Scouts

South Craven

Scout Council Annual Report

South Craven

2024 - 2025

#SkillsForLife

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A message from the Scout Council Chair

"This year has seen all Groups within South Craven District continue to deliver vibrant and engaging programmes for our young people. District events such as the District Swimming Gala, Football Tournament, and the St George's Parade brought together Scouts from across the area, strengthening community spirit and showcasing the enthusiasm and dedication of both our members and volunteers.

A major development this year has been the District's commitment to the Malham Tarn project. While still in the early stages, we've begun scoping plans, engaging with partners within the District and beyond and exploring how this space can serve our young people for generations to come. We are excited this long-term initiative will create a dedicated outdoor activity and training centre. At the same time, the District and Groups have continued to invest in volunteers, with new leaders joining,

training opportunities expanding, and support structures improving.

Looking ahead, our focus will be on progressing the Malham Tarn project, growing our volunteer base, and continuing to deliver inclusive, adventurous Scouting for all. On behalf of the District Trustee Board, I want to thank every leader, parent, supporter, and young person for making South Craven a thriving and welcoming Scouting community and being such a positive force in young people's lives."

Lead Volunteer's (DC) Report - *Andy Stronach*

Well another momentous year of Scouting in South Craven. Numbers have increased again, which is down to the hard work of all the leaders in the District, so thank you one and all.

This year every group/unit is having a summer camp truly putting the "out" in scouting and it really makes me proud, as I feel camping is one of the cornerstones of Scouting.

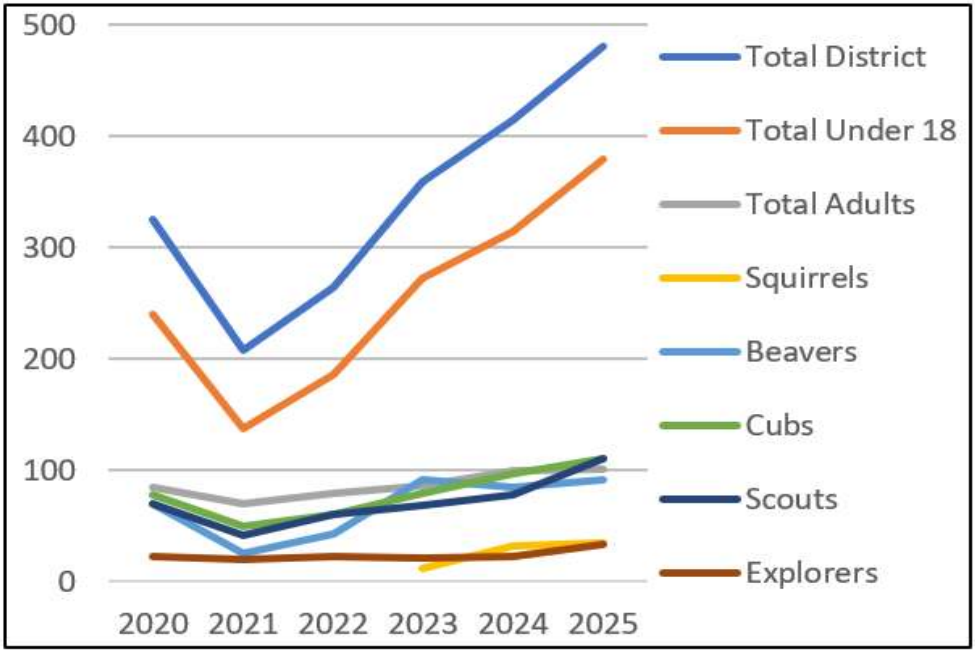
The exciting project of Malham Tarn continues to move forward though the legal people are now involved so all we can do is wait, I do feel once up and running it will be a real asset to the District .

You may know that Gary Sorsby has stepped down as GSL of 5th for personal reasons. The role will be taken up by Catherine Walton Brown Gary will remain as AGSL along with his valuable work at Malham Tarn.

