



Scouts

Birmingham County

Annual Report 2020

#SkillsForLife





County Commissioner's Report

2020 has been an exceptional year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it called on our County Team, District Teams and all of our Leaders to think differently about how to support our members. During these times we've been unable to meet face to face for much of the year and the families of our young people and adult volunteers have all faced different challenges.

The first priority for the County Team was in understanding and taking the appropriate actions to mitigate risks arising from the Pandemic. In particular around our financial exposure through ongoing events and activities, supporting groups in managing their finances and providing help in pivoting to delivering Scouting remotely.

We had to take some tough decisions in cancelling events and activities. We focused on making decisions in a timely manner, focusing on our members needs and refunding monies quickly - a huge undertaking but one we managed well and were able to successfully mitigate the majority of the financial risk.

The County Team stepped up and supported our Groups and Districts in delivering a range of virtual activities, including our very own County Camp, iJam@Bham, Weekly Challenges, VirtuallyBrumVenture, CubBrumChallenge, IceScout, BrumBeaversGoEco, Beaver and Cub Christmas events and a virtual Remembrance

event - great participation with hundreds of young people, parents and leaders getting involved.

Despite the pandemic, we've still been able to recognise our young people's and adult volunteers achievements. During 2020 we saw 488 Chief Scout Awards, one Queen Scout Award and five Higher Awards granted. We've had to change the ways in we celebrate our successes but have done all we can to do so.

Our Leaders across the County have done a great job in keeping Scouting alive, through online meetings and sharing individual challenges and activities, and then in many cases learning how to deliver face to face activities in a Covid safe manner - a huge achievement requiring a new set of skills.

Inevitably, our membership has been impacted by the pandemic and we've seen a number of our young people and adult volunteers fall away, coupled with not being able to recruit new members in the ways we normally have done so. Our membership is down -29.6% in youth members to 3,940 and -12.18% in adult volunteers to 1,729. Overall the County now numbers 5,669, which is a total of -25.04% on last year. Our focus once the pandemic is over and Scouting can get back to normal will be to replace our lost members and resume the growth we've seen over recent years. To support

this, the County has worked to extend the Pears Project team through a combination of internal funded and grants from external donors. We have launched our Places to Grow Together project which works with Groups to support them in delivering Scouting virtually, resuming face to face Scouting when possible, and growing their membership.

Sadly, over the last year we've also lost a number of dear friends within Scouting. We remember those that gave their service to the County, within their District and their Groups. While Covid-19 has prevented us from paying our respects and celebrating their lives and contributions to Scouting in the normal ways, we'll look to organise a suitable opportunity to remember them once we're able to do so.

I need to say a huge thank you to everybody, to the County Team, District Teams and our Groups for the positive way in which they've risen to the challenges that the pandemic has thrown at us over the last year. This will be remembered as one of the most challenging times we've experienced but one in which we've continued to support all of our members, and I have confidence we'll continue to do so going forward.

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 the 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 2020 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

It was not possible to offer and to deliver most of our activities for large parts of the year and activity revenues are only 12% of 2019 total.

The Latitude Global Volunteering Gap Year students were required to return to their own countries in April, which

was a huge disappointment to all concerned and High Adventure understandably cancelled their summer six-week programme at our Pikes Pool centre. BrumJam promoted by the County of Birmingham and scheduled for the summer was postponed until 2021 and has now been cancelled.

The CEO and senior management team devised an effective plan to reduce costs, look after customers and staff, while seeking all avenues for financial support leading to substantial grants from various sources and these are listed and gratefully acknowledged in the Financial Review.

Very early in the year we were fortunate to be able to complete significant enhancements to our Roberts 'podded' Village. This included the provision of a large timber chalet with kitchen and indoor activity space and three further wheelchair accessible pods and a new paved pathway. We are very grateful that this was all funded by the National Lottery Communities Asset Fund.

We also now have in place a five-year plan of work to complete a series of remedial works to bring the structure of our iconic Manor House up to standard. Looking forward - plans are to develop a central catering facility; rebuild the Stable Block into modern, energy efficient accommodation and rearrange reception and

office space into a central and welcoming location.

In governance matters the Board of Trustees has reviewed its reserves policy and risk assessments and recruited a trustee with financial skills and experience.

The Blackwell team under Dave Squires leadership have had a difficult year with unprecedented issues to deal with, as have many other sectors of the economy. The Trustees would like to record their thanks and great respect for the resilience and resourcefulness clearly demonstrated in a year when survival has been, perhaps, the only measure of success for so many businesses.

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 (via Zoom) five times during 2020 and has dealt with matters on an ongoing basis.

County Management Team

The County Management Team (CMT) has met on a bi-

monthly basis during 2020 by Zoom calls. During the year the CMT's objectives have been focused on an improved working relationship with the Executive, implementing The Scouts National Strategy, the financial management of the County, the development of the County's properties, plus supporting the work of volunteers and services offered to the County as a whole.

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:
125 Whitecrest, Great Barr,
Birmingham B43 6EX

Tel: 0121 330 1212

Email:
info@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

Charity Trustees 2020

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
Simon Cardall
Randal Brew
Paul Fennell
Daniel Smith
Alex Sexton

Committee Elected Members (trustee, voting)

Paul Gilmour
Sarah Keenan
James Paddock*
Gemma Dixon
Mark Rowe

* = members under 25

Charity Supporters 2020 (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 Lawrence Fagg
Mrs Maggie Jones
Mr Brian Kimberley
Mrs Sheila Kimberley
Mr Peter Oldham
Miss Linda Bateman
Mr Tom Cryer
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 Acorn

Josephine Crane
Julie Evans
Pauline Allbutt

Silver Wolf

Helen Webley
Pat Shuttleworth

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 (shop address)

125 Whitecrest, Great Barr,
Birmingham B43 6EX (postal
address)

Tel: 0121 330 1212

Meeting Facility:

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

Email:

info@birminghamscouts.org.uk

Web:

www.birminghamscouts.org.uk

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Facebook and follow us on
Twitter: @birminghamscout

Blackwell Adventure

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

Tel: 0121 445 1285

Email:

info@blackwelladventure.co.uk

Web:

www.blackwelladventure.co.uk

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