



# Scouts

Blackpool



## Annual report and accounts 2023-2024





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# Welcome from the Chair

## Welcome to Blackpool District Scouts' Annual General Meeting 2024!

Another busy year and another year of delivering outstanding Scouting across Blackpool. We all should be immensely proud of what we are achieving, particularly as some of our young people and families will be impacted by the wider cost of living crisis. Whilst for some this will make access to Scouting harder, I know all of us would agree that it is times like these when Scouting will come together, reflect our core values and work tirelessly to ensure we are accessible for all.

### Transforming futures

Transformation will be key this year with many changes already present in the District and more to come around our structure, governance and accountability. We all accept how any change can and does cause worry, apprehension and sometimes frustration, but I am confident the work of the Board of Trustees and all of us within Blackpool District will ensure that the transformation required is successful and improves the service we deliver to our young people involved in Scouting.

### A place to call home

The development of the new headquarters will be a huge focus of 2024 going forward and hopefully in the near future we will be able to announce the ownership of the old Marton Methodist Church site so that we can start to develop a place for Blackpool Scouts to call our new home. Alongside this we will ensure a fitting memorial for Paul Marshall and his exceptionally kind bequest of his property to fund this venture. Our job as a District is to ensure that we deliver is the best HQ that we can so that we can continue to support and develop Scouting across Blackpool, and I am more than confident that we will achieve this.

As I have said before, what we provide as a District is second to none, and it does not happen by accident; it is the hard work and dedication of all our volunteers involved in Scouting that allows us to continue to be the largest voluntary group across Blackpool and positively impact the lives of many young people. On behalf of all of the Board of Trustees, thank you for your continued efforts and the support you have shown myself and the wider Board of Trustees.

The work that goes on across all of the groups, by all of those that support Scouting, truly confirms to me that **Blackpool Scouts is the best!**

Thank you all!

**Chris Hardy**

Chair of the Board of Trustees



# A year of achievement

**As we look back on the last year of Scouting in the District and read the contents of this annual report. It is perfectly clear to see that we are going from strength to strength.**

For me, 2023 was always going to be a year of stability and finding our feet. With changes that we had begun to implement. In many ways this got us ahead of the curve in preparation for transformation.

I am really pleased that our stakeholder engagement has increased, and we are getting noticed in our town! Our attendance at local events and colleges is vital to support the pillar of work in our strategy around this. My thanks to all those who have made this happen.

With people positively talking about the work that we do in our communities this I know will lead to growth. Now we have solid foundations, this enables us to make 2024 a year for development. This includes work that has already been done with finding a place to call home in our District Headquarters.

It has been great to see more Squirrel Dreys open as well as others taking the leap to get ready for them too! Seeing the development at Mowbreck is brilliant and ensures that our resource is enjoyed by many more young people.

My thanks must go to each and every one of you for all that you do. I know that at times things are a challenge but together we will always find a way to overcome and continue the journey!

**Matt Hornby**

Lead Volunteer  
District Leadership Team

As I reflect on 12 months of Scouting in Blackpool and present this annual report on behalf of the District Leadership Team, I am immensely proud of what we have achieved and how we have challenged ourselves.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Matt Hornby for his leadership as our lead volunteer during the year and for the direction and course he started us on in our transformation journey. As we move forward it is these foundations which we will build on during the next twelve months.

Change comes with Challenge and in the past twelve months we have changed how we structure our meetings and our governance; we have challenged our programme that we deliver and worked towards changing our district structure in readiness for transformation.

This year we saw our third year of growth and we now have over 1075 members. Our ambition to increase our youth and adult membership is challenging but with good programmes and activity opportunities we know it will continue to be successful.

Squirrel Dreys continue to open, with our most recent at the 8th Blackpool. Our move towards Squirrels in all groups increases the opportunity to strengthen our numbers and tap into a new pool of adults who we can encourage to join us. We currently have three more Squirrel Dreys in the plan for opening in 2024/2025.

Our Group and District programmes have been stronger than ever with some amazing opportunities for young people to take part in. Programme in all sections must continue to develop and whether it is a Group night, a District section event, or a night away activity we can inspire young people and help them develop more #SkillsForLife.

Safety has also been top of our agenda in the past twelve months and our local focus on safety training compliance and risk assessment continues to ensure that we deliver safe scouting every week.

I would like to thank all our volunteers, especially our Groups, District teams, Trustees & Supporters for another great year of Scouting in Blackpool.

**Paul Harris**

Interim Lead Volunteer  
District Leadership Team

## Our vision

By **2025** we will have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders delivering an inspiring programme. We will be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

## Our goals

We will achieve the following goals against our four objectives:

### Growth

- Grow to 900 young people
- Increase adult volunteers to 400
- More young leaders, 2 per section
- Fewer sections with less than 12 members
- All Groups with at least 3 sections

### Inclusivity

- Our members reflect the demographics of our local area
- Stronger groups within areas of deprivation within the town
- Increase our members from underrepresented communities

### Youth Shaped

- 100% of young people shaping their Scouting experience
- 50% of young people achieving their top awards

### Community Impact

- Young people making a positive difference in their local community
- Develop a community impact week

## Our pillars of work

To meet these objectives, we will focus on four pillars of work:

### Programme

A fun, enjoyable, high-quality programme consistently delivered and supported by simple (digital) tools.