Thank you all for attending St George's Day when you all made a splendid sight coming up the High Street .

Thank you all for your hard work and the support from Leaders, Trustees and Supporters.

Membership - another tremendous rise in membership



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total District	325	208	265	359	415	481
Total Under 18	240	138	186	273	315	380
Total Adults	85	70	79	86	100	101
Squirrels				12	32	35
Beavers	70	26	43	92	85	91
Cubs	78	50	60	79	97	110
Scouts	70	42	61	69	78	110
Explorers	22	20	22	21	23	34
Network	13	5	13	5	6	13
Leadership	47	38	37	43	50	66
Management	7	3	4	8	8	
Governance	16	16	15	21	21	22
Support	2	8	10	9	15	

District Network Report - *Christian Spencer*

Once again, Network has not held any events as an independent group this year. However, this has not meant a lack of involvement. Network members have continued to show strong engagement by participating in a variety of district-wide activities, including camps and meetings with both Explorer and Scout sections. These opportunities have allowed members to contribute their skills, support younger sections, and stay connected to the wider Scouting community.

The current Network membership stands at 17—an increase of one from last year. This slight growth reflects the natural progression of members aging out, balanced by new arrivals from the Explorer section. As we look ahead, there is potential for revitalising the group's own programme, especially with fresh energy from newer members and ongoing collaboration within the 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 increased with 33 invested Explorers – all Groups in the District are represented as well as a few Explorers who have scouted in neighbouring areas, or have no previous scouting background.

Camps and Activities

Fri 24th – Mon 26th May	Spring Bank Camp, Thornthwaite Scout Site
Sat 20th – Sat 27th July	Summer Camp 2024, Boreland, Dumfries & Galloway
Sat 12th October	Monopoly Run, Manchester
Fri 13th – Sun 15th Dec.	Christmas Hut Camp, Hebden Hey Scout Hostel

Summer Camp 2024 took us back to Boreland in Dumfries & Galloway. 12 Explorers and 8 Leaders attended, with activities including lasertag and floating obstacle course on Loch Ken, a visit to the Dumfries &



New Recruits



The Moffat Hills

Galloway Aviation Museum, the Devil's Porridge Museum, onsite pioneering and a scenic hike around Grey Mare's Tail waterfall in the Moffat Hills.

Monday nights have seen the Explorers tackle several Activity Badges both new and familiar with the Science & Technology, Media Communications, Naturalist, 1st Aid Levels 4 & 5, Survival Skills, Navigator Levels 4 & 5, and Chef badges all completed or underway 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. Training for the Young Leaders scheme is also back in full swing, with Explorers placed in sections across every Group in the District to help the Section Leaders and improve their own skills. We have awarded the District's first ever Explorer Scout Young Leader Belt for completion of the full scheme and all the Missions.

We have welcomed Edward Naylor and Robyn Kemp (both former



Loch Ken



Hebdon Hey Activities

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.



Festive Food

1st Kildwick and Farnhill Report - *Richard Tillotson*



April 2024

Beavers Sleepover at Curly Hill Activity Centre

Our Beavers enjoyed a weekend of fun and adventure including making plants and constellations, learning how to light a fire and cook marshmallows, soft fencing skills, pitching a tent and den building in bluebell wood.

May 2024 - Cub Activity Weekend at Thornthwaite



Our older Cubs took part in a camping weekend and learned skills in a range of activities – crate stacking, bouldering wall, knots and lashings to construct a bridge, using flint and steel to light a fire and toast a marshmallow, soft fencing, axe throwing, scavenger hunt and camp fire.

