Scouts
South Craven

Scout Council Annual Report

South
Craven

2022 - 2023

#SkillsForLife





St Georges Day 2023



Pictures attributed to Brian Stott

District Commissioner's Report *- Andy Stronach*

This last year has been momentous as we have seen the biggest growth of any district in England and think you all deserve a pat on the back.

I have to thank you all for your dedication to Scouting and commitment to the young people.

I know you are delivering a wide range of exciting programs and giving the young people the skills for life that they will need.

It's proven that Scouting gives people a better chance in life and they are normally well-rounded people.

The skills can be seen at festivals, ex Scouts turn up with everything they need where as others turn up and ask where they are sleeping, this is true as recounted not only by my eldest son but also my other son who is now an instructor in the Army, as he says ex Scouts can tie their boots, (they now have to teach kids to fasten their laces, I kid you not) read a map, pack a rucksack, know basic outdoor hygiene and can cook even if this is only basic rations.

I would like to thank the leaders who have supported me through some difficult times as DC, it's a lonely place at times. Also, I would like to thank Harold for his unwavering support and advice guiding me thorough what can be a minefield.

We now have an almost full Executive (Board of Trustees), new Chair (more on this later), Jon Stubbs treasurer, Harold Bond Secretary and the following leadership team:- DESC Ed Randall, DESA Jonathon Abbey, Network Commissioner Christian Spencer, 2 Youth Commissioners Fern Vann & Alecia Carling, ADC Beaver Sam Rees, ADC Cubs Anne Jackson (on a trial basis) ADC Scouts, Andrew and Bernadine Carling,

Every group has a GSL, and a functioning Executive (Board of Trustees)

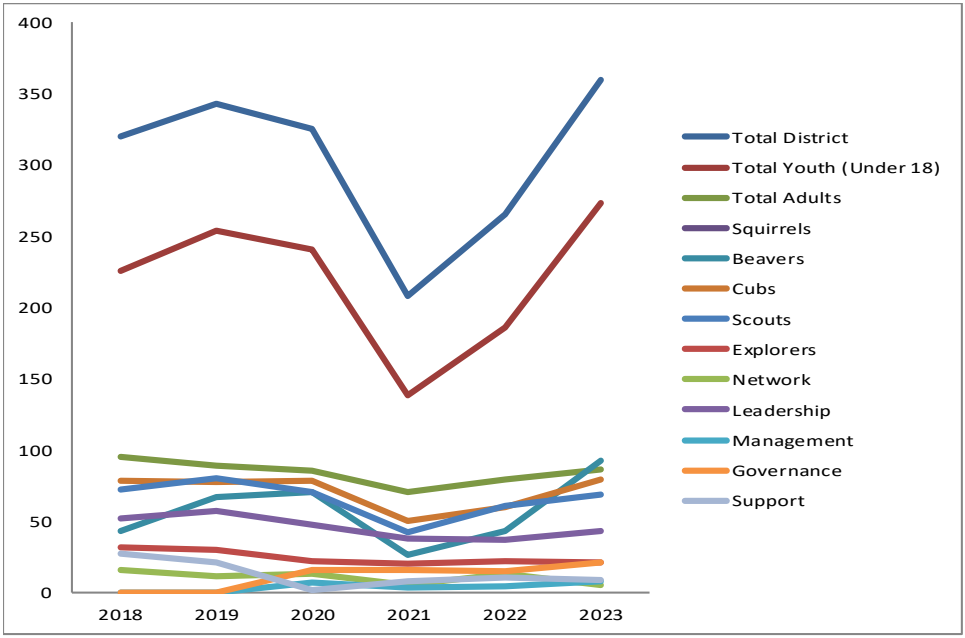
A very successful District Scout Camp last year, this was due to be held again in June, however due to sickness this has been postponed until later in the year. K&F have had a few camps with other groups planning more, a very successful Swimming Gala and an exciting Football Tournament.

