Scouts

South Craven

Scout Council Annual Report

South Craven

2023 - 2024

#SkillsForLife

A message from the Scout Council Chair

"This has been another successful year for the District with all the Group's going from strength to strength.

Thank you to everyone for your support in starting to implement the changes we were required to make in this year of 'transformation' whilst still continuing to deliver amazing experiences and opportunities for the young people in the District.

To everyone on the District Trustee Board thank you for your support and a special thank you to Harold for his advice and knowledge of Scouting in the District.

Finally and most importantly, a thank you to all the leaders for your commitment and dedication to the young people and Andy our District Commissioner, who goes above and beyond to make sure this District thrives and continues to grow."

Ruksana Mahmood

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District Commisioner's Report - *Andy Stronach*

2023/2024 has proved to be another year of growth in South Craven along with great changes. All our Groups have great leadership teams in place assisted and enabled by our, now complete, ADC/DESC team who are proving to be a great help to myself and the District.

Transformation is now a thing, love it or loath it, and will affect all our Scouting activities as Scouting evolves .

We have in the last 12 months had a very successful Swimming Gala in Febuary and in March we had a great Football tournament.

Squirrels for the first time took part in the Swimming Gala which was jointly won by 3rd Skipton and 1st Embsay and Eastby.

We now have an active committee, attempting to oversee improvements at Bog Wood and hopefully a successful increase in the lease which will allow us to access funding to upgrade access both the car parking and across the site, We now have a Warden in Sam Riley. Bookings are still always through myself.

All our groups have been camping this year with more to come which is fantastic as in my mind camping is what we are about. Long may this continue. Our young people learn great life skills by being away and attain more confidence in life generally.

I would like to take the time to thank all the leaders for their support in what has been a difficult and trying 12 months, which is now happily resolved with successful outcomes. Your support is what has kept me going through some pretty tough times and again thanks.

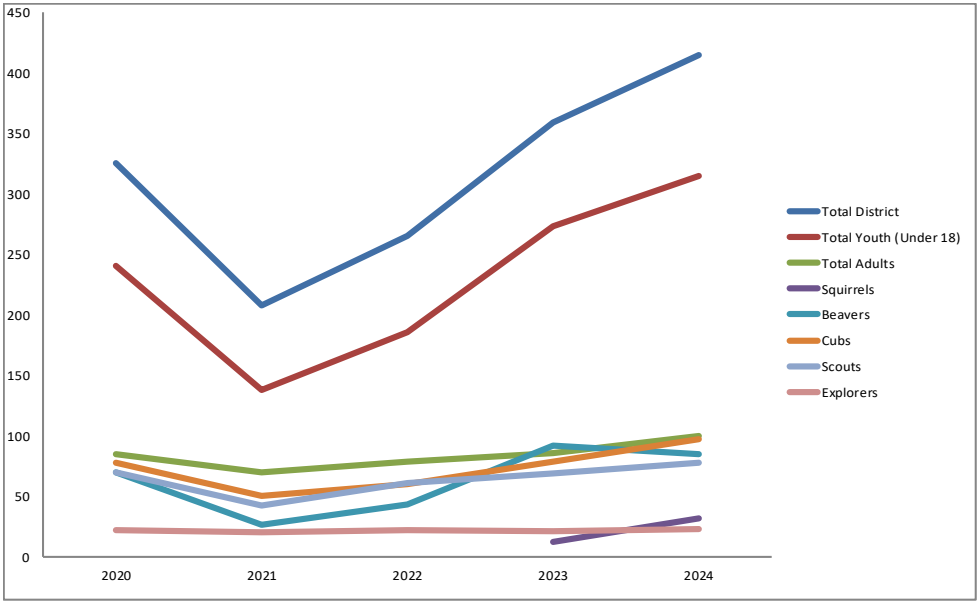
I would like to thank Harold in his last AGM as secretary (he's not leaving Scouting don't worry) for all his advice, wisdom and calming influence (those who know me will know what that entails!).

Thanks also to all the trustees who help and support all our Groups and the District.

We now have more leaders with Nights Away Permits and Wood Bages. Well done to you all for all your hard work and to all our training advisers and our Nights Away Adviser Richard Tillotson.

Heres to another year creating memories for our young people.