August 2024
Scout Summer Camp Silver Sapling, Silverdale, Arnside

We ventured to a new location for our annual summer camp with 15 Scouts who took part in lots of different on site challenges and activities included producing a deer identification poster, individually create a pair of deer antler and birch bark woggles, produce a leather tinder pouch, make from scratch burgers to cook on an alter fire and produce an illustrative map of the Arnside and Silverdale Area of



Outstanding Natural Beauty highlighting the key points of interest. Off site activities included visits to The Kendal Museum, Leighton Moss Nature Reserve and Carnforth Scout HQ for indoor climbing. Our Patrol hike explored Arnside Knott and Silverdale coastal path.

November 2024 - 81st Gang Show

We once again took to the stage at Glusburn Institute to perform our 81st Gang Show. Over 95 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders all worked together singing songs, performing dance acts and taking part in sketches in front of a 200 plus audience on each night.

March 2025 - Scouts Navigation Hike



Great walk to complete the Navigation stage 2 & 3 activity badge from Gargrave - Conistone Cold – Bank Newton then back along the Pennine Way into Gargrave.

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, Trustee Board, Occasional Helpers & parents for all their hard work throughout the year in ensuring the continued success of the Group.

5th Skipton Report - *Gary Sorsby*

As a Scout Group we are celebrating our 110-year birthday this year with many events being planned around this. Since last year, the numbers of both of our youth members and volunteer leaders have increased again. As a Group we have held joint events with the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to encourage interaction, which have been a success. We held a sponsored hike from Bog Lane, up to the top of Sharp Haw, and then into Gargrave for lunch where we were joined by the Beavers and some parents to walk on the canal back to the Dump. Two evenings were held with the Upper Wharfdale Fell Resue and The Red Cross, learning about their roles in helping people, and cheques for £400 were presented to each organisation. There was a joint weekend away in December with 31 Cubs and Scouts at



Fund Raising - Upper Wharfdale Fell Rescue and Red Cross



Curley Hill, near Ilkley. It was cold, wet and windy, but all enjoyed themselves and built up an appetite for a full Christmas Dinner. We also held our first Group camp for many years at Littledale Scout Campsite, when 41 of our youth members and 11 volunteer leaders attended and they all had a fantastic time. All 3 sections have taken part in the Remembrance Day Parade, the District Carol Service, St. George's Day Parade and the District swimming and football competitions. Thanks to the leaders and parent helpers who provided an exciting programme for all sections.

The Beavers had a busy year and worked incredibly hard on everything that they participated in. Highlights included an informative trip to the fire station, a night walk through Skipton Woods using our senses to search for signs of spring, creative sessions at the Dump using the giant Lego, indoor archery and even some baking. They also went to Gargrave for a spot of river dipping, when some got a little bit soggy, but that's the fun of Scouting. They also had a sleep over at the Dump, in preparation for the Group camp.



Making Lego items

The Cubs continued with a varied programme including a trip to Skipton Fire Station, including trying out various pieces of equipment and firefighter's uniforms. A night making Jam Jar Remembrance lanterns and an international night learning about Cubbing in Catalonia. They also had a very interesting evening talk about water safety from the RNLI, and they also got chance to practice rescuing a fellow cub, as well as wearing RNLI equipment. They worked towards the disability badge and celebrated the Chinese New Year where they tried some Chinese food and learnt about the year of the snake.



Cooking Evening

The Scouts have had a varied programme including cooking some curry meals, and enjoyable sessions at Bog Wood perfecting their fire lighting and cooking skills in preparation for the Group Camp. 7 scouts spent a Saturday afternoon near Malham Tarn helping to plant 110 trees as a community project with the Yorkshire Dales National Park to help commemorate our 110-year anniversary. They also helped with running our annual chocolate bingo fund raising evening and well done to the Scouts who had a go at calling the numbers. Other activities included a photo treasure hunt, evening expeditions around Skipton, learning how to use W3W, maps and compass and our new walkie talkies. They had an evening on more traditional Scouting Skills, learning how to tie Square, Diagonal & Lineal Lashings and the dreaded frapping & clove hitches too. A team of Scouts entered the Manchester Monopoly Run, which was a full day of walking and riding round Manchester, using public transport looking for clues. A group of 9 Scouts also enjoyed a chilly overnight stay at the Bradford Climbing Hut, on a joint activity with the 1st Embsay and Eastby Scouts, where they all had a go at both bouldering and climbing as well as working with Scouts from another Group within the Distr



