



# Leaping forward

Lowry District Scout Council  
Annual Report 2025



**Scouts**  
Lowry





# Chair's Introduction

Paul Wilson - Chair

It is once again my privilege to present the Annual Report for Lowry District Scout Council.

This year has highlighted the strength of our District—not only through the growth of our programme, but also in the way our volunteers continue to work together to create outstanding opportunities for young people. The District Camp was a clear highlight, and I want to personally thank Michelle Rowlands for leading its organisation with such success.

The refurbishment of Armstrong Hall marks a major milestone. I want to personally thank all those who made this possible. While there are many who played a part, I would particularly like to acknowledge Ryan Swailes for his tireless work in securing the Youth Investment Fund Grant, and Sharmila Clarke for her diligence in ensuring suppliers were paid promptly and efficiently. Thanks to their efforts—and the support of many others—what was once a tired building has been transformed into a space fit for the future. It is more than just a headquarters: it is a hub for Scouting and a resource for the wider community. Already, it is bringing people together, strengthening connections, and providing a safe and welcoming place for young people to learn, play, and grow.

At the heart of all we do is our commitment to Safe Scouting. Safety and safeguarding are not simply checkboxes—they are the foundations that allow young people to try new things, take supported risks, and gain the skills and confidence that Scouting is all about. Without that safe environment, Scouting could not happen. Thank you to everyone for the care and diligence you show in this vital work.

I would also like to recognise our Trustee Board, led by Treasurer Sharmila Clarke, for their careful governance and financial stewardship, which ensure we remain on a stable and sustainable footing.

Above all, my heartfelt thanks go to every volunteer across Lowry. Whether you are running weekly meetings, managing finances, or quietly supporting in the background, you are the reason young people across Swinton, Pendlebury, Clifton and Salford are gaining skills for life.

Together, we are making a real difference—and I am proud to serve as your Chair.

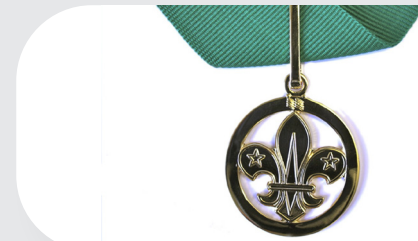


# Awards



The **Silver Wolf** is the highest award made by the Scout Association, for services of the most exceptional character.

Mr Stanley Atkins  
Mr Martin Maynard  
Mrs Adela Ramsbottom  
Mrs Ann Salt MBE  
Dr Geoffery Sides



The **Award for Merit** is awarded for outstanding service. It implies keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service, of at least 12 years duration.

Mr Ian Boyle  
Mr Wesley Buckley  
Mr Ric Eaton  
Mr Colin Gettins  
Mr Dave Heald  
Mrs Rusine Heald  
Mr Jordan James  
Mr Michael James  
Mrs Pauline Mack  
Mrs Tracy McCarty  
Mrs Elizabeth Samson  
Ms Josephine Stephens (Gone Home)  
Mr Ryan Swailes



The **Silver Acorn** is awarded after at least 20 years of specially distinguished service.

Mr Alfred Armstrong  
Mrs Suzanne Atkinson  
Ms Jackie Blades  
Mr Harry Fairchild  
Mr Mark Gore  
Mr Robert Hambelton  
Mr Dennis Matthews  
Mrs Sarah Moore  
Mr Peter Morris  
Mr Justin McDonnell  
Mr Jamie Samson



The **Bar to the Award for Merit** is awarded after at least five years of further outstanding service after receiving the Award for Merit.

Mr Michael Rollinson



The **Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct** is awarded for meritorious conduct of a high standard.

Mr David Heald



The **Commendation Award** is awarded by certain Lead Volunteers to recognise individuals for their contribution to the Scouts.

Mrs Victoria Burrows-Boon  
Mrs Sharmila Clarke  
Mrs Susan Heys  
Mr Jon Knipe  
Mr Daley Lyson  
Mrs Emma Nightingale  
Ms Courtney Pope  
Mr Tony Rice  
Mr James Seddon  
Mrs Kim Skaife  
Mr Nathan Talbot  
Mr Luke Turner  
Mr Paul Wilson



The **Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service** is awarded in respect of not less than 5 years of good service, which stands out.

Mr Asa Neill  
Ms Emma Hambelton  
Mrs Lynn Harman  
Mr David Heath  
Mr Nicholas Jolly  
Mr Gerard Mack  
Mr Josh Macdonald  
Mrs Yasma Osman  
Mrs Michelle Rowlands  
Mr Stephen Woodcock

**Thanking our volunteers** for their contribution is incredibly important to us, especially when we see them demonstrating outstanding service which deserves recognition.

One way that we do this is through these good service awards, which recognise the **outstanding and dedicated service** consistently performed by our adult members, above and beyond what is asked of them.

We hope you **join us in congratulating them** in their achievement, and thanking them for their incredible service, often over many years!

