

## Annual Report for year ended 23 March 2021



**The Purpose of Scouting is to contribute to the  
Development of young people in achieving their full  
Physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual potential; as individuals, as responsible citizens  
and as members of their local, National and international communities**

***Skills for life***

District Registration with the Scout Association 16407

Charity Registration Number 1017534

## Chair's' Report 2020-2021

Once again Scouting has had another challenging year, however reading the pages of this report you will see our Leaders and young people have responded well to the challenges of the year. In each of our Groups there has been active Scouting in at least one section and most Groups in all sections. The Explorer Scouts have also managed to keep going. Well done to all of you. Virtual Scouting has worked for many but a return to face-to-face Scouting is very welcome.

Our congratulations go to Andrew Bedford, the former District Chair, on the award of the Bar to the Silver Acorn and to Catterick Garrison Leader, Valerie Patchett, who received the Silver Acorn in the St. George's Day Awards. At last year's AGM in December, we appointed Brian Milner to be Honorary President: Brian died shortly after the meeting. Despite Covid restrictions we were able to have each of the Group & District flags outside the church at his funeral. Brian and his late wife, Brenda, served Scouting from the 1950's until their deaths. They will be sorely missed.

Martha McGarry kindly took over the role of Appointments Secretary, Jacky Bottrill volunteered to replace Martha District as secretary and Amanda Hender continues as our treasurer; they have been a big support to me in the last year and I thank them all. The District Executive has meet via zoom during the year. The Executive has temporally taken over the responsibilities of the Catterick St. Anne's Executive, until we can find new leaders and members of the committee. The District is in the process of purchasing a storage container to be sited next to the Scout HQ in Catterick Village. I thank all the members of the Executive for their work and advice over the last year.

Thanks are also due to the County Commissioner, County Secretary and all the County team for their help and support. The virtual activities and events on St. Georges Day and the shortest day etc. have been excellent, and enjoyed by many of our young people

At the close of our AGM Joe Odziemski steps down as our District Commissioner. We say a very big **THANK YOU JOE** for all you have done over the past three and bit years. I know how challenging and rewarding the role of District Commissioner can be. The County Commissioner is heading up a small team to find a new District Commissioner, so please contact him or myself if you have any suggestions for someone to fill this important role.

We all look forward to returning to some form of normality in the coming months, and continuing to offer, exciting, challenging, and fun Scouting for the young people in Richmondshire.

**Richard Good (Chair)**

## **The District Commissioners 2020 - 2021 Report.**

In normal times of previous years, I would be sat at the front of a hall speaking to you in person. The fact that this is Richmondshire's second virtual AGM proves that we still have a long way to go before we can again.... and that's something that's been bothering me.

I've heard the phrase "As we return to normality " used countless times in the last few months, but I need to ask the following question.

"Do we really want to return, or go back to the way things were before?"

I know I'm not alone when I say my own circumstances and commitments have changed completely from where I was pre-pandemic and there is no going back. Therefore, the only direction available is forward and I encourage you all as leaders to go forward too.

As your District Commissioner I have seen first hand how you all have adapted programs and activities to run without been face to face. How you have embraced new ways of thinking and delivering Scouting, using technology in a virtual way. I am immensely proud of you all and I would just like to say Thank you to everyone; it has been a privilege to deliver Scouting in Richmondshire with you.

Let's not go back to the way things were before, let's go forward.

**Joe Odziemski (DC)**

## **Treasurer's Report 2021**

The past year has been very challenging for everyone, not only in scouting but throughout the whole country. Hence due to Covid restrictions scouting activities have been considerably reduced. The numbers of young people involved in scouting has also dropped considerably.

The main expenditure this year has been to keep the district ticking over and to help groups by reducing our income from capitation.

A big thank you to all that have been involved in the day-to-day running of Kiplin campsite and those who remain involved overseeing the everyday administration and operation. Kiplin saw very little use last year, but we are looking forward to it returning to more regular use by all groups.

Thanks once again to every Group/Unit for paying over their subscriptions and thank you to their respective Treasurers for the work they do voluntarily which is so vital in supporting the functioning of the Groups/Units.

**Amanda Hender (Treasurer)**

## Groups' Reports 2020 -2021

Leaders around Richmondshire have kept Scouting alive through their dedication and imagination in this difficult period. They have embraced the challenges and used many innovative ways of engaging with the young people despite lockdowns, social distancing and restrictions on numbers meeting.

**1st Wensleydale** have had many successful zoom sessions which included Beavers teaching other Beavers knots, video cooking, quizzes and used the county resources including learning about other countries with the County Commissioner, all without leaving home. When face-to-face activities have been allowed, the older sections have been brushing up on navigation skills, baked bean taste testing, archery and a caving trip. The Beavers have learnt how to light fires, tried tracking, planted sunflower and cooked some bannock bread and ration packs.

