

Let's talk! Welcome to our AGM and celebration event

2025

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BLYTH VALLEY SCOUT COUNCIL
Annual General Meeting 2025 No 26

14th November 2025

Seaton Delaval Arts Centre

AGENDA

1. **Introduction and welcome**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Governance topics**
 - a. Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18th July 2024
 - b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR)
 - c. Note the District's financial year
 - d. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board
 - e. Agree the quorum for future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM) and that of the trustee board
4. **Review of the previous year**
 - a. The District Lead Volunteer's review of Scouts during the past 12 months in the Blyth Valley District
 - b. The County Lead Volunteer's remarks
 - c. Receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the annual Statement of the Accounts
5. **Making appointments**
 - a. Appoint the District Chair, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
 - b. Appoint the District Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
 - c. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board
 - d. Appoint District President and/or Vice Presidents
 - e. Appoint the Independent Examiner / Auditor
 - f. Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council
6. **Closing remarks**

Chair of Trustees' Report 2025

Blyth Valley Scout Council

Reporting Period: July 2024 – November 2025

Introduction

The Trustees of Blyth Valley Scout Council are pleased to present this report outlining key developments, challenges, and reflections from the period July 2025 to date. This has been a time of significant transition and renewed optimism for the district.

Key Achievements

A major milestone during this period was the successful finalisation of the sale of Walker Hall in Blyth to Northumberland County Council. This decision, made in the best interests of the district, marks the end of a long and complex process. The Trustees wish to acknowledge the considerable delays experienced due to extended timeframes within the legal team overseeing the transaction. Despite these challenges, the sale was completed, and the district is now in a much stronger financial position.

Financial Outlook

The sale of Walker Hall has provided a substantial financial uplift for the district. In addition, the Trustees are deeply grateful for the generous bequest left to Blyth Valley Scout Council by the late Bill Hampson. His legacy will be honoured through the establishment of a dedicated fund, designed to generate regular income and support the enhancement of Scouting across the district. Details of this fund will be shared in due course, once the money has been placed in the most beneficial investment vehicle.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that the Trustees note the passing of Kevin Appleby, who died following a short but aggressive illness. Kevin was a cherished member of the Scouting community, known for his warmth, dedication, and unwavering commitment to young people. His loss is deeply felt by all who knew him, both personally and through his work in Scouting. The Trustees extend their heartfelt condolences to Kevin's family and friends.

Chair's Statement

As Chair of the Trustee Board, I wish to share that I will be stepping down from the role, having found myself unable to dedicate the time that the position truly deserves. It has been a genuine pleasure and privilege to support Blyth Valley Scout Council through a period of meaningful change. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Scouters across the district whose dedication and passion continue to inspire. Their commitment to young people and to the values of Scouting is the heartbeat of our movement. I also extend my gratitude to my fellow Trustees and board members for their support, wisdom, and teamwork throughout my tenure.

This period has seen both sorrow and progress. The Trustees remain committed to ensuring that Blyth Valley Scout Council continues to thrive, honouring the contributions of those who have

shaped its path and investing wisely in its future. We look forward to the opportunities ahead and to supporting the growth and development of Scouting in our district.

District lead volunteer report for Blyth valley scouts 2024/2025

This last year has been a fantastic year for scouting in the district with most sections showing a slight increase on the census figures on last year. some groups have declined in numbers, and some have increased sections have closed and new sections have reopened it just shows scouting in Blyth is reacting to the ebb and flow trends we are encountering in scouting at the moment.

All sections and groups are still very much getting out and doing outdoor scouting everything from weeklong summer camps to day visits to some weird and wonderful places from offshore sea training to rock pooling, colour runs to aircraft museums. and of course, visits to our own district campsites Selby wood and Spylaw and lots of sleepovers in our 3 headquarters within the district 2nd Cramlington , 1st Seaton sluice and 8th Blyth.

I this year had the great pleasure of bringing onboard a new member to the district leadership team. I have recently appointed Alex Marnock as District Youth Lead, I'm sure you will all join me in wishing him well in his new role. I will be working closely with him in the next few months giving him some projects to be working on for the future development of the district.

I would like to thank all the leaders that have helped run the many district events that have run for the sections stem fest events. trail jam canoeing triathlon etc these events take a lot of personal time and commitment to run as well as running their own groups and sections.