# District Team

The District Team is made up of the Board of Trustees, the Group Lead Volunteers, and the Leadership Team, who work together to ensure safe, high-quality Scouting takes place across our District.

District President	Dr Geoffrey Sides
Vice Presidents	Mrs Ann Salt
	Mr Alf Armstrong
	Mr Stanley Atkins

County Lead Volunteer	Mr Jacob Bond
District Lead Volunteer	Mr Ryan Swailes

District Chair	Mr Paul Wilson
District Treasurer	Mrs Sharmila Clarke
District Trustees	Mr Justin McDonnell
	Mr James Samson
	Mrs Lucy Grech
	Mrs Ann Salt

Youth Lead(s)	Mr Luke Turner
	Miss Bella Heath

Volunteer Development Team Leader	Mr Justin McDonnell
Volunteer Development Team Member	Mrs Ann Salt

Support Team Member - Administration	Miss Laura Greenhalgh
Support Team Member - Communications	Mr Benjamin Beaver
Support Team Member - Communications	Miss Lauren Aldred

Programme Team Member - Squirrels	Mrs Kim Skaife
Programme Team Member - Cubs	Mr Tony Rice
Programme Team Member - Scouts	Mr Robert Hambelton
Programme Team Member	Mr David Heath

14-24 Team Leader	Mr James Seddon
14-24 Team Member - Young Leaders	Mrs Catherine Cronshaw

Stegosaurus ESU Team Members	Mr William Heath
	Mrs Fiona Taylor
	Mr David Jeffries
	Miss Lauren Aldred
	Mr Joshua Macdonald

Diplodocus ESU Team Members	Ms Jacqueline Blades
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Group Lead Volunteers	Mrs Susan Heys (1st Springwood)
	Mr Stuart Kernighan (1st Clifton)
	Mr Stephen Woodcock (3rd Pendlebury)
	Mrs Pauline Mack (Leader in Charge, 3rd Swinton)
	Mrs Adela Ramsbottom (24th Swinton)
	Mr Richard Eaton (43rd Salford)
	Mr Tony Rice (82nd Salford)
	Mrs Suzanne Atkinson (88th Salford)
	Mr Nathan Talbot (100th Salford)

District Nights Away Advisors	Mr James Samson
	Mr Wesley Buckley



# Minutes

of the 9th Annual General Meeting of Lowry District Scout Council, held on the 20th September 2024 at Armstrong Hall.

Present:

## 1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Paul Wilson, District Chair welcomed all in attendance to the Annual General Meeting.

As part of the welcome the Chair noted the changes that have been made to Armstrong Hall.

## 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Daryl Harman, Lynn Harman, Sue Leonard, Katie Harris, Yasma Osman, Mark Gore, and Sue Atkinson.

## 3. Governance Topics

P Wilson noted to the District Scout Council that this part of the meeting is relevant to ensure the charity’s foundations are in good order.

### 3.a Approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th September 2024.

The District Trustee Board have reviewed the minutes of the previous AGM held on 20th September 2024 and so are proposed as a true and accurate record of the 2024 AGM.

Proposed: P Wilson  
Seconded: R Hambelton

**Motion carried**

### 3.b. Adopt the model constitution from Policy, Organisation, and Rules (POR)

In line with the recommendation from Scout Headquarters, the District Trustee Board proposes to adopt the model constitution from Chapter 5 of Policy, Organisation and Rules. A copy of this was available for review and inspection prior to this meeting and copies were also made available at the meeting.

Proposed: P Wilson  
Seconded: N Talbot

**Motion Carried**

### 3.c. Note the Districts Financial Year

P Wilson noted the charity’s financial year is 6th April to 5th April

### 3.d. Approve the appointed and community members of the District Scout Council

The Chair notes that members of the District Scout Council may elect members to the Council. The Chair advises that Elizabeth Samson, Former District Commissioner is nominated as a member of the District Scout Council.

These are to be admitted as members of the District Scout Council in addition to the ex-officio list in POR 5.5.4.

**Motion Carried**

### 3.e. Agree the number of members that may be appointed to the Trustee Board

Following good practice recommendations from the Charity Governance Code, POR states Trustee Boards should have a minimum of 5, and no more than 12, Trustees in total. This includes ex-officio and co-opted Trustees.

The District Scout Council must agree the number of people to be appointed to the Trustee Board. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends that 9 people are appointed. The Chair proposed the District Scout Council approves the recommendation.

Proposed: P Wilson  
Seconded: J Macdonald

**Motion Carried**

### 3.f. Agree the quorum for the future meetings of the District Scout Council (excluding this AGM)

The District Scout Council must agree its quorum – the minimum member of District Scout Council members that must be present at District Scout Council meetings. The outgoing Trustee Board recommends the quorum should be set at 20 people. The Chair asked the District Scout Council to approve the recommendation.

Proposed: P Wilson  
Seconded: M Maynard

**Motion Carried**

## 4. Review of the Previous Year

Paul Wilson, Chair, reflects on the previous year and the changes that we have seen in 2024

### 4.a. District Commissioner’s Review of Scouting in Lowry District

Paul Wilson asks Ryan Swailes, District Lead Volunteer, to present the Annual report for 2024.