Well done for putting the: OUT: in Scouting. if I've missed any, then sorry.

The Explorers have been away on several camps since last year's AGM and have more planned with the unit having healthy numbers at present.

So I will bore you no more other than thanks again to all and I'm proud to be part of this District

Membership



The District recorded the highest increase in membership in the North of England in this years census.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total District	320	343	325	208	265	359
Total Youth (Under 18)	225	254	240	138	186	273
Total Adults	95	89	85	70	79	86
Squirrels						12
Beavers	43	67	70	26	43	92
Cubs	78	77	78	50	60	79
Scouts	72	80	70	42	61	69
Explorers	32	30	22	20	22	21
Network	16	11	13	5	13	5
Leadership	52	57	47	38	37	43
Management	0	0	7	3	4	8
Governance	0	0	16	16	15	21
Support	27	21	2	8	10	9

District Network Report - *Cristian Spencer*

Another year of not much in the way of Network events, although many of the active Network members are helping with other Group and District events such as St George's Day, which is great to see. Their contributions have helped make those events successful and we are proud of their hard work. Total members are now 15, 3 less than last year due to members aging out.

Active Support Report - *Cristian Spencer*

Active Support members are slightly less than last year due to issues regarding mandatory training. Going forwards as more Network members age out they will be able to join as Active Support to be able to assist at Group, District, or any Scouting event. Active Support members have also been helping out at District events.

District Explorers Report - *Ed Randell & Jonathan Abbey*

Another good year for the Explorer Unit, with hikes, skills training, wide games and Bog Wood featuring prominently in an active programme. Focus over the winter programme has been back towards the Chief Scouts Award and other badgework.

Numbers in the Unit have grown, with 25 Explorers now enrolled.

Camps



The Summer Camp Team

Fri 27th – Mon 30th May Spring Bank Camp, Thornthwaite Scout Site.
Sat 23rd – Sat 30th July Summer Camp 2022, Ford Castle, Northumberland.
Fri 9th – Sun 11th December Christmas Hut Camp, Robin Hole Guide Centre.
Summer Camp 2022 saw a welcome return to Ford Castle in Northumberland


Gourmet Cuisine


Brew Time!

for our first week long camp following the "Covid Gap". 11 Explorers and 8 Leaders attended, with activities including horse riding, geocaching on Holy Island, coasteering, and an enjoyable (if slightly damp) hike up the Cheviot.


Horse Riding at Ford

Monday nights have seen the Explorers tackle several Activity Badges both new and familiar with the Science & Technology, Creative Arts, Camper,

Media, 1st Aid Levels 3 & 4, Digital Skills, and Pioneering badges all completed by the Unit. This has been achieved largely due to a "back to basics" approach to our Monday night meetings, driven by feedback from the Explorer Forums which are held once a quarter. Training for the Young Leaders scheme is also back in full swing, with Explorers placed in sections across the District to help the Section Leaders and improve their own skills.



There have been no significant changes to the Unit Leadership this year, but the Leadership Team continues to develop and acquire new skills with two Wood Badges awarded.

In all another positive year for South Craven Explorers driven by the enthusiasm and dedication of the Explorers themselves.

1st Kildwick & Farnhill *- Richard Tilotson*

May 2022

Cub Activity Weekend at Thornthwaite



Our Cub's took part in a range of activities – crate stacking, learning knots and lashings to construct a bridge, using a flint and steel to light a fire and toast a marshmallow, climbing on the traversing wall and indoor crafts/team games. We also celebrated The Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a picnic lunch on the Sunday.

August 2022

Scout Summer Camp at Redmire



We were back at our favourite campsite in Wensleydale from where we enjoyed a visit to Castle Bolton and The Green Howards Museum in Richmond. A journey over into Swaledale was the start of our Group hike from Muker up the river Swale to Kisdon Force at Keld. On site Patrol challenges included – making a model of the Wensleydale railway, build the tallest structure from pebbles on the bank of the river Ure, Constructing a model dales castle, making a rubber band cross bow and a leather key ring.

