



Scouts

Birmingham County

Annual Report 2019

#SkillsForLife



Scouts

Birmingham County

County Commissioner's Report



I'm pleased to be able to report on another successful year in 2019 for Scouting across Birmingham with a busy programme of activities being delivered to support both our young people and our adult volunteers. A great deal of effort has been put into recruiting a project team and planning the 'Growing Places Together' Project funded by the Pears Foundation which commenced in October 2019 and will help us to continue to develop Scouting and reaching further into those communities within the City who can benefit from Scouting.

Our 2019 membership recorded a small increase in numbers of young people, which was unfortunately offset by an overall reduction in numbers of adult volunteers, giving a combined membership of 7,563 people. The growth seen over recent years remains significant with a 19% net increase in membership over the last 5 years. Through the Growing Places Together Project, we are targeting growth within those Groups who have strong waiting lists and are able to support additional sections, the creation of new Groups in areas where Scouting is not currently well represented, and by supporting those Groups with smaller numbers in recruiting additional volunteers and delivering great programmes in order to grow their membership further. Early indications through the final quarter of 2019 look positive, although at the time of writing this report we are aware that the

Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 will challenge our ability to maintain this in the short term.

During 2019 we also approved 620 new adult appointments (many of which will relate to volunteers who were new to Scouting) and an additional 260 occasional helpers recruited. Our training teams also worked hard to support leaders in achieving 123 Wood Badges, recognising the formal completion of the training required to undertake their roles.

Throughout the last year, our young people (supported by their parents and leaders) worked hard to achieve over 800 Chief Scouts Awards, 27 Explorer Belt Awards and 15 Queens Scout Awards. It has also been great to see 96 Good Service Awards presented to our adult volunteers who continue to put so much time and energy into Scouting, within which we saw 3 Silver Acorns, 7 Bars to the Silver Acorn, and 4 Silver Wolves awarded.

The County team has continued to support our Groups and Districts through the delivery of programme of exciting, challenging and adventurous activities and competitions including our annual Bivouac, BrumChallenge, BrumVenture, iceScout and SWAP weekends, Faiths for Fun our County Remembrance Service, Birmingham Pride and numerous sectional activities and competitions. Our adventurous activity teams again delivered a series of training activities for leaders

around Mountain Leadership and Climbing and we again hosted the National Scout & Guide Symphony Orchestra (for the fifth year) with over 130 young people performing. In August 2019, 36 of our young people, 4 leaders and a contingent of International Support Team members represented Birmingham at the 24th World Scout Jamboree in North America, marking the culmination of £160,000 of fundraising over 2 years and had a fabulous time, meeting new friends with so many new experiences. My thanks go to everybody who is involved in supporting both our events, both at home and overseas for all of the hard work and effort that goes into making them such a success.

Following the launch of the 2018-23 Skills for Life strategy, we were delighted when the 64th Handsworth were selected as a pilot Group to host a Hedgehog section aimed at 4-6 year olds, which has seen some real successes during the year (including a fabulous trip to Gilwell Park where they met the Duchess of Cambridge) and now boasts a full complement of Hedgehogs, a number of new leaders, and many engaged and enthusiastic parents. We look forward to seeing how the results of the pilot look nationally and are pleased to have been able to play a part in the study into a potential early years section.

As ever, the County Team continues to evolve and during 2019 Nick Thomas was appointed as District Commissioner

for Spitfire District, Steve Thomas as Deputy County Commissioner, Jamie Burrell as County Youth Commissioner and Amy Keogh as deputy County Youth Commissioner. My thanks go to Elizabeth Baizon who stood down as ACC Cubs and Sean Kelly who stood down from his role as our first County Youth Commissioner.

Sadly, we also saw Gordon Higginson, one of our previous County Commissioners and a long time Scouter within Sutton Coldfield called to Higher Service after many years of distinguished service.

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.

2019, marked my 6th year as County Commissioner and while it makes me incredibly proud to look at what we've achieved as a County, I'm conscious none of this would be possible without the amazing team of leaders, supporter and parents we have within Birmingham. I'd like to thank all of our supporters for their continued dedication, energy and commitment in helping make Scouting everything it is for all of our young people.

Andrew Lloyd
County Commissioner

Achievement & performance



County Services

Volunteers are an essential source of support to Birmingham Scouts and are responsible for delivering core services including Development of Scouting within Birmingham, Adult Training, Communications, Administration of Chief Scout's Awards and working with the sectional Assistant County Commissioners in providing a quality Programme for all youth sections. Volunteers also continue to provide service to the County membership at the County shop. Thank you to the team.

Covid-19 Considerations

The Trustees of the Scout Association County of Birmingham are mindful that in presenting this annual report for the year ending December 2019 the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the current year for the charity requires comment at the very least to reassure that the charity is moving forward as a going concern and to re-evaluate strategic reserves.

County Centres

Blackwell Court and Pikes Pool

Weighing the outcome of 2019 against any previous year might appear a triumph with more revenue from charitable activity, more overnight stays than ever previously recorded, a larger surplus to carry forward for investment and the largest infrastructure focussed grant successfully bid for, banked and spent. Resilience, good governance and a compelling raison d'être are the true measures of long-term success.

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 Committee (Trustees) has met four times during 2019 and has dealt with matters on an ongoing basis. There have been five sub-committees operating during the year – this includes the Faiths and Beliefs sub-committee, the County Shop sub-committee, Stake Holders sub-committee, and Appointment Advisory 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 2019 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,

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,

Once Central Boulevard,

Blythe Valley Park,

Solihull B90 8BG

Investment Managers

Charles Stanley & Company
Limited,

55 Calthorpe Road,

Edgbaston,

Birmingham B15 1TH

Charity Trustees 2019

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)

Jamie Burrell –

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

Mark Rowe

* = 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, nonvoting)

Chair of Blackwell Adventure –

Paul Fennell

Right to Attend – None voting

Regional Commissioner –

Daniel Potter

Charity Supporters 2019

(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

(deceased)

Mr Paul Platnauer

Mrs Sarah Trinder

Mr Daryl Holloway

Mr Gerry Russell

Birmingham Scout

Ambassadors

Cllr. Randal Brew OBE FCA

Mr. Mike Leddy

St. George's Day

2020 Awards

Silver Wolf

Mike Bennett

Pauline Lees

David Oliver

Bill Woodhouse

Bar to the Silver Acorn

Jill Bowman

Bob Evans

David Evans

John Mills

Melvyn Weake

Silver Acorn

Suzanne Leddy

Chris Jackson

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:

headquarters@
birminghamscouts.org.uk

Web:

www.birminghamscouts.org.uk

Like us on

Facebook and follow us on

Twitter: @birminghamscout

Blackwell Adventure

Blackwell Court,
Agmore Road,
Blackwell,
Worcestershire, B60 1PX

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