Ryan Swailes, District Lead Volunteer gave his review.

The Chair thanked the District Lead Volunteer for his review

**4.b. To receive and consider the Annual Report of the District Trustee Board, including the Annual Statement of Accounts**

The District Trustee Board has approved the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and the report on the accounts received from the Scrutineer.

Sharmila Clarke, District Treasurer presented the Annual Financial Accounts.

Paul Wilson expressed thanks to the District Treasurer for all her hard work in ensuring the accounts were well presented.

No questions were asked to the District Treasurer

**5. Making Appointments**

**5.a. Appoint the District Chair, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board**

P Wilson, Chair, passed the chairmanship over to Ryan Swailes, District Lead Volunteer.

The District Lead Volunteer explained the open selection process agreed by the Trustee Board. The recommendation to the District Scout Council is that Paul Wilson should be appointed as District Chair for a 3-year Term of Office.

**Motion Carried**

The District Lead Volunteer hands the chairmanship of the meeting back to District Chair

**5.b. Appoint the District Treasurer, following Recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board**

P Wilson, Chair, explained the open selection process agreed by the Trustee Board. The recommendation to the District Scout Council is that Sharmila Clarke should be appointed as District treasurer for a three-year term of office.

**Motion carried**

**5.c. Appoint members of the District Trustee Board, following recommendations from the open selection process initiated by the District Trustee Board**

P Wilson, Chair, explained the open selection process agreed by the Trustee Board. The recommendation to the District Scout Council is that the following should be appointed as members of the District Trustee Board, for their terms of office:

Justin McDonnell	3-year Term
Ann Salt	3-year Term
James Samson	2-year Term
Lucy Grech	2 year Term

**Motion carried**

The Chair thanked the Trustees for their work during the year, and a particular thank you to Steve Woodcock, Lynn Harman, Martin Maynard, Josh MacDonald, James Seddon, and Adela Ramsbottom who have or who are stepping down this year.

**5.d. Reappoint District Presidents and or Vice Presidents**

The Chair notes the District Scout Council appoints the District President and all Vice presidents

The Chair advises that Geoffrey Sides is proposed as President and Ann Salt, Stanley Atkins, and Alf Armstrong as Vice Presidents.

**Motion carried**

**5.e. Appoint the independent examiner**

Sharmila Clarke, Treasurer, proposes Ryan Thompson.

Paul Wilson asked for a show of hands to approve this nomination.

**Motion carried**

**6. Closing Remarks**

The Chair closed the Annual General Meeting, thanking everyone for attending and outlined any arrangements for the rest of the event.



# Report & Accounts

For the year ended 31st March 2025

PRESIDENT	Geoffrey Sides
VICE PRESIDENT	Ann Salt
	Alf Armstrong
	Stan Atkins
TRUSTEES: <i>Ex-Officio Appointment</i>	
District Lead Volunteer	Ryan Swailes
District Youth Lead	Luke Turner
Elected by the District Scout Council	
District Chair	Paul Wilson
District Treasurer	Sharmila Clarke
Elected Trustee	Lucy Grech
Elected Trustee	James Samson
Elected Trustee	Justin McDonnell
Elected Trustee	Ann Salt
Bank	CAF BANK
	A trading subsidiary of the Charities Aid Foundation
Independent Examiner of the District Accounts	Ryan Thompson
District Registration Number with The Scout Association	S11961947
Charity Registration Number	514098
Contact Name and Address: Sharmila Clarke	
60 Park Lane, Salford, M6 7RQ	
Mobile: 07834 836758	

# Trustees Annual Report

For the year ended 31st March 2025

## Major activities and achievements in the year

The operational result for the year is an **income over expenditure of £3,480**  
**Taking out the restricted funds then the resultant working capital is £25,257**

The working capitals since Lowry District Formation are	On formation	Feb-16	£17,888
	End of Year 1	Apr-17	£16,398
	End of Year 2	Apr-18	£15,536
	End of Year 3	Apr-19	£14,684
	End of Year 4	Apr-20	£15,363
	End of Year 5	Apr-21	£17,610
	End of Year 6	Apr-22	£22,813
	End of Year 7	Apr-23	£32,483
	End of Year 8	Apr-24	£25,257
	End of Year 9	Apr-25	£29,003

The District’s financial policy remains to control spending to an amount equal to its income and to be able to fund District events, administration, meetings, and support Groups in activities such as leader training and to ensure the District is growing and developing.

We have received £122,228 this year (£34,126) Youth Investment Fund grant for Armstrong Hall refurbishment which has been fully completed and is looking great.

There was a wide range of events carried out across the District throughout the year, primarily the successful District Camp.

The District has invested in digital and video cameras this year.