Membership - a rise in membership to more than double 2006



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total District	325	208	265	359	415
Total Youth (Under 18)	240	138	186	273	315
Total Adults	85	70	79	86	100
Squirrels				12	32
Beavers	70	26	43	92	85
Cubs	78	50	60	79	97
Scouts	70	42	61	69	78
Explorers	22	20	22	21	23
Network	13	5	13	5	6
Leadership	47	38	37	43	50
Management	7	3	4	8	8
Governance	16	16	15	21	21
Support	2	8	10	9	15

District Network & Active Support Reports

- Christian Spencer

Network

Over the past 12 months, the membership of the Network section has experienced its usual fluctuations. Some members transitioned from the Explorers, while others aged out of the Network upon turning 25. Despite these changes, many former members have continued their involvement in Scouting by taking on other roles within the District. They remain actively engaged in activities such as St. George's Day and various camps. Currently, the Network section has 16 members.

Active Support

Over the past 12 months, the number of members in the Active Support role has increased slightly. Many of these members have been assisting with various District activities, including the 1st Kildwick and Farnhill expedition weekend, St. George's Day, and the Explorer camp. This increase in support is greatly appreciated, as it significantly aids in the success of these events where additional help is always beneficial.

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 badge work.

Numbers in the Unit remain steady with several new members joining from the Scout Troops across the District as well as some of our veterans turning 18 and moving on. I am pleased to say that all those who have passed the 18-year mark have continued into the Network.

Camps and Activities

Fri 26th – Mon 29th May	Spring Bank Camp, Thornthwaite Scout Site
Sat 22nd – Sat 29th July	Summer Camp 2023, Wolferton, Norfolk
Sat 14th October	Monopoly Run, Manchester
Fri 8th – Sun 10th December	Christmas Hut Camp,Sconce Scout Centre



High Ropes at Holkham



Summer Camp Cooking Challenge

Summer Camp 2023 took us back to Wolferton in Norfolk. 21 Explorers and 7 Leaders attended, with activities including high ropes, a visit to the Muckleburgh Military Collection with military vehicle ride, Sea Life centre and North Norfolk steam railway trips, and a scenic hike along the North Norfolk coast to Hunstanton.

Monday nights have seen the Explorers tackle several Activity Badges both new and familiar with the Science & Technology, Creative Arts, International, Naturalist, 1st Aid Levels 3 & 4, Survival Skills, and Pioneering badges all completed by the Unit.

Experience has been gained in Map Reading through evening and night hikes, and of course cooking remains a popular activity with links to several badges.



Stem Activities



Sumo Wrestling at Sconce

The 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.

We have welcomed Edward Naylor and Robyn Kemp (both former Explorers) into the Leadership Team as section assistants, and Alicia Carling has achieved her Wood Badge. Fern Vann has left the regular Team as she has moved away, but will continue to support camps and activities where she can.



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

Challenge Hike Winning Team

1st Kildwick and Farnhill Report - *Richard Tillotson*

May 2023

Group Sponsored Ramble



Cracking weather we had for our sponsored ramble from HQ, Kildwick Grange, Farnhill Moor and return which was well supported with lots of families getting involved.

May 2023

Cub Activity Weekend at Thornthwaite



Our Cub's along with 3rd Skipton & 1st Embsay and Eastby took part in a range of activities – crate stacking, learning knots and lashings to construct a bridge, using flint and steel to light a fire and toast a marshmallow, making a bug hotel, pond dipping, climbing on the traversing wall and indoor crafts/team games. The weather was great all weekend!

May 2023

Scout Summer Camp at Lonsdale District Activity Centre, Caton

We ventured over into the Forest of Bowland for our annual summer camp with 17 Scouts who took part in lots of different on site challenges and activities included making a knotting board, recording the weather for the week (which was not good at times!), make wooden bobbin woggles, produce an ID tree poster, make the longest bramble cord possible, taking part in the Littledale



Heptathlon – shooting, axe throwing, orienteering and bouldering wall.

Off site activities – Lakeland Wildlife Oasis and Lancaster Maritime Museum.

November 2023

80th Anniversary Gang Show



We received video messages of congratulations from Scout Ambassador Dwayne Fields and Deputy UK Chief Volunteer CJ Ledger and we were also honoured to receive a letter from Bear Grylls –

> *"I'm so proud to congratulate your Gang Show as you celebrate your 80th birthday. What a milestone!"*

That's 80 years, of songs, laughter, dance and unstoppable entertainment. Your incredible enthusiasm and commitment truly captures our great Scouting spirit – and you inspire others with your infectious optimism. I know that a huge amount goes on behind the scenes to make these shows happen. I also know what fantastic opportunities these are to give young people skills and confidence for the future; providing a platform for their talents, and the opportunity to shine. They take these skills with them throughout their lives – helping them step up and speak up in whatever they do. Thank you for making this possible.