October 2022

Beavers Sleepover at Sconce



Our Beavers enjoyed a fun time at Sconce and enjoyed grass sledging, learning about wildlife on Baildon Moor, making pizza's and toasting marsh mallows on the camp fire. Art and craft - biscuit decorating and t shirt painting.

November 2022

79th Gang Show



We were back performing on stage after three years to a full house on the Saturday night with sketches performed by our Scouts and Explorers - Dad's Army, Vicar of Dibley and Black Adder. Our Cubs told jokes and our Beavers sung "Hakuna Matata" and "When I was one!". Songs sung from the whole cast were from the Queens Jubilee decades.

Roll on our 80th Anniversary Gang Show this year!

April 2023

Scouts Expedition Challenge Weekend based at Sconce



18 Scouts took part in the Expedition Challenge. Saturday's route in groups of 6 with 2 Leaders was from Harden Moor via St Ives, Murtle Park, 5 Rise Locks, Dowley Gap, Hirst Weir to Sconce Activity Centre, Baildon. The evening meal was cooked outside on back packing stoves. Sunday's route was over Baildon Hill to the visitors centre at Bracken Hall, down Shipley Glen to Robert's park for a massive portion of fish and chips! We then had a look around Salt's Mill and followed the sculpture trail before parents arrived at Hirst Wood Carpark – a great weekend!

Over the last year all sections have been working towards their challenge and activity badges and many have gained their Chief Scouts Award. Numbers are still very strong in all three sections, and we have a large waiting list of young people wishing to join, so going forward we are in a strong position as far as membership is concerned. But of course we are keen to encourage further help and support at all section meetings.

Thanks must go to all 1st Kildwick & Farnhill Scout Group's Leaders, Occasional Helpers & parents for all their hard work throughout the year in ensuring the continued success of the Group. Will look forward to another successful year with the highlight being our 80th Anniversary Gang Show in November.

5th Skipton - Colin Hunter



After the hard work of recent years, both global events, and renovating The Dump, it was time to take a break from the work and just be scouts. A "normal" year to enjoy the fruits of our labour. That withstanding our amazing fundraising duo of Ruksana and Samm put a lot of effort into getting us the money for a new roof. The Dump is now in much better condition and much better suited to delivering scouting to our young people.



Scouts have had a good year building on their key skills. Trips to Fell Rescue in Grassington, bat watching and a hike at Malham Tarn were particularly informative. Fun trips included swimming and camp craft at Eshton. The cookery challenge was an interesting experience and confirmed that this is a skill we need to work on with our young people. Scouts have learned lashing skills, planned and executed a debate on the pros and cons of school uniforms, thought about the environment and what might be done to protect it. It has been a privilege to see them develop their ideas and start to debate them with their peers sensibly.



Cubs had a busy year and continued to plug skill gaps. In the summer months full advantage was taken of the more clement weather with river dipping, camp fires, hikes, wide games, and water challenge. During the darker evenings cubs went bowling, also

visited Fell Rescue at Grassington, painted some ceramic Christmas decorations, plus had a go at some coding. Cubs visited Parish Church twice, climbing the bell tower and having a go at ringing some hand bells, and getting a tour of the church from Reverend James.



Beavers complete the hat trick of busy sections. They celebrated events such as Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Halloween, and Christmas. Beavers have had a great many adventures; map reading in Skipton Woods, river dipping in Gargrave, a visit to The Fire and Rescue Service at Skipton Fire Station, problem solving around the town centre, and on two separate instances mini beast hunting and wild art at The Wilderness. Beavers also learned lots of important skills; remembering their phone number and address, ironing and tying shoe laces. Highlight of the year for Beavers have often been edible, utilising both The Dumps amazing kitchen and open fires. All this food has helped the Beavers to develop their knife skills with a range of both food and none food subjects.