Restricted Funds balance at year end:		
£2,589	Hardship Fund District	
£1,909	HQ Hardship Fund - specific to 1 group	

The District is a trust established under the rules that are common to all Groups/Units. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association.  
The accounts have been drawn up on the receipts and payments basis.  
During the year all Groups/Units have been asked/filed a financial report with the District.

Approved by the trustees on 6th August 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Sharmila Clarke	Paul Wilson
<b>District Treasurer</b>	<b>District Chair</b>



# Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the year ended 31st March 2025

	This year General Funds £	This year Restricted Funds £	This year Total £	Last year Total £
Total receipts for the year (see page 14)	59,705	122,859	182,564	79,382
Total payments for the year (see page 15)	55,710	123,374	179,085	92,052
Net receipts (payments) for the year	3,995	-516	3,480	-12,670
Transfer of funds between funds (Balance Sheet Transfer) Badge Stock				
Resultant Net receipts (payments) for the year	3,995	-516	3,480	-12,670
Cash, bank, and asset funds at market value brought forward	31,054	80,000	441,594	441,594
Cash, bank, and asset funds at market value carried forward	29,003	642,071	671,073	441,594

The above account and accompanying state of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 6th August 2025.

Sharmila Clarke  
District Treasurer

Paul Wilson  
District Chair

# Receipts

For the year ended 31st March 2025

	This year General Funds £	This year Restricted Funds £	This Year Total £	Last Year Total £
<b>MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>				
Capitation	27,694		27,694	22,892
<b>INTEREST</b>				
Bank Interest	269		269	1,522
Building Society Interest				
<b>PAYMENTS FROM EQUITY INVESTMENTS:</b>				
CAF Financial Investments	3,369		3,369	1,126
<b>GRANTS</b>				
ARMSTRONG HALL - Youth Investment Fund		122,859	122,859	34,126
Booths Grant WSJ			0	0
Early Years Grants			0	0
<b>DONATIONS</b>				
Amazon/PayPal/DONR.COM			0	28
<b>ACTIVITIES &amp; TRIPS</b>				
Bowling & Sealife	933		933	1,804
Cubs Halloween Party	135		135	155
Smithills Fram	809		809	233
St Georges Day	50			
<b>CAMPING &amp; COMPETITIONS</b>				
Lowry District Camping & backwood Cooking Comp GOOT	868		868	1,294
Beavers Camp	0		0	1,180
Scouts_Explorers Expedition	0		0	652
Swimming Gala	275		275	315
District Dodgeball	80		80	86
District Football	72		72	86
District Camp	8,653		8,653	3,987
Inter District Lord Derby	144		144	0
Cubs Football			0	110
<b>FUND RAISING</b>				
Jamboree Fund Raising			0	0
<b>ARMSTRONG HALL RENT</b>	14,135		14,135	11,630
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>				
transfer 12th swinton Bank accounts			0	-2,761
First Aid Training/Domains	1,379		1,379	
<b>Sundry Receipts</b>				
Badge Receipts	225		225	530
Loans Received			0	0
Other	616		616	387
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>59,705</b>	<b>122,859</b>	<b>182,564</b>	<b>79,382</b>



# Payments

## For the year ended 31st March 2025

<b>PREMISES - Armstrong Hall</b>				
Bills	0		0	1,102
Clearance/Cleaning	906		906	167
Insurance	1,462		1,462	1,333
Maintenance	0		0	619
Other	6		6	35
Repairs	190		190	465
replacement locks/keys	0		0	93
Utlilty Bills	3,891		3,891	6,824
Youth Investment Fund	0	121,286	121,286	34,280
<b>DEVELOPMENT COSTS</b>				
District Website	0		0	0
<b>ADMIN/ESTABLISHMENT COSTS</b>				
Helper/Contents Insurance	102		102	81
Bank Charges	120		120	65
Meeting costs inc AGM	1,502		1,502	1,962
Other	0		0	0
<b>ACTIVITIES &amp; TRIPS</b>				
Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorers, District events and Trips	1,926		1,926	3,409
Program In A Box	0		0	141
<b>CAMPING &amp; COMPETITIONS</b>				
Lowry District Camping & backwood Cooking Comp	1,036		1,036	1,734
Beavers Camp	200		200	1,141
Scouts_Explorers Expedition	0		0	768
Swimming Gala	324		324	358
GOOT	126		126	88
District Dodgeball	80		80	80
District Football	85		85	85
District Camp	9,053		9,053	3,987
Cubs Football	0		0	214
Other	148		148	0
<b>TRAINING</b>				
Young Leader, Leader, First Aid, Safeguarding	0		0	147
First Aid	793		793	187
District Development days	1,224		1,224	356
<b>FUNDRAISING EXPENSES</b>				
Fundraising	0		0	0
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>				
Communications - Pull out banner/leaflets/business cards	0		0	961
2-Way Radios	0		0	3,379
Rent	1,608		1,608	3,379
Video Camera/Digital Camera/Microphone	1,360		1,360	0
Recruitment	35		35	0
Badges	540		540	916
Capitation	26,750	1,678	28,428	22,892
Uniform Order 1st Springwood	0		0	2,417
Grants awarded	0	350	350	250
<b>SUNDRY PAYMENTS</b>				
Domain Names	264		264	24
Name Badges/Uniform	874		874	271
Neckers	781	61	842	977
Web Hosting	0		0	175
Poppy Wreath	28		28	28
Other	296		296	40
Sherif Affinity IT Licenses	0		0	0
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>55,710</b>	<b>123,374</b>	<b>179,085</b>	<b>92,052</b>