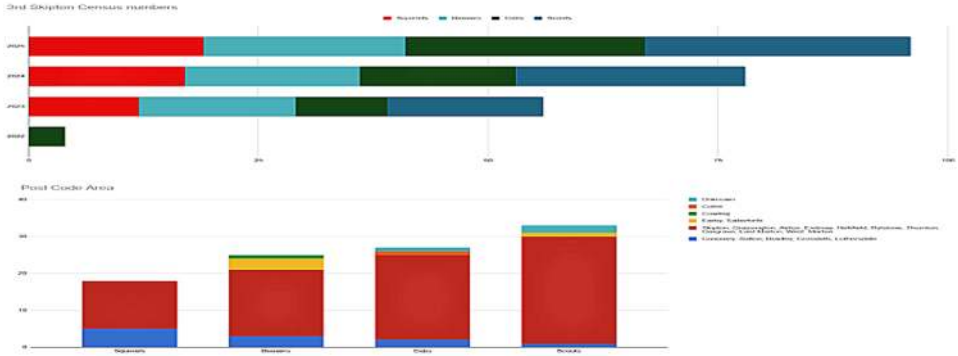
Climbing wall



Littledale Group Camp

3rd Skipton Report - *Netta Hollings*

This year we reflected on our quite amazing growth from our restart in 2021 (2022 census) and looked at where our members were drawn from.



Squirrels:

- Curly Hill camp in March with Embsay Squirrels.
- Raven Gill 2 day group camp in May.
- Visit from Skipton Angling Association.
- Visit from Neighbourhood Policing team.
- Great team of leaders and 2 young leaders.
- Took part in district swimming gala.
- We have been able to maintain a rota of 20 squirrels consistently with a sizable waiting list too.
- We also have Sheep Day and Skipton Gala to look forward to as well.



Beavers:- Activities and Events

APR - Bog Wood, Space Badge, St George's Day Parade
MAY - Health & Fitness Badge, Blackhills Camp
JUN - Sports Day, Navigator Badge, Skipton Gala Parade, Pride in the Dales, Skipton Sheep Day
JUL - Bog Wood, Embsay Woods, Larkin Jamboree
SEP - Skills Challenge Badge, Teamwork Challenge Badge, Bog Wood
OCT - Skills Challenge Badge, Teamwork Challenge Badge, Tesco Bagpacking
NOV - Night Hike, Skills Challenge Badge, Teamwork Challenge, Remembrance Sunday, Santa Fun Run, Grassington Xmas Market
DEC - Christmas Party, District Carol Service, Carol Singing at Eller Beck
JAN - World Challenge Badge, Outdoors Challenge Badge, International Badge, New Venue Open Day
FEB - Personal Challenge Badge, Night Hike, Swimming Gala
MAR - International Badge, Book Reader Badge, Skipton Library Visit, Easter Crafts
APR - Easter Egg Hunt, Sports Badge, District Football Competition

BADGES - 210 activity & challenge badges awarded, 12 badges worked on as a group!



Cubs:

We helped win 1st place in the Skipton Gala!

We attended Larkin, had loads of fun, and survived the heat.

We helped fundraise across many events, a popular one was Grassington Christmas Market.

We said farewell to some Cubs who had come to use from Beavers. Alex. R. even achieved their Chief Scout Silver Badge!



We also won the South Craven District Cubs football tournament.

We enjoyed our group camp at Commondale and the trip to Whitby loads and are looking forwards to more camps in the future.