Behind the scenes the group has made preparations for some big changes. We sadly say goodbye to our long standing fundraising stars, Ruksana our Chair and Samm our Treasurer. Their ability to pull money out of a hat, for example tens of thousands of pounds this year for a new roof, is amazing and the group will miss them. Thank you for your efforts over the years, you have left the group in a better condition than when you found it. As well as changes to some of our key personnel the group switches from and Executive Committee to a Board of Trustees. Our new Chair and Treasurer are aware of this requirement and are up for the task and keen to move the group forward.

Finally I must add my personal thanks to every member of the Group. Our young members particularly, without you this would all be for naught. It's a pleasure to know you all and see you discover what you are capable of. The

adult team that make this possible. The outgoing Exec Committee for their backing and fund raising that pays for all the fun. The leader team and our growing group of parent helpers who can always be relied upon. Thank you all, here's to another year where we build upon the foundations we have laid over the last couple of years.



3rd Skipton - Netta Hollings

What we have achieved

- Restarted Beavers and Scouts and started Squirrels
- Membership has grown exponentially; full complement of Leaders
- Participated in Skipton Pride, Queen's Jubilee Forest project, Grassington Christmas Market
- New Leaders and Assistants
- Success in bidding for grants from Skipton Gala, Skipton Building Society and Craven District Council
- Participated in the Remembrance Day Parade

Squirrels

- 19 squirrels, 14 invested and 16 on our waiting list!
- We have had 3 leaders but 2 have left for personal reasons, currently trying to recruit more adults to help us out long term to enable us to maintain our 1 :6 ratios.

- Took part in Remembrance Day, exemplary behaviour from all!
- Explored Skipton Castle Woods.
- Have learnt about various celebrated days, Yorkshire Pudding day was a massive success!
- Had our first camp fire at Bog Wood.
- Planted trees on Raikes play area.
- Visited Skipton Fire Station.
- Visit from Yorkshire Air Ambulance.
- Led the parade for St Georges Day.



Squirels Yorkshire Pudding Day

- Hoping to start work towards our nights away permit soon.
- Will be planning lots more activities outside as the warmer weather is here most exciting being a trip to Brimham Rocks in June

Beavers

- Started in Sept with 11 Beavers
- In Autumn we enjoyed our Health and Fitness badge and a Night Hike in the fog.
- In Spring, as well as the Emergency Aid Badge and pancake races, we took part in the Embers virtual campfire, cake decorating and an Easter Egg Hunt in the park.
- Finishing up with 18 Beavers and more coming along soon.



Beavers Flag

Cubs

- We've been getting back into full swing, growing the group and investing Cubs.
- We have been doing plenty of activities, indoor and outdoor (weather permitting)
- We have been on a few excursions, in summer 2022 we did Raven Tree top adventure and campfire cooking in Bog Wood.
- In early 2023 we had a day trip out to Leeds Royal Armouries for their historical firearms event.

- In the future, we hope to get outdoors more and plan more trips away.


Cub visit to Leeds Armouries

Scouts

- This year was the first time since the reforming of the group we have had the pleasure to not only attend but lead the St George's day parade, once again 3rd made the papers.
- We have seen a steady growth over the year in both young people and team members. Jill Coope being out newest adult member.
- We recently took part in the craven 30 hike. 10,5 miles of hills, footpaths and moorland. The Scouts did us proud with everybody that started crossing the finish line.


Scouts on Craven 30 hike

- With district camp on the horizon, the scouts are preparing for two nights camping in the forest of Bowland.
- This year we are looking to roll out to the scouts the opportunity to purchase printed t-shirts and hoodies for meeting nights and activities.
- We are pleased to welcome back Harry to the section, Harry has been quite poorly and has been greatly missed by everyone at 3rd Scouts.


Tree Planting

1st Bradley - Chris Mawer

Great to be back in full swing after a disruptive couple of years.