Above all, Gang Shows are a great example of Scouts working together. They're about making connections and encouraging people from different backgrounds to join together to create something special that we can all enjoy and be proud of.

"Enjoy your 80th anniversary Gang Show. Congratulations again, and may the show go on!"

Bear Grylls OBE

Over the last 80 years we believe over 3500 Beavers, Wolf Cubs, Cubs, Rover Scouts, Scouts, Venture Scouts, Explorers & Leaders have taken to the Glusburn Institute stage or at a nearby venue in performing our Gang Show. To mark the special 80th Anniversary Gang Show all members of the Group were wearing their commemorative woggle and t shirt which incorporated our Gang Show logo.

April 2024

Scouts Expedition Challenge Weekend based at Ingleton Y.H.A.



16 Scouts took part in the Expedition Challenge weekend.

We set off from Ribblehead Station carpark heading under the viaduct towards Twisleton Scar and down in Thornton in Lonsdale then into Ingleton for the over night stay. On Sunday we walked into Clapham and enjoyed a visit into Ingleborough Cave.

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 and joining the Trustee Board.

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.

5th Skipton Report - *Gary Sorsby*

In November 2023 the sudden resignation of the previous GSL and AGSL created us with a few problems at the 5th, but nothing that our dedicated leaders and helpers couldn't overcome. This resulted in Catherine running all 3 sections, with the help of Carol, Euan and a few other volunteers, and also parents. A special thanks to Catherine who has planned all the programmes for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, to provide them with some fulfilling evening and weekend activities. She has also encouraged each section to join in with District events, with some success. All 3 sections have taken part in the Remembrance Day Parade, the District Carol Service and St. George's Day Parade.

It has been a delight to see how the Group has bonded together over the past few months, especially section to section, and how the boys and girls have developed in themselves. They are now doing some great activities and learning a lot about scouting skills and life in general. This has resulted in many badges and awards being gained, which was emphasized in the presentation of 120 badges at our AGM.

We are pleased to welcome James Metcalf to the group as a Cub Scout leader and Jacki Eeles as an Assistant Cub Scout Leader. Membership numbers are also increasing which is great to see.



Holy trinity Church Visit

The Beavers had a busy year, with highlights including a trip to the fire station, talks on hobbies and collections, a signs of spring walk through the woods, building junk models, taken part in a range of science experiments, and baked. They celebrated Christmas, Founders Day, Easter, and St George's Day and they visited Holy Trinity Church and learnt a little more about its history and the links



St Georges day - Jousting Event

to the castle. They entered a team in the District Football Competition which was great fun, and they managed to win a trophy at the District Swimming Gala.

Thanks to the parent helpers who enabled them to leave the building and provide an exciting Beaver Scout programme.

The Cubs also had a busy 12 months. Highlights included a very successful cub camp in September, with the majority of the section attending, many for their first nights away.

They made bird boxes, completed some natural art, built shelters, created paracord key chains, made and flew kites. On Pack night they enjoyed an informative talk from a local beekeeper, a local author came to interview them to help gather questions for her new book and with some Scouts they decorated a 5ft bunny for the Skipton Bid Easter Trail.



Our Painted Bunny



Making bird boxes



Bee Keeping Evening

They learnt how to use Kelly kettles & knives, tied knots, and completed some map work. They enjoyed the district swimming gala and football competitions and came away with a trophy from both.

4 cubs have also received their Chief Scout Silver Award.

The Scouts had a back-to-basics camp, focussing on putting the skills they have learnt in section meeting nights, into practice. Several Scouts also took part in the District Swimming Gala, which was enjoyed by all.

The Scouts have planned a sponsored walk in September to raise funds for the Fell Rescue. Before Christmas, the Scouts collected tinned food, toiletries, socks, hats and gloves for the charity Homeless not Hopeless, and they spent two section nights making and decorating individual Christmas cakes to donate as well.



They spent a cold but dry Saturday in Bog Wood, where the Scouts seemed to consume an enormous amount of food around the activities. They had an evening out and practiced their navigation skills, using what 3 words as well as maps and compasses. They have consolidated and expanded their first aid skills, cooked outdoors and made bags to hold their crockery and cutlery at camp. They have looked at how to advertise 5th Skipton Scout Group to potential leaders and young people as part of the media and marketing badge.