# Statement of Assets and Liabilities

## At 31st March 2025

	This year General Funds £	This year Restricted Funds £	This Year Total £	Last Year Total £
<b>MONETARY ASSETS Cash, Bank, and similar funds.</b>				
Bank Current Account	52,298	6,071	58,369	11,739
Bank Deposit Account	4,879		4,879	19,671
Loans				
Cash In Hand	44		44	44
	57,221	6,071	63,292	31,454
<b>OTHER MONETARY ASSETS</b>				
Income due	400		400	1,806
Income received for next years income	0		0	0
Expenditure paid for next year	0		0	0
Expenditure due	-28,618		-28,618	-2,206
<b>TOTAL OTHER MONATORY ASSETS</b>	<b>-28,218</b>		<b>-28,218</b>	<b>-400</b>
<b>TOTAL MONATORY ASSETS</b>	<b>29,003</b>	<b>6,071</b>	<b>35,073</b>	<b>31,054</b>
<b>INVESTMENT ASSETS</b>				
Government Stocks at Market Value				
Other Quoted Securities at market value		80,000	80,000	80,000
Other investments				
Property held for investment purposes		556,000	556,000	330,000
NONE-MONETARY ASSETS- For Charity use.				
Badge Stock	0		0	540
<b>CASH, BANK AND SIMILAR FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>29,003</b>	<b>642,071</b>	<b>671,073</b>	<b>441,594</b>
<b>LIABILITES. Those due within one year</b>				
Accounts not paid at 31 March				
Expenses incurred not yet paid				
Subscriptions not yet paid				
<b>LIABILITIES. Those payable after one year</b>				
Loans				
Hire purchase owing				
Lease payments out standing				
Other long term liabilities				
The District has no contingent liabilities and future obligations				

# 14-24 Provision Accounts

For the year ended 31st March 2025

	This year General Funds £	This year Restricted Funds £	This year Total £	Last year Total £
Total receipts for the year	29116.88		29116.88	13610.78
Total payments for the year	30062.81		30062.81	12289.32
Net receipts (payments) for the year	-945.93		-945.93	1321.46
Resultant Net receipts (payments) for the year	-945.93		-945.93	1321.46
Cash, bank, and asset funds at market value brought forward	2367.63		2367.63	1072.42
Cash, bank, and asset funds at market value carried forward	1421.70		1421.70	2367.63

Sharmila Clarke  
District Treasurer

Paul Wilson  
District Chair

# Independent examiner’s report

To the Trustees of Lowry District Scout Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Lowry District Scout Council for the year ended 6th April 2025.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Lowry District Scout 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 Lowry District Scout Council 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 Lowry District Scout Council as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: Ryan Thompson

Qualification: ACCA

Date: 03/08/25





# Keeping the Momentum

Ryan Swailes - District Lead Volunteer

As I reflect on the last year, I am incredibly proud of how far Lowry has come and the exciting path that lies ahead. This year has been one of consolidation, growth, and fresh opportunities for our young people and volunteers. Our programme has gone from strength to strength. From Squirrels through to Explorers, every section has been active, adventurous, and visible in our communities.

Highlights of the year include our District Camp, which once again brought together hundreds of young people from across the District for a weekend of adventure and friendship. A special thank you must go to Michelle Rowlands, whose outstanding organisation and leadership ensured the camp was a huge success. Our sections have enjoyed a wide range of activities: from Beavers attending camps and fun days, to Cubs joining in competitions and outings, to Scouts testing their skills in the Backwoods Cooking Competition. Our Explorers continue to thrive, with both Stegosaurus and Diplodocus ESUs providing strong programmes and international experiences. Network members have played an important role supporting events, stepping up to help the District flourish.

This year we also saw the completion of the Youth Investment Fund works at Armstrong Hall. The transformation has been remarkable, and we now have a high-quality base that supports Scouting and provides a space that our groups and the wider community can be proud of.

Another priority this year has been ensuring that mandatory training, especially Safety and Safeguarding, is up to date for all our volunteers. This is vital in keeping Scouting safe and enjoyable for every young person. My sincere thanks go to Justin McDonnell, who has worked tirelessly to support volunteers with their training and ensure we remain in a strong position for the future.

Financially, the District remains stable thanks to careful stewardship and the hard work of our Trustee Board. Grants, fundraising, and strong governance have ensured we can continue to provide events and training opportunities for all.