### People

More, well trained, better supported and motivated adult volunteers, and more young people from diverse backgrounds.

### Perception

Scouting is understood, more visible, trusted, respected and widely seen as playing a key role in society today.

### Places

Good quality, practical locations are available to support our scouting programme across Blackpool.

# Shaped by young people

**Once again, Blackpool Scouts are doing well in supporting a Youth Shaped Programme within all of our sections.**

When visiting groups, it is clear that most of our young people in every section are given the chance to input into their own programme- whether this being within their section evening meeting night or in activities that happen away from the group at the weekend.

Many, if not all, of our young people are given the chance to feedback after an activity at their group or one run by the District/ County, giving our leaders the chance to see what it is that our young people enjoy doing within their Scouting activities. It has been brilliant to see more and more Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers gaining their YouShape award by setting themselves a goal, planning, leading and representing in their Section. Well done to everyone who has completed the full award! This award has now launched for Squirrels who are on their way to achieving it already.

Our Network members have also been stepping up and taking on more of a role in sharing ideas and running different programme nights according to what their members want to do and have enjoyed taking part in previously.

A great step forward in ensuring that all of our young members from 4-24 are involved in shaping their own Scouting journey!

**Gabby Howson-Tax**

Youth Lead Volunteer  
District Leadership Team











# Squirrels

**Our second year of Squirrels in Blackpool has been even better than the first! Our Squirrels are loving the adventure and showing everybody just what they can do!**

We now have 6 Dreys in the District: 4<sup>th</sup> Blackpool, 7<sup>th</sup> Blackpool, 8<sup>th</sup> Blackpool, 57<sup>th</sup> Blackpool, 1<sup>st</sup> Bispham and 1<sup>st</sup> Staining, with another few on the horizon.

In October, Blackpool Gang Show had its first ever Squirrels performing in the show at the Grand Theatre and what a great job they did! From opening the show to 'holding out for a hero', their song and dance along with other members of the cast was spectacular to see!

In November Squirrel Scouts in Blackpool also took part in their first Swimming Gala competition and splashed their way to the finish line. It was a brilliant afternoon with the Squirrels taking part wanting to stay in the water for much longer! Many of our Squirrels also took part in their first Remembrance Day services within their own groups.

In December lots of Squirrels joined in with the District's 'Carols around the Campfire' where we joined other members of Blackpool Scouts for an evening of activities, food and of course singing around the magnificent campfire.

April brought around the Junior Jamboree with other Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs around the County. Blackpool Squirrels had an adventure filled day, canoeing on the water, completing low ropes courses and practicing our target sports with some archery and axe-throwing. It was also brilliant to see another St. George's Day celebration at Stanley Park where our Squirrels got stuck in with more fabulous activities before renewing our Squirrel Scout promise together.

This year we have seen 4 separate nights away for our Squirrels, one of which being our first District Sleepover themed around going on a bear hunt. The Squirrels that attended made maps and binoculars to find the bear and set off on their very own hunt for the Bear (who wasn't as scary as we thought!). A brilliant start to implementing nights away into our Squirrel Scouts programme.

2024 has already seen Squirrels growing their own gardens, learning about animals (both at group nights and visits to Pets at Home), building dens, making bug hotels and much more. It has been a pleasure to see and hear about all the badge work and fun and exciting activities that you have been getting up to.

I am very proud to have congratulated and presented many Squirrels on achieving their Chief Scouts Acorn Award, the highest award that can be earned as a Squirrel. It has been brilliant to see these Squirrels move on to start their next adventures in Beavers.

For everything over the past year to take place, there has been a great deal of planning and enthusiasm from the Squirrel Leaders within the District, many of whom are new to Scouting or to the roles they have taken on. The support from their groups and group lead volunteers has been an immense help in getting this brand-new section off the ground and started on their journey.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported the Squirrel Section over the past year with all our activities, many of which couldn't have gone ahead without your assistance.

We look forward to taking the Squirrel Section forward within Blackpool over the coming years!

**Gabby Howson-Tax**

Squirrel Section Team Leader  
Programme Team









**It has been fantastic to see all the exciting adventures our Beaver Colonies have been getting up to over the past 12 months.**

Back in April it was St George's Day in the park, the sun shone and we enjoyed a treasure hunt, archery, catapults, and tug of war before renewing our Promise at the Bandstand. In May lots of us volunteered to take part in the Big Help Out. It was great to see the young people and their families making a positive contribution to our community. I also enjoyed seeing our colonies take part in the final JOTT around the Fylde Arboretum area. My thanks to the Cub Section Team for organising.

In June, I was delighted to see Colonies at the County Beaver Event, Puddle & Waddle Camp at Waddecarr Campsite. A lot of plastic ducks, kayaks and much more! Great to be joined by some Squirrels too. Sadly, the unpredictable British weather caused us to cancel our Forest Fun event. Whilst we did manage to re-schedule, we were sorry it meant some Beavers did miss out. Thank you as ever for your support with this.