I would like to thank the district trustees for all their effort throughout the year with lots of things going on in the background to ensure that the district complies with all the compulsory safety and safeguarding requirements their buildings and assets are safe and compliant withal regulations and also ensuring the financial assets of the district are kept safe and used to there best potential . we have now finally gone through with the sale of walker hall to Northumberland County council after a considerable period and a lot of effort from the trustees. This puts the district in a better financial position not just from the sale but now not having the ongoing running costs of a building we were not using.

Also, this year we were bequeathed a financial donation form the late professor Bil Hampsons estate our previous district president. This money is to be used for the development of scouting within the district that could be at district group section or individual level. The fund which will be known as the professor bill Hampson fund will be maintained by the district trustees and will be used for one off projects or personal development not to by equipment or pay ongoing running costs etc.

It could be for example to subsidise a person going to a jamboree or a group international adventure or a leader taking a NGB recognised training course that would benefit scouting within the district.

As we were given quite a large sum of money initially as part of the conditions of the donation the fund will build year on year as we are only allowed to spend the interest of the capital donation per year as part of the fund so some years the available may be more than others depending on interest rate and how much is used per year or reinvested .

If anyone would like more details of the professor Bill Hampson Fund, please contact myself or the district chair.

I would like to also pay tribute to two scouters that sadly passed this year

Kevin Appleby

Kevin was a very active member of the trustee board helping set up the new trustee board system within the district bringing his experience from other national charities ensuring we have the correct skills needed within the trustee board to manage the district to its best potential.

Kevin started his scouting career as a cub scout in 1st Cramlington many years ago then progressed through scouts and ventures becoming Scout Leader at 10th Blyth for many years and Assistant District Commissioner Scouts in Blyth District he led on many international camps for both the county and district and latterly Kevin served as a District trustee.

The other being Margret Cox

Margret started her scouting career as cub mistress at 1st Seghill scout group holding many roles within scouting ADC cubs for Seaton valley and Blyth Districts and eventually ACC cub scouts for Northumberland scouts a role she had for many years Margret also served for many years on the District Executive for Blyth District where she would often debate on what events the district should put on or not and her general stance was if it was to benefit one young person or one hundred in her opinion it must be run.

If we could just spare a short thought for them both as they both may have gone but never forgotten and will live on in the many happy memories of the thousands of adults and young people, they have worked with in scouting.

I would like to finally thank all the leaders' helpers, trustees and tea makers within the district that makes the wheels of scouting in Blyth Valley turn without you all we could not do what we do for the hundreds of young people in the Blyth Valley scouting family

Heers to the everchanging world of scouting

Neil

District Lead Volunteer

BLYTH VALLEY DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting 2024

18th July 2024

Seaton Delaval Arts Centre

AGENDA

1. Introduction and welcome – (those present Appendix 1.1) Simon Miller (Chair) welcomed all group scout council members to the AGM, thanked all of the trustee board, for all their efforts thus far and welcomed Neil Robinson district lead volunteer and the guest's county lead volunteer Peter Thorpe
2. Apologies for absence (Appendix 1.2)
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16th January 2024 **Accepted by the group Scout Council**
4. **Governance topics**
 - f. In line with Scout Association guidelines, to adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation and Rules. **Accepted by the group Scout Council**
 - g. Note that the District's financial year runs from the 1st April to 31st March. **Accepted by the group Scout Council**
 - h. Agree the quorum for each of the District Scout Council (including this AGM) should be 15 and meetings of the District Trustee Board, meetings of any sub-committees, should be half the membership plus one. **Accepted by the group Scout Council**
5. **Review of the previous year**
 - d. The District Commissioner's review of Scouting in the District. **Neil Robinson gave a brief overview of the district's year so far (Appendix 1.3)**
 - e. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board including the annual Statement of the Accounts. **(Appendix 1.4)**
6. **Making appointments**
 - g. Appoint the District Chair, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board **Accepted by the group Scout Council that Simon Miller would continue in the role**
 - h. Appoint the District Treasurer, following recommendation from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board **Accepted by the group Scout Council that Lynn Horrocks would take on this role this year replacing Allen Ricalton**
 - i. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board **The chair explained that as the trustee board had only been in place for a short period there will be no change to the board this year and all will remain in place and it will be a closed selection process this year this was accepted by the group Scout Council**