3rd Skipton Report - *Netta Hollings*

What we have achieved

Group

- Huge growth in membership
- Led St George's Day Parade and laid wreath at Remembrance Day
- Participated in Skipton Gala Parade, Skipton Sheep Day, Grassington Christmas Market, Skipton Santa Fun Run
- Fundraising events - Chocolate Bingo, Teddy Tombola, Jumble Sale, bag packing
- Success in bidding for grants from Skipton Gala, Tesco
- Two members awarded North Yorkshire Scouts Unsung Heroes Awards
- First new Leader gained Nights Away Permit
- Organised first District Carol Service

Squirrels

Where to start? We have done loads over the last year, we've released hedgehogs, done treasure hunts in Skipton Woods, looked at maps of Skipton to see how it's changed over time, learnt how to do the recovery position and how to call 999 (and when!), and even had a visit from Santa!

And of course we had the return of the Yorkshire Pudding Olympics which was bigger and better than ever!



We've said goodbye to some of our original group of squirrels and welcomed more new starters with lots planned for the future!

Beavers

Some highlights from last year include

- Our Scout Camp float at Skipton Gala.
- Amazing activities at Damboree Camp.



- The summit of Black Hill.
- Bonfires at Bog Wood.
- Designing and building models.

Cubs

What Cubs have been up to.

- Cubs has seen a tremendous growth once again, also taking on more parent helpers as well.
- We've been engaging in outdoor activities such as a nature treasure hunt in Raikes Wood Park and Campfires at Bog Wood
- We also learned more about our local Skipton history with a walk around town.



Scouts

Scouting in 2023/2024

- The past year has been a busy one for 3rd Skipton Scouts, we have moved venues from Ings school to the Dump.
- We have expanded our leadership team with the addition of Adam Cheater who has joined and has brought with him years of experience in the scouting family.
- We have Scouts signed up for the chief scout award who are on track to complete.
- Retention of Scouts is high, I'd like to say this is down to a varied programme with the scouts themselves deciding on the direction of the program.
- We are looking forward to Larkin jamboree.
- Personally, I'd like to say a massive thank you to everyone within the 3rd Skipton family for all your hard work and dedication to Scouting. Bring on 2025.



1st Bradley Report - *Chris Mawer*

Thanks to the Bradley team Leaders: Chris M, Caroline, Rebecca, Rachel, Sarah, Anne, Chris R and our two young leaders Callum & Kaitlin together with Chairman Geoff, Victoria as Secretary, Tristan as Treasurer, we also thank Steve, Dave, James & Tristan who continue to support Bradley on activities & camps.

Numbers remain stable with a total 43 Young people, 8 Beavers, 14 Cubs and 21 Scouts. This compares to 43 at our 2023 AGM.

Our closed Facebook Group remains popular with updates on activities and details of what each section has been doing, we get great feedback from parents for its content.

We attended Bradley Family Show Day for the third year, running the hot food tent raising funds for the group.

Beavers



We welcomed Rebecca as Assistant Beaver leader at the end of July 2023.

Beaver numbers are lower than previous due to most moving up to Cubs. We have 3 new starters recently with more starting shortly once they reach 6 years, numbers will be back to normal over the coming months.

Beavers worked on activity badges, space, global issues, communicator, gardening, science, international, healthy eating along with challenge badges, teamwork, personal, and world challenge.

We celebrated World Wildlife Day and Mother's Day by making wildflower seed bombs as gifts.



We combined world turtle day with global issues looking at ways to reduce, reuse and recycle and save our oceans from plastic.

We enjoy learning and trying out new games, firm favourites remain Dodgeball and Geoff Ball.

A small number will be attending Larkin for the day, and we are looking forward to continuing our badge work and getting down to the park for wide games.

Cubs

Another busy 12 months, with knots, astronomy, maps, contours, fire safety, first aid, healthy eating, food hygiene, pancakes, communicator, disability awareness, celebrated the day of the dead, Christingle & completed team challenges including human battleships, code cracking secret agent night. Cubs are now working at home towards animal carer badge



Cubs continue to wow with amazing collections, hobbies and interests outside of cubs, sharing successes in swimming and other sports, showcasing them recently in our show and tell evening.

Camp – Thornthwaite May 2023.

We had an amazing weekend at Thornthwaite, Camping with Embsay Eastby and K&F. Bushcraft skills, backwoods cooking, pioneering, crate stacking, pond dipping and bug hotels, continuing to make lots of amazing memories.



We are looking forward to the lighter nights and better weather so we can enjoy some time outside.