I must take this opportunity to thank every single volunteer across Lowry. Whether you are a section leader, a trustee, a parent who helps occasionally, or a supporter cheering us on—you are making a difference. The awards listed in this report are a testament to the dedication, imagination, and commitment of so many, but I know there are countless acts of kindness and leadership that may go unrecognised. Please know that they are appreciated.

Looking forward, we are excited to continue supporting our young people. With plans for future events, international trips, and a continued focus on safe, inclusive Scouting, I have no doubt Lowry will keep leaping forward.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to our movement and for everything you do to make Scouting in Lowry such a success.



# Programme

Ryan Swailes - District Lead Volunteer

## Squirrels - Kim Skaife

During the 2024/2025 year the Lowry District has maintained 5 Squirrel dreys across 4 groups. Each group has awarded multiple Chief Scout Acorns to their squirrels, after a successful and well-rounded programme. The Squirrels have attended many Lowry events during the year – including St George’s Funday, Easter Egg Hunt – both at Hollinwood Scout Camp; a trip to Smithills Farm in July, and the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service.

The Squirrels enjoyed mixing with their older counterparts for District-wide events and we hope to have more collaboration between sections in the coming years.

## Beavers - Cat Cronshaw

The Beavers have another full and fun-packed year, with our groups attending many different events in their groups and wider District events.

We have seen more than 9 Chief Scouts Bronze Awards being awarded over the last year, which is fantastic, and credit needs to go to our leaders for putting together outstanding programmes which allow our Beavers to achieve the top award. Also, credit needs to go to our fantastic beavers for their hard work to get this award. We are all super proud of you.

This year saw the 88th Beavers become District Dominoes champions in January 2025, taking the title from the 100th in a closely fought battle. They also won the Swimming Gala in October 2024, another fantastic result by the 88th. Let’s hope the winning ways continue into 2025/2026.

We have seen individual Beaver sections attend and participate in a range of activities, including:

A visit from curious critters, meeting snakes, spiders, and owls. Their leaders also tried mealworms; apparently, they don’t taste too bad. Groups visiting the RSPCA shelter and completing a hike in Heaton Park. We have seen Beavers brave sleeping in a shark tunnel as part of their Nights Away badge and groups helping in their local community by participating in bag packing.

Other District events include a soft archery competition, a trip to Smithills Farm and our now famous Easter Egg hunt, which cubs and Squirrels attended. We saw an excellent turnout for Remembrance Day, and St George’s It’s a Knock Out day was part of our whole District events programme.

The year ahead is jam-packed as ever, with the old favourites returning (dominoes



competition: can 88th retain their title?), our Beaver District camp in July 2025, Easter Egg planned for April 2025 and hopefully again in March 2026, with Squirrels and hopefully cubs joining us again.

We are looking forward to another brilliant year, and I want to take this opportunity to thank all our outstanding Beaver leaders for their incredible support. We couldn’t do this without you.

## Cubs - Tony Rice

This year, Lowry Cubs have been very busy. From camping to the Cubs Totem Pole Competition, Cubs from across the District have come together as they gain skills for life.

At the 2024 Totem Pole Competition, teams from 3rd Pendlebury, 24th Swinton, 100th Salford, 88th Salford, and 82nd Salford came together for an afternoon of Scouting activities to compete for the totem pole. Congratulations to 24th Swinton who came first and well done to all of the young people who attended. Thank you to 1st Clifton for allowing us to use your meeting place.

Cubs worked towards their Animal Carer Activity Badge at our Sea Life Centre visit as they learnt about the habitats and the feeding habits of aquatic animals. This was followed by working towards their Teamwork Challenge Award as they participated in teams during bowling. It was a great day!

Thank you to Laura and our amazing Lowry Cub Leaders who stepped in to run the annual Cubs Halloween Party at Armstrong Hall. The young people had a fantastic time with some really spooky costumes.

Cubs from across Lowry competed in the 2025 Totem Pole Competition. We had fantastic weather which allowed us to have bases indoors as well as outdoors. It was a fantastic



event with Cubs trying their best and working together to compete for the totem pole. Congratulations to 3rd Pendlebury who came first with a fantastic effort from all Cubs in every team. All the bases at the totem pole were run by individual groups and the activities provided were absolutely fantastic. Thank you to the leaders who supported this event and thank you to Shelly in the kitchen for keeping all the leaders hydrated.

Thank you to all the Leaders from across Lowry who have helped with events for Cubs, the support is greatly appreciated and I can't wait to see what the next year brings.

### Scouts - Bob Hambelton

The year started off with Lowry running the Inter-District Lord Derby Competition at Dunham in place of the County Lord Derby Competition. Nine teams from across the county attended including two from Lowry.

The year for the Scouts continued with the usual competitions, 5-a-side Football in May, the Camping and Backwoods Cooking Competition in June, Orienteering in October and Dodgeball in November. After the New Year there was another 5-a-side Football competition in February and then the Get Out of That in March. The District then ran a second Inter-District Lord Derby competition at Hollinwood Scout campsite with nine teams.