Autumn started with a visit to Bibby's Farm for the County Beaver Skills Day. A fantastic opportunity to be in the outdoors and working towards a multitude of Challenge and Activity badges. October, it was a delight to see many Beaver Scouts perform at The Grand Theatre in Blackpool Gang Show – we were so very proud! The Swimming Gala was back in November! Well done to all those who took part. December brought 'Carols around the Campfire' a chance to join other members of Blackpool District. A huge thank you for all the generous donations for local charities in need.

We were also very excited to try a new event, Forest Christmas Crafts, a chance to learn, and be brave enough to use some new tools and make some unique Christmas decorations. In February, 160 Beavers and volunteers headed to Manchester Science & Industry Museum. A great day of hands-on learning, from textiles to experiments, the Industrial Revolution to modern technology. In March we brought back the Great Beaver Bake Off

with lots of teams taking part. Thank you to Paul and Christine our judges and well done to our winners 1<sup>st</sup> Norbreck.

In April, Beavers and Cubs got together for a weekend at Waddecarr for the Junior Jamboree. Organised by the County Korean Jamboree Team. The rain and mud certainly didn't put us off! Archery, climbing, tomahawks, kayaks, orienteering, Korean crafts and food plus a talent show!

2024 has already brought Colony visits and sleepovers, external visitors, and badge earning. I have been delighted to see and hear the badge work you have been focussing on over the past 12 months! Congratulations to so many Beaver Scouts on achieving the Chief Scout Bronze Award. This also meant we had to say goodbye to lots of young people who moved onto Cubs, and we can't wait to see you in the next stage of your Scouting journey.

Our young people are fortunate to have such amazing volunteers. I am also reliant on such a supportive Leadership Team. Sadly, after over 10 years of dedicated service to the Beaver Section Team, John Sanderson stepped down from his role. During this time John has not only run his own successful colony but shared his skills and expertise with all our leaders and young people across the District. His outstanding service to the Beaver Section is to be commended as a Section Team Leader and in our District Team. The number of young people who benefitted from his dedication and the opportunities he provided will be felt for years to come. I have been so fortunate to gain so much knowledge and expertise over our time working together, I will be forever grateful. I know you will all join me in thanking John for his time and support and wish him well, I know he will always remain a firm supporter of our Beavers.

A special thank you must go to the rest of my team, Sarah, Ann, Irene and Anastasia. Also, thank you to the wider District Team who we are fortunate to have as support at our events, without you simply none of this would be possible. Here's to another exciting year!

**Emma Hornby**  
Beaver Section Team Leader  
Programme Team









**Over the past year, our focus has been on how we can offer a wider range of experiences to our young people and support them to achieve the Chief Scout Silver Award.**

2023 started off with a new event, Race to Silver, using Mowbreck Campsite. Taking input from the packs, the team put on a nights away experience, covering aspects of the Outdoor Challenge badge to help provide the opportunities for members to obtain the missing parts of the Chief Scout Silver Award. This will be returning as we look to help bridge any gaps in programmes.

We also offered another new experience in November. The Sea Life Centre was booked to enable our members the chance to sleep with the sharks and learn all about life under the sea.

In January, a favourite evening returned, the board games night. A chance for Cubs and volunteers to come together over two nights to play games and take part in the Cub District Chess Competition.

In February, we arranged for Cubs to earn their Snow Sports Stage 1 badge with a chilly but sunny day out to Rossendale Ski slope. Attended by 97 Cub Scouts, the day was a great success and we even spotted some leaders enjoying the slopes!

To celebrate the highest award, we returned to the Town Hall so our young people could have their awards presented by the mayor as well as in front of family and the leaders who had supported their journey. We are proud of the 65 Cubs that earned this award and the effort that goes into it.

March saw our rebranded Blackpool District Cub Scout Challenge event, with 8 packs competing in Scouting skills challenges new & old. Areas such as first aid, pioneering, cardboard ovens, fencing and our ultimate disaster were provided. It was a really competitive competition with 1st Bispham coming out as winners. We would like to thank the Leaders who came down to run and support the event.

In May, a group of Cub Scouts and leaders ventured out from Blackpool on an overnight trip to York. We travelled by train, visiting all the main sights, including the Minster, Castle Museum and a wizarding walk around the Shambles. The Cubs and leaders had a great experience with some very tired feet at the end! A great positive from the event has resulted in multiple Cubs applying for future international events based on the confidence gained from the York experience.

With the JOTT coming to an end, we didn't want to let this successful event leave the calendar as it's a great link night for all the sections. It also helps with getting Scouting out and about in the town therefore we created BOTT - Blackpool On The Trail. The theme this year was the Elmer Trail to link with an event going on around Blackpool town centre. We have planned a three-year cycle to encompass the whole of the District.

We supported a quick turnaround to enable Cubs to attend County Cub Camp at Waddecarr, securing the tented village to help with the logistics for our group. It was a real pleasure to see Cubs and Leaders from across the district pitching in to make the weekend a success.

Our biannual Athletics night was held in June at Stanley Park. Over 100 Cubs used the athletics arena to run, jump and throw to achieve their badge.