- j. (Re-)appoint District President and/or Vice Presidents **The chair stated that this was still a work in progress to get the right person for the role and would be reviewed next year accepted by the group Scout Council**
 - k. Appoint the Scrutineer / Independent Examiner / Auditor **Nominated was John Alexander Lawson accepted by the group Scout Council**
 - l. Nominate representatives of the District Scout Council to represent the District on the County Scout Council **Carol Warfell was nominated accepted by the group Scout Council**
- 7. County Lead Volunteer gave an overview of the county and transformation and thanked all the leaders and helpers within the district
 - 8. Presentation of Awards
 - 9. Simon Miller (chair) gave closing remarks and thanks.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Blyth Valley District Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Blyth Valley District Scout Council (the Council) for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Council, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Council's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Council as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

In carrying out my examination I have noted that there are some deficiencies in the manner in which the various accounting records have been maintained and the consistency of the records between different areas of the Council. I have also noted that key financial controls have not been working effectively throughout the financial period, including the setting of budgets to effectively control expenditure, the use of cash receipts from activities to pay out of pocket expenses and the recognition of income as opposed to cash movements. These deficiencies have previously been highlighted to the board of trustees and the new board of trustees appear to be taking action to address the concerns raised, however the change in treasurer and disposal of the Walker Hall property has meant that other priorities have taken precedent and therefore the board will look to address these deficiencies in the coming year.

Signed: 

Name: John Alexander Lawson

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): FCA member of ICAEW

Address: 6 Annfield Road, Cramlington, NE23 3GY

Date: 8th November 2025

BLYTH VALLEY DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
Charity No: 1116322
Accounts for the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025
Income & Expenditure Account

	Expenses	Income	Net
	£	£	£
Capitation	-22,240	25,250	3,010
Premises, groups and activities			
Seghill	66		66
Walker Hall	-2,309		-2,309
Selby Wood	-3,835	3,035	-801
Spylaw	-2,986	3,504	519
Explorers	-5,063	5,698	634
Activities	-262	1,588	1,326
General			-587
Bank Interest		101	
Badges		100	
Garage Rent	-590		
Insurance	-52		
Miscellaneous	-146		
Consolidation adjustment	2,313	-2,313	
Surplus for year	-1,858		
	£ <u>-36,962</u>	£ <u>36,962</u>	£ <u>1,858</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

Current Assets

Bank Accounts	
District Deposit	6,889
District Current	3,906
Explorers	2,068
Selby Wood	8,755
	<u>21,618</u>

Less Current Liabilities

Selby Wood Creditors	-2,070
	<u>-2,070</u>
	£ <u>19,548</u>

Represented by

Explorers	
Brought forward	833
Add Surplus	634
	<u>1,467</u>
Selby	
Brought forward	6,541
Less Deficit	-801
	<u>5,740</u>
District	
Brought forward	8,347
Transfer from Gang Show	1,968
Add Surplus	2,025
	<u>12,340</u>
	£ <u>19,548</u>

BLYTH VALLEY DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
Charity No: 1116322
Accounts for the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025
Analysis of premises, groups and activities

Seghill

Expenditure

Electricity	66
Surplus for year	£ <u>66</u>

Selby Wood

Expenditure

Donation to Farm	-763
Roadstone	-660
Timber sleepers	-194
Mower repairs and fuel	-298
Fire extinguisher test and replacement	-122
Gas bottle cage	-110
Gravel	-101
Insurance (paid by District)	-944
Other Running Expenses	-644
	£ -3,835

Income

Site Fees	3,035
	£ 3,035
Deficit for year	£ <u>-801</u>

Explorers

Expenditure

Badges (inc Belt paid by District)	-606
Camp & Events	-1,535
Capitation	-2,313
Rent	-650
Tent Repair	40
	£ -5,063

Income

Subs	3,466
Camp & Events	2,232
	£ 5,698
Surplus for year	£ <u>634</u>

Walker Hall

Expenditure

Insurance (paid by District)	-706
Gas	-175
Electricity	-531
Water	-618
Clearance costs	-280
Deficit for year	£ <u>-2,309</u>

Spylaw

Expenditure

Grant spend	-1,605
Insurance (paid by District)	-613
Water filter and sampling	-255
Chimney sweep	-140
Fire extinguisher	-117
Fuel	-107
Rent	-150
	£ -2,986

Income

Grant	2,250
Site Fees	1,254
	£ 3,504

Surplus for year

£ 519

Activities

Expenditure

Wheel repairs	-100
Spray decks	-162
	£ -262

Income

Canoeing	1,380
Triathlon	128
Archery	80
	£ 1,588
Surplus for year	£ <u>1,326</u>



**They make all
the difference.
So could you.**

Help young people
in Blyth Valley step up
and dream big.

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Blyth Valley