In addition to the District competitions Teams from 3rd Pendlebury, and 24th Swinton took part in the BST Hiking competition. 1st Clifton also entered as a mixed team with 1st Atherton.

In early October 1st Clifton took part in the Chariot Race at Bispham Hall Scout campsite with two teams one of which reached the final which was a fantastic achievement considering neither team had participated before.



## Support

### Ryan Swailes - District Lead Volunteer

The Support Team has played a vital behind-the-scenes role in keeping the District connected and informed throughout the year. While they are rarely seen in person—often working quietly behind cameras or in front of laptops—their contributions are essential to the smooth running of Lowry. A major focus this year has been increasing our social media presence, with regular posts celebrating the achievements of our young people across the District. Together, the team continues to help more people discover the joy of Scouting and the incredible work happening across Lowry. We encourage everyone to keep interacting with our posts to help grow our reach and celebrate the spirit of Scouting.

### Administration - Laura Greenhalgh

At the end of last year, I was delighted to be appointed as one of Lowry's Administrators, with a focus on supporting the Board of Trustees and overseeing governance across the District. Over the past year, I've worked hard to streamline processes, improve communication, and ensure that governance tasks are carried out efficiently and transparently. It's been a rewarding experience to contribute to the smooth running of our operations and to support the incredible work happening across Lowry.

### Media - Lauren Aldred

This year has seen a huge increase in Lowry's external social media presence, with the launching of a new District Instagram and the re-energising of our external Facebook page. In just 9 months, we've increased our audience reach to 20.9k, up 641% compared to before last November when the pages launched.

We've begun to use paid adverts to boost recruitment and created a social media calendar, to make sure our content is frequent and varied whilst incorporating all aspects of the District activities. This includes District events, group spotlights, targeted recruitment, award celebrations and high-quality videos.

With the help of our recently purchased District camera and GoPro, we hope to continue to boost our online presence further and create a strong online community to celebrate and showcase everything we do.

### Communications - Ben Beaver

Our internal communications have remained a strength of our District this year, with our Microsoft 365 provision expanding to support more volunteers than ever before. We have continued The Thread intermittently, targeting it to when we feel it will be most impactful and experimenting with new platforms to increase engagement. In addition, this Annual Report has, as always, been a pleasure to compile!

# Volunteer Development

Justin McDonnell - Volunteer Development Team Leader

The Volunteer Development Team is now in its second year of existence. We have now finally got used to all our new role titles, and we are sure you have too! The team is divided into three main sections, Welcome, Learning, and Recognition.

## Welcome

The Welcome Team, managed by Ann Salt MBE, has been extremely busy hosting regular Appointments Meetings up to December 2024, and then the new Welcome Conversation Meetings since January this year. A big thank you to everyone who has helped in any way to make these meetings happen, and be as successful as they have been. We have met with, and welcomed nearly 40 new volunteers who have started on their Scouting journey as leaders. They are split across all the groups and sections in the District, but the majority being new Squirrel and Beaver leaders at thriving groups. With the District enlarging, this increase in volunteers is inevitable, but it has been a pleasure meeting them all, and witnessing their enthusiasm, and the new energy that they are bringing to their groups, sections and the District as a whole.

## Learning

Adult Learning has been continuing steadily over the past 12 months, however as you all know, the introduction of the new digital membership system has dramatically changed the way it is recorded. Lowry District continues to be one of the leading Districts in Greater Manchester West County that is fully compliant with mandatory training. Since April 2024, all volunteers who needed to (approximately 150 in total) have completed the new on line Safety training module, 122 volunteers have completed their Safeguarding on line training, and 72 volunteers have completed their First Aid training. This is an outstanding effort by everyone, which reflects the commitment of all our District volunteers.

## Recognition

Many volunteers have had their hard work and efforts celebrated throughout the year with Good Service and Length of Service Awards. Since April 2024, 12 volunteers have been awarded Good Service Awards, and 15 volunteers have received Length of Service Awards. Congratulations to all those who have been recognised with Awards. This work is always on going, so many more will be considered in the months ahead.

Looking forward, it is my intention to make a big effort to encourage those who are very close to completion of their wood badge, to get the remaining modules verified, and award their beads. There are also around 50 volunteers, who must complete or renew their First Aid training in the next year. Please keep a look out for courses, which will be organised in the not-too-distant future. Finally, yet importantly, if you receive emails from The Scout Association about mandatory training, please act on them as soon as you possibly can to avoid suspension.

I would like to finish by thanking you all for your efforts over the last 12 months. It has been a testing time with the introduction of new systems. You are all amazing in all that you do in Scouting. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your volunteering development, whatever they may be, email me at [justin.mcdonnell@lowryDistrict.org.uk](mailto:justin.mcdonnell@lowryDistrict.org.uk) and I will be only too happy to assist in whatever way I can.

# 14-25 Team

James Seddon - 14-25 Team Leader

What a year it's been for the 14-25 Team! Over the past twelve months, we've seen our Stegosaurus and Diplodocus units really come together as one strong team, taking on some brilliant challenges and adventures.