As I look back over this period, I am proud of what we have been able to offer. None of this would be possible without the continued support of the Cub Section team, our volunteers and the young people. As a team we're already looking forward to what new opportunities and experiences we can offer the Cubs in Blackpool through 2024/25 and how we can support our fellow volunteers.

### **Stephen Chow**

Cub Section Team Leader  
Programme Team







# SCOUTS

**What a great year it's been, with so many events and activities organised by our small army of volunteers.**

## **A Scout is to be trusted**

When Scouts got stuck in with the cooking competition in November, our courageous taste testers put us to the test. The Scouts were tasked with preparing a dish with a Christmas theme, aiming for both delicious taste, and avoiding poisoning the judges! 5th Blackpool demonstrated exceptional creativity by cooking a delicious meal whilst staying within budget, earning first prize. Every group made an amazing effort. Well done!

## **A Scout is loyal**

We all came together in April to honour St. George, the patron saint of Scouting. Looking quite sharp in their uniforms, our Scouts and leaders visited Stanley Park engaging in a mass of entertaining activities, we renewed our promise and laws in the bandstand. Amazingly the sun shone all day long!

## **A Scout is friendly and considerate**

Following the triumph last year, the decision was made to once again utilise centralised cooking at County Rally at Waddecarr. We all worked together on an industrial scale, hauling up a mountain of marquees, and pitching a tonne of tents! Both our Scouts and volunteers always look forward to County Rally due to the sheer variety of activities on offer. From tug-of-war, volleyball and shooting, climbing, kayaking and a silent disco, which was anything but silent! Making friends and having fun!

## **A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts**

In South Korea, 43,000 Scouts from 158 different countries gathered for the 25th World Scout Jamboree. Scouts from across the County (with four of our own from Blackpool) began an unforgettable journey. The adventure was filled with new experiences, cultures and a heat wave like no other! They showed perseverance and the ability to adapt, making memories along the way. Planning for 2027 in Poland is already well under way.

## **A Scout has courage in all difficulties**

Although there have been numerous moments of bravery this past year, Scout Cars is our own unique take on Formula One. More than 20 teams from across the UK compete to be the fastest on the track, with six of them coming from Blackpool. They must navigate bends and chicanes and opponents from 49th Eastfield secured 1st place. 57th Blackpool came 2nd and 1st Norbreck secured 3rd!

## **A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property**

Who Dares Wins. Every November, older Scouts connect with our Explorer Scouts at an orienteering challenge. Teams are assigned checkpoints along a course and must navigate through difficult terrain in typical Lancashire weather conditions, whilst relying on maps and compass skills only. They must be mindful of the clock, as they must reach checkpoints in an allotted time and take care of their equipment. The final checkpoint must be reached before the time runs out, to avoid being captured!

## **A Scout has self respect and respect for others**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, of the 11<sup>th</sup> day, of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. "We will remember them" What better way to demonstrate our appreciation and respect? With pride and thanks, donning our poppies to our immaculately ironed uniform. Each year we attend the cenotaph to honour our armed forces and remember those who have died whilst serving their country. Whilst scouting is all about enjoyment and FUN, it's also about taking the time to honour those who sacrificed so much to enable us to have that. Every year, the Scouts make the district proud by participating in the parade in all weather conditions as our way of saying 'thank you'.

This spectacular year would not have been possible without the incredible work of our volunteers who have given their own time to provide the Scouts with experiences they will never forget. A special thanks goes to Emma Harrison who led the District Scout Section team from Sept 2020 - April 2024.

You are all amazing individuals, and I hope that the next year is filled with even more fun and exciting adventures.

## **Claire Hadgraft**

Scout Section Team Leader  
Programme Team





# EXPLORERS

**Another year full of opportunities for Explorer Scouts. We have had Explorers travel as close to home as the Lake District and as far as South Korea, making memories that they won't ever forget.**

All 3 of our Units have been running with youth led programmes and with an influx of new starters, we continue to support them to learn how to review and develop programmes which can be enjoyed by all.

Programmes consisting of traditional Scouting skills such as pioneering and campfires to adventurous activities such as climbing, cycling and kayaking. They have also arranged activities which have helped the community such as stone painting for Sam's Superheroes, site service at Mowbreck Campsite, improving the environment by collecting and conducting studies on litter and making bird boxes which were donated to a local school. The creativity on some evenings has been very impressive and we continue to build on teamwork.

We have had good times with investitures on roller skates and standing in kayaks! Sad times as some of our Explorers turn 18 and move onwards and upwards! Some have become volunteers within Scouting and will pass on the experience they have had to the younger sections. We have also had Explorers join the County 'Ignite' weekend which was to teach leadership skills for the future.

Following on from the theme of teamwork we have again won the West Lancashire Scout County Mountain Activity Challenge, a competition based around map work and camping skills and have joined with the Scouts for another Successful Who Dares Wins. I look forward to working with Claire to arrange further linking activities to help the Scouts transition to Explorers.