As always thanks to the fantastic team of Bradley Leaders: Chris, Caroline, Rachel, Sarah, Anne and Chris Randell, together with Chairman Geoff, Victoria Johnstone as Secretary, Tristan Jackson as Treasurer and Rebecca Kendall who is currently in the process of joining our Beaver Leader team.

Also a shout out to Steve Gower who continues to help support us on our camps. Together with parent helpers Dave Barnes and James Johnstone.

We have also welcomed former scouts Callum, James and Kaitlin who are now explorers but helping at Cubs and Beavers as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award programme. Our exec committee is also starting to take shape.

Numbers have remained fairly stable during the year and as at the time of writing this report we have a total of 43 Young people, 10 Beavers, 16 Cubs and 17 Scouts. This compared to 43 at the 2022 AGM. We have welcomed lots of new Beavers and said goodbye to a number of Scouts that have moved on to Explorers

We have an active closed Facebook Group for all our parents and update it with all of the activities the Cubs have been getting up to during our weekly meetings. I know this is something a lot of our parents value and we have received some lovely feedback.

We continue to be actively involved in the local community, In September we paraded at Bradley Family Show day and ran the hot food tent for the second year running, raising funds for the Group. We attended the Harvest service at Bradley Methodist Church, the Remembrance Day parade in Skipton, and most recently the St Georges Day parade. All events are well attended by the 3 sections.

With regards to district events, in February we attened the district swimming Gala, great turnout by all sections and the Beavers came home with a trophy. In March we attended the District five Aside football competition with Cubs taking 1st place and the trophy.

In April, the Scouts joined the rest of the district on the 11.6



Cubs take home the Trophy at District 5 -aside

mile hike to Barden Moor via Embsay Crag. Plus a usual, and much enjoyed, Scout night hike and joint hike with Cubs last summer to Farnhill Pinnacle.

In September last year the Scouts had an amazing couple of days at Thornthwaite on District Scout camp.



District Scout Camp at Thornthwaite



The weather was kind, the Scouts took part in pioneering, axe and saw, fire lighting and backwoods cooking activities, and the camp fire entertainment provided by the leaders was a particular hit! We are looking forward to the District Scout camp later in the year.



Cub Camp at Thornthwaite

We are also just back from another successful Cub camp at Thornthwaite. We were joined by Embsay & Eastby and K&F for a nature inspired camp which included pond dipping, bug houses and nature scavenger hunts, together with fire lighting and backwoods cooking, pioneering, crate stacking, traversing wall and paracord activities. The sun shone all weekend and the young people had a fantastic time.

In June last year the Cubs had an amazing 3 days at Pately Bridge with the rest of North Yorkshire Cubs at the County Cub Camp. A fantastic time was had by all and the Cubs, Leaders and parent helpers alike. Activities included Lazer tag, cave bus, grass sledging, go-karts, climbing wall, bb guns, archery, mounting biking, pioneering, back woods cooking, stop-go animation, robot coding, tug of war, inflatables, fireworks, parachuting teddies ….. Lots of amazing memories were made.

We have also had a busy 12 months with lots of badge work across all the sections …. We have looked at knots, made paracord keyrings, looked at healthy eating, made bread mice and chocolate apples, festive Christmas wreaths, worked on our science badge with difference experiments, had special star wars inspired meeting, worked on our artist badge, Christmas gift tags, bookmarks and worked at home on our book readers badge and home help badges, learnt about road safety, circus skills, disability awareness, we looked at map work, edible contours, learnt new games and much much more.



Star Wars themed Science for Beavers

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have continued to wow us with their amazing collections and hobbies and shared their successes in swimming, music and other sports.

So a great start to 2023/24 and we are also looking forward to forthcoming district events and making the most of the better weather and lighter nights.

