



**Scouts**

Birmingham County

# Annual Report 2018

**#SkillsForLife**



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# 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 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  
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 Lemaistrie  
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

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  
Tel 0121 445 1285

### Email

info@blackwelladventure.co.uk

### Web

www.blackwelladventure.co.uk

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