**Catterick Garrison** Scouts have met face-to-face, when permitted, and enjoyed various outdoor activities including carving soap, hikes including a trifle hike to collect ingredients for their trifle and using the what3words app and axe throwing. The Beavers have visited the fire station and Foxglove Covert. Beaver, who is presented to Beaver of the week, has had a fantastic time travelling to Locomotion at Shildon, South Park Darlington, Catterick Library, rugby training, visited 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment and even been to the pictures to see Peter Rabbit all socially distanced.

**Brompton on Swale** Cubs have been set a series of challenges to complete at home, posting the results on OSM so working towards various badges. When meeting was allowed, a range of activities were run from the garden on different nights obeying the six of rule. During the last year some older Cubs have transferred to Scouts and Beavers moved up into the pack so carrying on their Scouting adventure. Several parents have come forward with offers to help, which will be very useful when more normal times return and more activities are permitted.

**Swaledale** Scouts have had many Zoom sessions including an online Q & A meeting with Chancellor of Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, to discuss the pandemic and local flooding issues. For the younger sections activities enjoyed were planting hyacinth bulbs, which were then left outside front doors for senior residents at Reeth for Christmas. When allowed, outdoor activities have included a Group archery day, hikes to develop map reading skills and building a bug hotel in Reeth Community Orchard.

**1st Richmond** Beavers have enjoyed a varied and exciting program with no meetings indoor yet: the weather has been kind. They have hiked from Round Howe to the scout hut, put up tents at Kiplin, used the climbing wall at Marrick priory and more locally have had a bike ride and played wide games. They have also undertaken several other activities involved finding out about local nature including pond dipping at Foxglove Covert.

**Barton** ended 2019 with Jane Davenport (GSL and Beaver leader) hanging up her necker after more than 20 years in the group: huge thanks to her for all her dedication. 2020 seemed to start normally with a round of winter camps but then face-to-face scouting ceased. When only online contact was possible, activities continued with Zoom games, quizzes, escape rooms and linkups with other sections and groups around the world. As soon as meeting in person became permitted, Covid risk assessments were gladly completed even though the outdoors in autumn prove very wet. All sections have loved being back outdoors face-to-face, doing things together and being active which is core to what makes Scouting.

## **Castle Explorer report 2020-2021**

This year wasn't the best for scouting but we did our best with what we had so Castle went online for part of the year with the focus being more on individual work on things that interest the explorers. When we have been meeting face to face, we have done some favourite activities like fire lighting, bush craft activities, hikes and some new activities like axe throwing. We have begun work on the global issues badge to be completed in the autumn term.

Our numbers have stayed constant throughout the year and the program has continued to be youth led. We also made the change to meeting every other week, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, and this has worked much better.

I want to thank Ava and David for lending their time and knowledge to help run the explorers, and the explorers themselves because without them I would be sat talking to my self in a church hall for two hours every other week.

**Cameron Sykes (Explorer Leader)**



## **Report of training activities for Richmondshire District 2020 - 2021**

Sadly as we all know Scouting has been a victim of coronavirus, because of this no face-to-face courses have been able to be presented since March 20. The county ran some zoom courses in the latter part of 2020 and early 2021, A number of leaders took this opportunity so now only need to have the modules validated.

We intend running our first face-to-face course when we resume in September.

Things are looking brighter now as we have quite a number of new leaders going through the appointments process so hopefully by September Richmondshire will be back on tract with all groups performing 100%.

**Audrey McConnell (Local Training Manager)**

## Annual Report for Kiplin 2020-2021

Kiplin campsite has been close for most of the year due to Covid restrictions, access problems and a water leak. Huge thanks goes to Chris Davenport for cutting the grass regularly.

The site is now open and available for bookings, which are being organised by Helen Sunter.

A working party from the District will be needed to help with maintenance tasks, weeding and repairs to keep the site in good order.

**Jacky Bottrill (Kiplin Coordinator)**

## Annual Report for SAS 2020-2021

SAS had no requests for help during 20-21. With great sadness, we did have to say goodbye, just before Christmas, to our longest serving member, Brian Milner, who will be greatly missed by all his friends in Scouting.

**Jacky Bottrill (SAS Coordinator)**

## Annual Report for the District Website 2020-2021

The District website <http://www.richmondshirescouts.org.uk/> was update this year and is now fully compliant with the Scout branding.

In a difficult year for Scouting, the events list has been updated, news articles added where possible and other information amended.

If you do have dates, interesting news, photos or amendments relating to the District or your Group, please send the information to me so I can update the website.

**Jacky Bottrill (Website Coordinator)**

## Richmondshire District Badge Secretary

### Report 2020-2021

Badge orders over the past year have been sparse and mainly from one group. As orders began to increase towards the end of the period, news from Scout Shops advised that due to Covid 19 restrictions badge orders were taking longer to fulfil than normal and many badges have been out of stock for a long period. Stock held has reduced to meet orders and in an attempt to avoid holding obsolete stock.

Looking forward, orders have increased and more groups are placing orders, yet still Scout Shops are slow to fulfil these orders. Some badges have been out of stock for six weeks and some items have a lead time of 10 weeks. We look forward to a return to normality.

**Heidi McConnell (District Badge Secretary)**