1st Embsay and Eastby *– Laura Subala*

In March we celebrated our first birthday as a group. From a single section in March 2022, we now comprise three sections with over 50 members – Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs. We are fortunate to have 9 volunteer Leaders and Section Assistants, who work tirelessly to plan and carry out a varied programme of meetings and events, and who are supported by an active Committee working behind the scenes. We have big plans for the future, with Cub numbers forecast to increase rapidly as Beavers move up. We are also looking to start a Scouts section in January 2024 when our oldest Cubs age out. Over the next year we will be focusing on Leader recruitment and training, as this is a priority for us as a group.

Squirrels

Our newest section, Squirrels officially started on Sunday 14th May, with a session all about getting to know each other and learning about Scouts. We

followed this with a meeting all about bees to celebrate World Bee Day, and the Squirrels made their own wildflower seed bombs to help the bees. The first two meetings have had very positive feedback from parents and children. After half term the Squirrels will be going outdoors, with den building, fire lighting and even a hike on the agenda! The format of Squirrels meetings, starting with a song and a story, has proved very popular. We rely heavily on support from parents to maintain adult ratios, so are actively recruiting more leaders to help out from September.


Squirrels making wildflower seed bombs

Beavers


Beavers Indoor Climbinmg

The Beavers have earned around 250 activity badges and challenge awards between them this year, with our first Beaver achieving his Chief Scout's Bronze Award in May. In addition to badges at home, the group has completed badges together including Health and Fitness, Builder and International – with a visit from an Australian Scout Leader and our Canadian Young Leader helping them to learn about Scouting around the world. They also learned about their local community and helped Embsay with Eastby Good Neighbours by making Christmas presents for elderly residents of the village. Trips out have included indoor climbing and a visit to the Fire Station.

With the good weather, meetings have largely moved outdoors. Beavers meetings have included campfires, shelter building, outdoor cooking and a visit to a community garden to learn about sustainable gardening and plant pumpkin seeds, which they will harvest later in the year. Future plans include 7 Beavers attending our first


Beavers Gardening

camp at North Yorkshire Damboree in June, and a focus on local wildlife, as well as an adventurous activity day at Brimham Rocks in July.

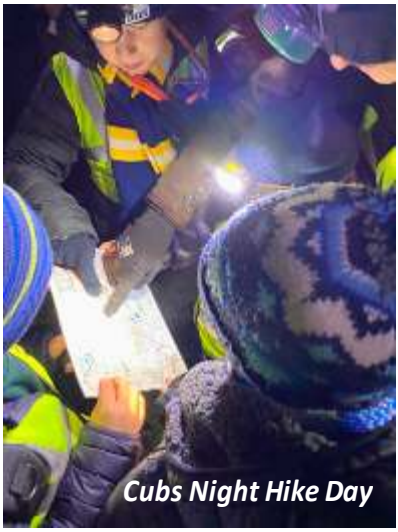
Cubs

Our Cubs section started in September with 12 children, and this has now grown to 18 with Beavers moving up and new Cubs joining. A lot of our Cubs were new to Scouting, so the focus was on learning about Scouting and taking part in traditional Scouting activities, including campfires, pioneering and even morse code by torchlight. Several Cubs have now gained their Teamwork and Our Adventure challenge awards and are working towards their Our World challenge award. Cubs have also shared their skills with each other, proving themselves to be expert teachers on a range of topics, from magic tricks and drawing to dancing and stilt walking!



Cubs fire lighting

A highlight of our winter programme was a visit to Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association, where the Cubs learnt about how to stay safe in the countryside. With this knowledge the Cubs then planned and enjoyed a night hike around Embsay, gaining their Navigator Stage 2 badge. Emergency Aid Stage 2 also proved popular and we will be revisiting this later in the year.



Cubs Night Hike Day

With the summer weather Cubs have put their map and compass skills to use again with a short hike to Halton Height, and learnt how to pitch tents and follow trails. Most recently, 11 Cubs took part in our first ever camp alongside K&F and Bradley at Thornthwaite. The Cubs had an amazing time under canvas, enjoying a huge range of activities and achieving their Nights Away Stage 2 badges. They are all looking forward to more camping in the future.