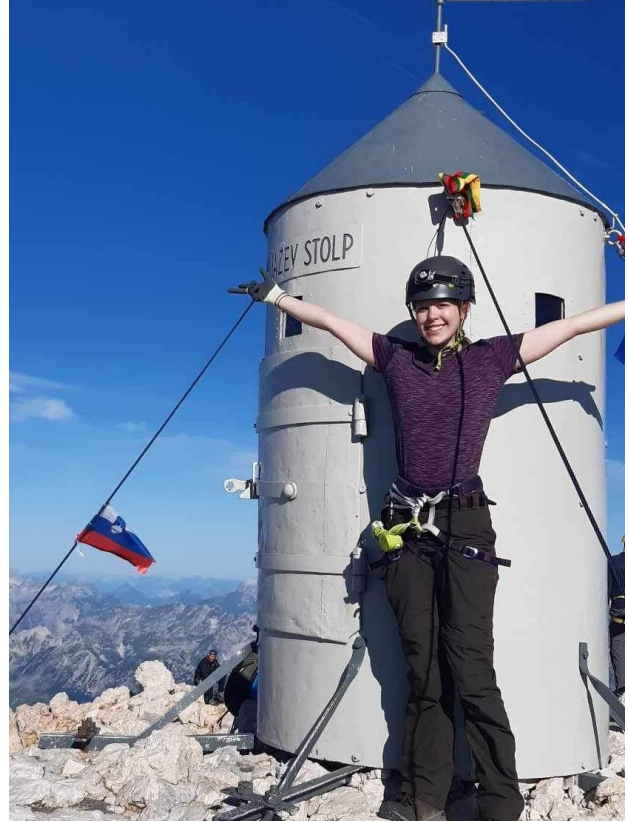
I would like to thank the leaders in our team for their hard work and support. Additional support is required so if you are interested in taking on a task no matter how small within the section, the please get in touch.

I look forward to the coming year of transformation as we move into the 14-24 Team working closer with our Scout Network.

## **Joanna Hacking**

Explorer Section Team Leader  
14-24 Team







# network

## **The last 12 months has been another year of adventure for our network members.**

Over the summer we had several of our members go on to a County Trip to the Baltics. Whilst cultivating their knowledge on North Macedonia history, National parks, local cuisine and lots more, they completed one of the top 4 awards in Scouting, their Explorer Belt. I had the immense pleasure to watch and learn about their trips. I was really impressed with the 2 making it onto a national radio whilst another managed to do a badge swap from North Macedonia to Korea. They all sounded amazing and unique, which is the true beauty of this award.

Whilst we had members in the Baltics, we had members on other County international trips over the summer. With climbing the Julian Alps to assisting an explorer trip to an Austrian Jamboree. With a further international trip taking on the seas with Yachting in Croatia over the October Half term. All these experiences enhance and shape the lives of our members and those around them.

We have welcomed and invested new members to the section this year, with investitures clinging on to a climbing wall; to falling into the water from a Paddle Board; to the highs of the Lake District. Our programme has been filled with exciting opportunities to get the team out to the great outdoors and some chill evenings where we come to relax. Network does it all. We have been Yachting on Coniston, trips to the local chippys whilst walking the illuminations, climbing, several hikes across the Trough of Bowland and the Lake District, craft nights, roller blading, Martial Arts lessons, BOTT walk and much more.

We also had 3 members head down to the capital, to collect their DofE Gold, Queen Scout Award (QSA) and the District's first King Scout Award (KSA). Whilst other members collected their awards from the County team at its celebration evening. Well done to everybody who attained an award this year and for those working towards them, keeping working hard, you'll get there!

Over the year we have been growing our links and friendships with the rest of the county by attending Gathering and Reconnected with good numbers. These are great opportunities to try something different with new people. We're also always looking to get involved with the Explorer Scout section, with linked nights for a Halloween Scare Fest, climbing and First Aid.

We look forward to transitioning over the next year to the 14-24 Team and working ever closer with the Explorers team.

Thank you to everybody who has assisted over the last 12 months and thank you to everybody who will assist over the next 12 months. Here's to the next year, another year where we can continue to expand our achievements and celebrate our successes.

### **Liam Chow**

Scout Network Team Leader  
14-24 Team



## Mowbreck Scout Campsite

2023 was another busy year at Mowbreck with almost every weekend having campers on site and several evening visits not just from Blackpool but Kirkham & Wesham, Clifton, Fylde and Fylde Guides. We have also had visits from St. Nicholas Forest School and this year also sees their return as well as Fylde Coast Home Education.

The archery and tomahawks had a good uptake with lots taking on the challenge of trying a new activity. If you are a permit holder and willing to volunteer your services please contact Andy Inglis.

Thank you for all who have volunteered to help with our activities and to our "meet & greet" team. There is always a lot to do when running a campsite from looking after the flower beds, weeding, taking ivy from the trees to strimming and cutting the grass - we already have a team of Mowers and we are hugely thankful for all that they do. We have purchased a new mower and a strimmer to help with the upkeep of the site.

We had a working weekend in March. Sadly only a few people turned up to help but that was a real help. Look out for the next one, and if you can, please give an hour or so of your time - brews and biscuits for all who show up!

Those who have been to Mowbreck since January will have seen a new dry shelter being built which is now open and being used - thanks to Stephen Joyce for all your hard work creating this! A very special thank you to Peter Greathead whose generosity enabled us to complete this building. Bookings this year are again really good, the diary for 2025 is open so if you know you want to visit get in and book early so you're not disappointed!