Scouts

Scout Camp – Hebden Hey – September 2023. All Scouts attented Hebden Hey Indoor camp where they participated in outdoor activities over the weekend including 'back-woods' cooking & 'pioneering'.

Scout Bowling Night – November 2023.



20 Scouts and 4 Leaders attended our annual Bowling Night.
This is very competitive where Strikes are taken seriously, all had a good time and wanted a re-match the week after.

All Sections – Beavers, Cubs & Scouts



Kildwick Cross – Evening Walk July 2023. Cubs & Scouts walked up to Kildwick Cross, the weather stayed fair with all thoroughly enjoying the evening, we had a very good view over the Aire Valley and the surrounding area.

Remembrance Day Parade. November, we attended the Remembrance Day parade in Skipton, with an excellent turnout from all section who enjoyed the event.

St Georges Day Parade. In April 2024, all groups attended the St Georges Day Parade & Service, again we had a great turnout from all sections who did us proud with their marching and excellent behaviour during Parade.

District Five-a-Side Football. All sections entered the five-a-side football competition, unfortunately no medals this time!

District Swimming Gala. We had a brilliant turnout for District Swimming Gala, where Cubs gained 2nd place in both age groups & Scouts won 1st place in 12 to 14 age group.

Larkin Jamboree. We are gearing up for Larkin in July 2024 with 1 Beaver, 16 Cubs & 10 Scouts joining us for an amazing action-packed day/week in York.

1st Embsay and Eastby Report - Laura Sobala

1st Embsay and Eastby has gone from strength to strength this year, opening two new sections and increasing member numbers from 36 to 73. In November we took part in the Remembrance Day service and procession in Embsay, and in April this year we led the District St George's Day service, with a ferocious dragon made by the Squirrels! All our sections have been involved with the local community through litter picks, carol singing and work on a community allotment. Most exciting of all, we recently went on our first ever group family camp at Sconce, where we spent a brilliant weekend with around 90 people taking part in a variety of games and activities, including of course a singsong around the campfire. We are looking forward to all our sections taking part in Larkin over the summer.

Squirrels

Squirrels recently celebrated their first birthday. We currently have 16 Squirrels and have welcomed several new leaders to the group. Over

the last year the Squirrels have proved they can do everything the older sections can do, with fire lighting, hiking and nature spotting sitting alongside a variety of indoor activities, from cooking to crafts and games. Several Squirrels have achieved their Chief Scouts Acorn awards. About half of our Squirrels took part in family camp and it was great to have the younger sections involved in this as well as the older ones. They also helped to tidy and prepare the local recreation ground for the summer alongside the Embsay environmental action group.



Squirrels nature spotting

Beavers



Beavers hike to Halton Height

Our founding section celebrated its second birthday in March and we are now saying goodbye to the last of our original Beavers as they move up to Cubs. We currently have 22 Beavers, with several more on the waiting list, and they have had an exciting year which has included a falconry demonstration, a trip on a canal boat and several trips out to go fire lighting and play wide games. Both Beavers and Cubs enjoyed a trip to Brimham Rocks last summer to go climbing and exploring. The Beavers finished off their year by carol singing and playing bingo with the residents of Abbeyfield Care Home, enjoying getting out into the community.

Cubs



Cubs bike maintenance

Cubs has now been running for almost two years and is currently our biggest section with 25 children. The Cubs have enjoyed a full programme of indoor and outdoor activities over the course of the year. Over the winter they took part in carnival evening where they made giant piñata, and built their own catapults for an epic rubber duck battle! They also voted cardboard caving a winner, building an epic cave system around the Hall, and learnt some new practical skills including bike maintenance. In the lighter evenings they have gone fire lighting and camp cooking, hiked to Halton Heights and through Skipton Woods and practised pitching tents – a skill which came in very useful at family camp.

Scouts



Scouts Trangia cooking

Opening Scouts in January 2024 marked the completion of our group, and we welcomed our first 9 Scouts who have thrown themselves into activities with enthusiasm. To set the tone our very first meeting included a fire pit and marshmallows at the Methodist Hall as we all got to know each other. In the first term we did some astronomy, covered Emergency Aid,

held a code breaking evening to help them learn about the history of Scouting, and a 'ready steady cook' evening where the Scouts planned and cooked their own meals on trangias. We even managed a very wet and windy night hike up Embsay crag, complete with medical 'incident' at the top! With the lighter weather we have been fire lighting and spent some time pitching tarp shelters in the woods. Our Scouts have thrown themselves into all activities with enthusiasm and we are looking forward to expanding the group in September as more of our Cubs move up.



Scouts night hike