The absolute highlight has to be our first overseas trip to Belfast - completing our Four Cities Tour in style! The Giant's Causeway was genuinely breathtaking - scrambling over the incredible rock formations and taking in the wild coastline was amazing, although next time we must check the tide-times! Our visit to Stormont sparked some great discussions about politics and democracy, with the MP's talk really getting everyone thinking. But the Titanic Museum was something else entirely - so immersive and moving. The recreations, artifacts and artistic exhibits brought the whole story to life in a way none of us expected.

Coming back from Belfast, we channeled all that energy into developing practical skills our Explorers actually wanted to learn. We turned our hand to film photography, baking for a crowd, and practiced budgeting for the real world with our meal plans while away on trips. Our November Camp was brilliant for independence - small teams of Explorers took on independent expedition routes around the Derbyshire countryside, some definitely learned that reading a map in the rain is harder than it looks!

March Camp at Bowley continued this theme, giving everyone the chance to try new skills and choose their own adventure paths. What's been fantastic to see peer-mentoring in action between our more experienced Stegosaurus members and the growing Diplodocus crew. Having both units work together on trips and activities has brought fresh energy and created some brilliant mentorship opportunities.

Looking forward to next year, we're excited to continue the momentum our experience Explorers have as they take on bigger challenges as part of Network, working towards the King's Scout Awards and supporting each other in their next adventures. It's great seeing our enthusiastic Explorers transition into Network as they turn 18 and want to keep their Scouting journey going.

Huge thanks to all our 14-25 Team leaders - your willingness to hike across the Giant's Causeway, sleep in questionable weather, and support our young people through every adventure makes all the difference. Here's to another year of brilliant adventures and probably a few more stories we'll be telling for years to come!





# Youth

## Luke Turner - Youth Lead

What a fantastic year it has been across Lowry District! Once again, our young people have risen to the challenge, taken the lead, and truly shaped their Scouting experiences in ways that continue to inspire all of us.

One standout moment this year was the youth-run session at our District camping competition – a brilliant example of young people taking ownership, sharing their skills, and leading with confidence. Events like this remind us just how powerful youth-led Scouting can be when given the space to thrive.

We have seen more YouShape Awards earned this year than ever before, a testament to the commitment of our young people and leaders in building programmes with young people at its heart. Across many sections around the District, we have had hikes and routes planned by our scouts themselves, and countless meetings and activities shaped around their input. It has been fantastic to see young people not only involved in programme planning, but excited to do so.

A special mention must go to our Young Leaders, who continue to show incredible commitment and leadership across sections. Their input not only supports our younger members but also helps shape the future of Scouting in Lowry. Through attending many events planned by the fantastic programme team, I have been able to see our young people

grow in confidence, not just participating, but leading with intent, reflecting on what works, and showing a real understanding of what it means to shape their own experiences and becoming leaders

As a District, we are continuing to move forward in our journey to become even more youth-led. From young leaders stepping up, to more opportunities being shaped and delivered by Scouts themselves, it is clear that Lowry is a place where youth voice matters.

There is, of course, always more we can do – and that is something we are looking forward to. Over the next year, we will be looking to strengthen the youth-led idea, encourage even more peer-led opportunities, and keep building a culture where every young person knows they can influence their own Scouting experience.

If you are a leader looking to embed more youth voice into your programme, or a young person with ideas to shape the future of Scouting in Lowry, let's talk! We are always here to support and amplify your ideas.

Thank you to all the leaders and volunteers who make this possible – your support empowers our young people to grow into confident, skilled, and passionate individuals. Here is to another great year of youth-shaped Scouting in Lowry!





# Census 2025

## Census of Membership in Lowry For the year ending January 2025

	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total
Youth membership					
Squirrels	68	30			98
Beavers	110	17			127
Cubs	94	33			127
Scouts	70	40			110
Explorers	34	4			38
Network	4	1			5
Total Youth Membership	380	125			505
Adult roles					
Leadership	46	61	1		108
Management	6	3			9
Support	2	2			4
Governance	17	15			32
Group	67	78	1		146
District	4	3			7
Total Adult Membership	71	81	1		153
Totals					
Total Youth Membership	380	125			505
Total Adult Membership	71	81	1		153
Total Membership	451	206	1		658
Total to pay					500
Waiting lists					
Squirrels	5	10			15
Beavers	14	3			17
Cubs	4	2			6
Scouts		1			1
Total waiting lists	23	16			39
Young Leaders					
Squirrels	1	1			2
Beavers	4				4
Cubs	5	2			7
Scouts	6	2			8
Total Young Leaders	16	5			21
Sections					
Squirrel dreys					7
Beaver colonies					10
Cub packs					10
Scout troops					7
Explorer units					3
Venture Scout units					0
Local network					1
Young Leader units					1
Organisation					
Sections					38
Groups					9
Districts					1
Counties					0
Other					0







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# Scouts

## Lowry