Once again thank you to the volunteers and if you would like to give some of your time to Mowbreck in any way please, please contact one of the team - remember it's your site let's look after it!

**Andy and Stephen**

Mowbreck Campsite Managers





# **Blackpool Gang Show**

Gang Show 2023 saw a sprinkling of comedy sketches. I am not sure the real jamboree attendees had such a hectic time packing their gear or that the world of radio broadcast is as mixed up in real life!

We were taken on a journey as our 'secret agents' recovered the stolen secrets and saved the world in true James Bond style. The Junior Gang sang and danced to songs celebrating all the superheroes that played their part over the last couple of years. We sang two of Dolly Parton's biggest hits as we paid tribute to her 50 years entertaining the whole world. 'Who's in Scouts'. We really found out in this hilarious sketch. I think they got it right at least once, very funny.

The whole cast paid tribute to our new king in a fantastic 1st half finale. The Junior Gang were the 'Men in Black'. We saw a variation of the Halloween theme as we Wooed Wednesday and met some spooky characters including some stripping skeletons! We were entertained by a duet singing 'Don't Go Breaking My Heart'. Then we were introduced to the hectic morning of a wedding and what happens if one detail is missed. The monologue 'Jabberwocky' was admirably performed by Theo from the Junior Gang, well done. We then danced to hits from the 80's, laughed at a comedy sketch all the way from Greece before we signed our performance of 'Make Your Own Kind of Music' and then wrapped it up with a fantastic finale medley and some Gang Show favourites.

This year saw Steve Townsend take on the role of Musical Director and what a brilliant job he did and such a



talented musician. Steve was joined by Doug Cox. Who will forget his stick twirling antics, and the fantastic sounds he produced from his drum kit. Without such a talented team organising the music and ensuring we sound great the show would not be as successful.

Trips to see Chester Gang Show and Chorley Capers Gang Show were organised and a great evening out was had by all who made the trips.

2024 sees Darrell and Steve hand over the production of the next Gang Show to Jordan and Tor. Jo steps down as Treasurer making way for Jen to look after the accounts.

We wish them all the best as they take the show into the future!

## **Steve and Darrell**

Gang Show Leadership Team 2023





# Scout Active Support Unit

**Another busy year for SASU supporting many activities and events. Here are some highlights.**

In July we welcomed Brenda, our new Treasurer to our Group. After a few hiccups transferring account details we won through eventually!

Two of our members, John and Michelle ran a Tombola stall for us and raised £100 for our funds, well done.

In September we organised a social afternoon tea at the Hungry Elephant. It was a wonderful afternoon with many good friends. In October we supported the Gang Show and the swimming gala. November saw SASU out in force at Armistice Day and later coordinating refreshments at the programme leaders seminar.

In the latter part of the year we were informed that Scouting was to undergo a change and as part of that transformation, SASU members had presentations which provided an explanation of the way forward and promoted discussion on how our members would fit into the new teams. A process that is still ongoing.

We wanted to support every group in the District and after a discussion we decided to donate membership badges to them so all benefitted.

Our, Late, late New year lunch was held at the Sheraton hotel and it was a great day for people to dine, talk and make more memories.

It is always nice to receive news of awards being given to our members. This year we congratulate...

- Ann Clayton, awarded her Silver Wolf.
- Eileen Hagan, awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community.
- Leah Lovelock – 10 year service certificate.
- Michelle Naylor – 5 year service certificate.

Bringing the year to a close was the annual St George's Day dinner dance enjoyed by all and co-organised by a team including a SASU member.

In the future we will still meet as a group of friends with Scouting as our common bond, if you would like to join us contact Phil & Irene.

**Irene Wheatley**

Scout Active Support Unit Manager





# Our finances

## Receipts and Payments account

For the year ending 31st March 2024

	2023-2024	2022-2023
	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>		
AGM/DC Retirement	0	1214
Badge Receipts	7261	5788
Carol Service	40	0
Dinner Dance	8747	7622
District Camp	0	15180
Donations	622	251
Greathead (DC)	500	500
HQ Charity Account	27040	0
Interest and dividends received	7457	3247
International	0	58
Jamboree	0	6085
Membership fees	30948	27047
Miscellaneous	80	404
Network Neckers	43	68
Paul Marshall Legacy	0	853411
Recruitment/Media	30	36
Stakeholder Lunch	0	100
Swimming Gala	80	0
Training	86	0
44th Blackpool	1217	0
	<b>84150</b>	<b>921009</b>
<b>Section Income</b>		
Beaver Scouts	4998	553
Cub Scouts	11284	18169
Explorer Scouts	10935	13964
Gang Show	21252	18688
Mowbreck Beer Festival	0	0
Mowbreck Campsite	16405	6161
Paul Marshall Legacy	865816	0
SASU	1110	3
Scouts	8762	2457
Service Team	0	0
	<b>940561</b>	<b>59996</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1024711</b>	<b>981005</b>



