people.

Andrew Lloyd
County Commissioner

Achievement & 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 for 27,000 young people and adult visitors this year. Primarily this supports their personal development and allows the opportunity to enjoy risk within a supportive environment. This number is made up of 17,600 overnight guests and 9,400 day visitors. 230 schools and colleges, 266 Scout Groups and 54 Girl Guide units visited the centres in 2018.

High Adventure provided a six week programme at our Pikes Pool Centre under the National Citizen Service Scheme for a thousand 15 to 17 year olds to experience living away from home, developing skills and meeting amazing people. The successful programme has

been rebooked for the next two years.

A bespoke artificial caving system was installed for the opening of the season, unique in the Midlands, this has added significantly to the challenge and enjoyment of young people and adults alike.

The Board successfully recruited a new full time Chief Executive Officer who started on 1 September. David Squire was PGL's Activity Operations Manager for UK and Europe leaving to travel and then enjoy a number of lead roles in UK outdoor centres and currently is Vice Chair of the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres. Very grateful thanks for 13 years of excellent service go to Gareth Roberts, the retiring CEO.

The company has had a good year achieving 7.75% year on year growth with a total revenue of £859,000 and a net surplus of £16,000. 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 2018 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, Stake Holders 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 bi-monthly basis during 2018 by face to face meetings and conference calls. During the year the CMT objectives and improved working relationship with the Executive, The Scouts National Strategy, the financial management of the County, the 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 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 2931

Charity registered address:
Centenary House
89-91 Hatchett Street
Newtown Birmingham
B19 3NY

Tel: 0121 330 1212,

Other Charity name:
Blackwell Adventure
Other Charity principle address:
Blackwell Court, Agmore Road,
Blackwell, Worcester, B60 1PX
Tel: 0121 445 1285

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,
Once Central Boulevard,
Blythe Valley Park,
Solihull B90 8BG

Investment Managers

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

Charity Trustees 2018 Committee Members Ex-Officio (trustee, voting)

Andrew Lloyd –
County Commissioner
Dave Allen – County Chairman
(County Officers)
Amanda Cardall –
County Secretary
(County Officers)
Linda Gurmin –
County Treasurer
(County Officers)
Sean Kelly – County Youth
Commissioner

Committee Nominated Members (trustee, voting)

Chris Wallace
Pete Oldham
Daniel Smith
Paul Little
Alex Sexton
Maggie Jones

Committee Elected Members (trustee, voting)

Heidi Guest
David Archer
James Holmes*
Abigail McMillan
Lynn Whittaker
Garry Griffiths (deceased)

* = members under 25

Committee Co-opted Members (trustee, voting)

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

Committee Invited to attend (not trustees, non voting)

County Safety Co-ordinator –
Chris Ely
Chair of Blackwell Adventure –
Paul Fennell
Right to Attend – None voting
Regional Commissioner –
Dan Potter

Charity Supporters 2018 (not trustees) County President

David Bradnock
MBE DL JP FBHI

County Patron

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
Mr Duncan Cadbury
Mr Lawrence Fagg
Mrs Maggie Jones
Mr Rick Keeber
Mr Brian Kimberley
Mrs Sheila Kimberley
Mr Peter Oldham
Mr Graham Shaylor OBE
Miss Linda Bateman
Mr Tom Cryer
Mr Peter Taylor
Mr Gordon Higginson
Mr Roger Morcom (deceased)
Mr Paul Platnauer
Mrs Sarah Trinder
Mr Daryl Holloway
Mr Gerry Russell

Birmingham Scout Ambassadors

Randall Brew OBE FCA
Mike Leddy

St. George's Day 2019 Awards

Silver Wolf

Alan Chambers
Roger Morcom (deceased)
Alan Smith
David Treadwell

Bar to the Silver Acorn

Richard Hyland
Charles Lemaistre
John Vallance

Silver Acorn

Paul Barlow
Paul Brettell
John Davies
Robert Gordon
Garry Griffiths
Brian Lewis
Paul Little
Peter Morgan
Sonia Payne
Michael Phillips
Rob Roche
Peter Smewin
Colin Smith
Kenneth Smith
John Somerfield
Christopher Worship (deceased)

Refer to Financial statements
for details of:

**Structure, governance and
management
Risk and Internal Control
Objectives and activities
Financial review
Reserves Policy
Investments Policy**

County Office

Centenary House,
89-91 Hatchett Street,
Newtown,
Birmingham, B19 3NY
(postal and shop address)

Tel 0121 330 1212

Meeting Facility

The Citadel,
Suites 4-5,
Third Floor,
190 Corporation Street,
Birmingham B4 6QB

Email

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birminghamscouts.org.uk

Web

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[Twitter](#) @birminghamscout

Blackwell Adventure

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