## Receipts and Payments account (continued)

For the year ending 31st March 2024

	2023-2024	2022-2023
	£	£
<b>Payments</b>		
AGM/DC Retirement	678	1590
Awards Evening	0	58
Badge Payments	6614	5230
Carol Service	109	0
Dinner Dance	6956	5246
District Camp	0	13869
District Expenses	6605	2356
Greathead (DC)	510	490
Insurances	636	854
International	2717	800
Jamboree	1120	8300
Membership Fees	30710	48746
Miscellaneous	0	401
Network Neckers	0	387
Paul Marshall Legacy	859101	0
Recruitment/Media	1153	1220
St George's Day	143	0
Stakeholder Lunch	0	137
Swimming Gala	638	0
Training	1134	345
Welfare	0	230
Young Leader Training	219	0
Youth Commissioner	0	52
44th Blackpool	964	0
	<b>920007</b>	<b>90310</b>
<b>Section Costs</b>		
Beaver Scouts	3955	1168
Cub Scouts	11964	21170
Explorer Scouts	10554	14174
Gang Show	17241	18365
Mowbreck Beer Festival	0	0
Mowbreck Campsite	19722	4134
SASU	1938	231
Scouts	7020	2707
Service Team	0	0
	<b>72392</b>	<b>61950</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>992399</b>	<b>152260</b>

**Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year**

**32312**

**828745**

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

For the year ending 31st March 2024

	<b>2023-2024</b>		<b>2022-2023</b>	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Assets</b>				
Monetary balances (cash and bank)		984618		952092
<b>Investment assets</b>				
Scout short term investment fund	0		26851	
Rayner funds: 668.6 units in the Charities Office				
Investment Fund at Valuation	13661		12572	
		13661		39423
		998280		991515
<b>Non-monetary assets</b>				
Stock of badges	5106		4840	
Mowbreck training centre	30000		30000	
Mowbreck buildings/contents	37500		0	
Mowbreck equipment	22500		0	
District equipment	20950		19091	
		116056		5391
		1114336		1045446
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Advance payments		0		954
44th Blackpool		253		0
		1114083		1044492
<b>Represented by</b>				
Reserves brought forward		1048874		177868
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		32312		828745
Increase/(reduction) in value of investment funds		1089		-448
Increase/(reduction) in value of non monetary assets		62126		17625
Less increase/(reduction) in liabilities		-701		-25084
<b>Reserves carried forward</b>		<b>1145102</b>		<b>177868</b>



## Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Blackpool District Scout Council

I report on the accounts of the District for the year ending 31st March 2023 which are set out on pages 26 to 31.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The District's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission
- under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the District and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no other matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the requirement to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 act have not been met; or
- which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### Mike Heed

6 Hexham Ave  
Thornton  
Cleveleys  
FY5 2NP

Signed



Date 20.06.2024

## Notes to the Accounts

For the year ending 31st March 2024

### Note 1: Cash at bank and in hand

	2023-2024	2022-2023
<b>Exec accounts</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
CAF bank current account	3595	1989
CAF bank gold account	53676	891249
Virgin account	110	0
	<b>57381</b>	<b>893238</b>
<b>Section Accounts</b>		
Beavers	2133	1089
Beer Festival	5059	5059
Cubs	3555	4236
Explorers	2611	2154
Gang Show	16971	12760
Mowbreck	27611	30927
Paul Marshall Legacy	865816	0
SASU	530	1514
Scout Car Races	310	310
Scouts	2117	375
Service Team	429	429
	<b>927142</b>	<b>58853</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>984522</b>	<b>952092</b>



## Notes to the Accounts (continued)

For the year ending 31st March 2024

### Note 2: Analysis of Reserves

	2023-2024	2022-2023
	£	£
Total Reserves Less:	1113987	1048874
Non-monetary assets + loans and liabilities	116310	54885
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Rayner Bequest	997	12527
Butterworth Bequest	12113	12873
<b>Designated Funds</b>		
Beer Festival	5059	5059
District Camp	3000	3000
Explorers	2611	2154
Gang Show	16971	12760
Greathead Fund	0	10
International	672	58
Jamboree	1500	3451
Membership Fees	30000	30000
Mowbreck	27611	30927
Recruitment/Media	500	0
Paul Marshall Legacy	865816	853411
SASU	530	1514
Scout Car Races	310	310
Service Team	429	429
Young Leader Training	281	0
Youth Commissioner Fund	200	36
<b>Free Reserves</b>	<b>29078</b>	<b>25470</b>

### Reserves Policy

The District mainly raises its running costs from its members and has limited capacity for other fund raising, therefore the trustees exercise a prudent approach to their free reserves policy: the trustees will initiate additional fund raising when free reserves fall to below the equivalent of nine months annual costs measured against the latest Executive Income and Expenditure account or the forward budget plan.

### Donations

We gratefully acknowledge the following generous contributors to our fund raising this year: Peter Greathead and Ian Gledhill. Also continue to benefit from the legacies of Mrs Patricia Butterworth and F G Rayner.

# Our membership

Census results for the year ending 31 January 2024

	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total
<b>Youth membership</b>					
Squirrel Scouts	44	20	0	0	64
Beaver Scouts	160	49	0	0	209
Cub Scouts	150	69	0	0	219
Scouts	107	75	0	1	183
Explorer Scouts (including Young Leaders)	33	32	0	0	65
Network members	5	19	1	0	25
	<b>499</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>765</b>
<b>Adult membership (listing the main role category for each adult volunteer)</b>					
Programme delivery roles	69	106	0	0	175
Plus Young Leaders*	19	19	0	0	38
Manager roles	9	10	0	0	19
Governance roles	20	15	0	0	35
Support roles	45	36	0	0	81
	<b>143</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>310</b>
<b>Total membership</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1075</b>

\*Young Leader totals are not included in the overall totals as they are already included in Explorer Scout totals.

## Our District comprises

Census results for the year ending 31 January 2024

Squirrel Scout Dreys	5
Beaver Scout Colonies	16
Cub Scout Packs	17
Scout Troops	16
Explorer Scout Units (including YL Units)	4
Active Support Units	3
Young Leader Units	1
 Groups	 17



## Our board of trustees

Governance structure and executive committee membership - 31 March 2023 to 1 April 2024

### Ex-Officio

District Commissioner	Matthew Hornby
District Chair	Chris Hardy
District Secretary	Elizabeth Abbott
District Treasurer	Janet Hardy
District Explorer Scout Commissioner	Joanna Hacking
District Scout Network Commissioner	Liam Chow
District Youth Commissioner	Gabrielle Howson-Tax

### Nominated

Joan Swan  
Lesley Meddings  
Andy Mitchell

### Elected

Andy Inglis  
Emma Harrison  
Robert Ward  
Philip Wheatley\*  
Diane Parkinson\*  
Peter Rumley\*\*  
Tor Kenmare\*\*  
Ted Cooper\*\*

\*Until July 2023

\*\*From July 2023

## Our Scout ambassadors

Our incredible team of ambassadors. They have one thing in common: to share far and wide how Scouts is helping young people gain skills for life.

- **Steve Royle**, Actor, Comedian & Radio Presenter
- **Nicola Thorp**, Actor, Broadcaster & Journalist
- **Hayley Kay**, Radio Presenter
- **Ged Mills**, Radio Presenter
- **Paul Maynard**, Former Member of Parliament for Blackpool North & Cleveleys
- **Gordon Marsden**, Former Member of Parliament for Blackpool South

## Roll of honour

Congratulations to all who have been honoured with awards. It's a privilege to present awards to our volunteers. Our congratulations to all recognised in the St. George's Day awards for their contribution, dedication and loyalty to Scouting in Blackpool.

### 2023

**Ann Clayton** - Silver Wolf

This award is the unrestricted gift of the Chief Scout. Awarded for service of exceptional nature.

**Sylvia Johns** - Bar to the Silver Acorn

Awarded after at least five years of similarly distinguished service after receiving the Silver Acorn.

**Joanne Fratzak** - Award for Merit

Awarded for outstanding service. Keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service

**Nichola Bonsor** - Bar to the Award for Merit.

Awarded after at least five years of further outstanding service after receiving the Award for Merit.

**John Sanderson** - Bar to the Award for Merit.

Awarded after at least five years of further outstanding service after receiving the Award for Merit.

**Mark Stubbs** - Bar to the Award for Merit.

Awarded after at least five years of further outstanding service after receiving the Award for Merit.

### 2024

**Matt Hornby** - Bar to the Award for Merit.

Awarded after at least five years of further outstanding service after receiving the Award for Merit.

**Stephen Shaw** - Award for Merit

Awarded for outstanding service. Keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service

**Sarah Whiteside** - Award for Merit

Awarded for outstanding service. Keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service

## Gone home

Some of our members have gone home this year and we say goodbye to these much-loved members and supporters.

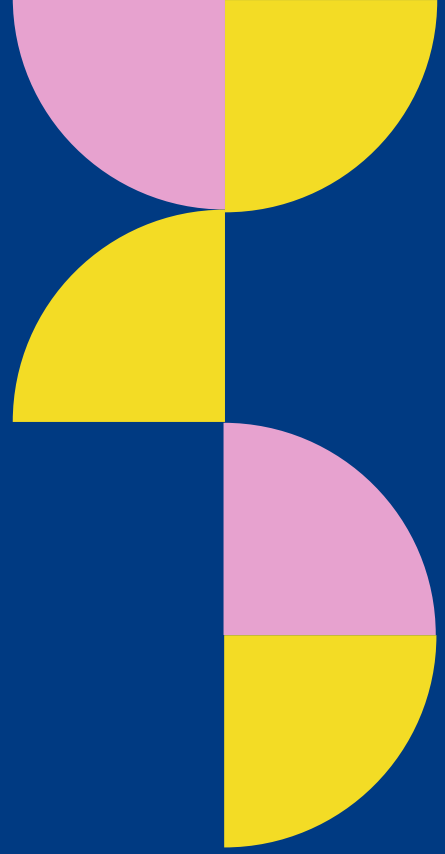
- Fiona Chow
- Christine Fitton BEM JP
- Eileen Hagan BEM

## Our thanks

Blackpool Scouts would like to thank all its volunteers and supporters for their commitment and contributions over the last year. We look forward to another year of making a positive contribution and impact on society.







[blackpoolscouts.org.uk](https://blackpoolscouts.org.uk)

**#SkillsForLife**

Blackpool Scouts Registered Charity number 521534