Scouts:

The Scouts took part in a group camp located at Ravens Gill Scout Camp just outside of Whitby. The scouts enjoyed fossil hunting along the shore line and performed other activities to build on what is needed for their gold award.

In February the scouts set up camp halfway up Great Whernside in a fantastic old farmhouse now looked after by the Ben Rhydding district scouts. This camp was mainly focused around the scouts improving their navigation skills.



They also took part in the St George's Day parade, took care of the Community Allotment at Broughton Road allotments and built fire pits at the new 3rd HQ.

Still on the agenda for this year

- *Overnight survival camp*
- *Family open day*
- *Loads more fun*
- *More fundraising*
- *Paracording*

1st Bradley Report - *Chris Mawer*

Many thanks to the Bradley team leaders: Chris M, Caroline, Rebecca, Rachel, Sarah, Anne, and Chris R, along with our dedicated young leaders Callum and Kaitlin. We're also grateful to Chairman Geoff, Secretary Victoria, Treasurer Tristan, and to Steve, Dave, James, and Tristan for their continued support with activities and camps.

Youth membership remains steady at 42, comprising 9 Beavers, 12 Cubs, and 21 Scouts—comparable to last year's total of 43 at the 2023 AGM.

Our closed Facebook Group continues to be a valued communication tool, regularly updated with activity highlights from each section. We consistently receive positive feedback from parents on the content.

Beavers:



This term, 9 enthusiastic Beavers enjoyed a fun-filled programme including badge work, creative activities, sports, and outdoor adventures. Highlights included smoothie biking, designing medals, reusable bag crafts, and starting their Cyclist Badge. They proudly represented their colony in events and look forward to an exciting sleepover in October.

Highlights:

- Health & Fitness Badge: smoothie biking, "eating a rainbow"
- St George's Day: sock puppet dragons
- VE Day: medal design, war history learning
- World Turtle Day: reusable bag craft



- Cyclist Badge: safety & maintenance
- Events: Swimming Gala, Football Tournament
- Upcoming: October sleepover at Climbing Hub

Cubs:

Bradley Cubs had an exciting year with strong leader support and high engagement. Highlights included a fun-filled Larkin Jamboree, badge work, team challenges, and winning at the district swimming gala. Weekly updates continued on Facebook, and new parent termly updates are planned. Sadly, Leader Sarah is stepping down.





Highlights:

- Larkin Jamboree: 3 action-packed days
- Badge work: Artist, Navigator, Air Activities
- RAF & Parachute Regiment guest visits
- Creative and team challenges (e.g., egg challenge)
- District swimming gala: 1st place wins

- Facebook updates + new termly parent briefings
- Farewell to Leader Sarah after 6 years

Scouts:

The 1st Bradley Scouts maintained steady numbers with 21 members, enjoying a vibrant year of camps, activities, and community events. Highlights included the Larkin Jamboree, badge achievements, and success at the District Swimming Gala. Outdoor meetings flourished, and plans are in motion for the Waddecar summer camp in August 2025.





Highlights:

- **Scout Numbers:** 21 Scouts, with 2 Cubs moving up
- **Major Events:** Larkin Jamboree, Bowling Night, Outdoor meetings
- **Badges Earned:** First Aid, Navigation, Team Building

- **Community Participation:** Remembrance Day, St George's Day parades
- **Achievements:** 1st place in both age groups at Swimming Gala
- **Upcoming:** Waddecar Camp (Aug 2025), Kildwick Cross Walk

1st Embsay and Eastby Report - *Laura Sobala*

2024-2025 has been another year of growth for 1st Embsay and Eastby with nearly 80 members across all our sections. Scouts especially is continuing to grow rapidly as children move up from Cubs. Highlights of the year for the group include our Remembrance Day service and procession in Embsay, and of course Larkin International Jamboree, which every section attended – they had an amazing time.

Squirrels

Our Squirrels celebrated their second birthday in May and continue to go from strength to strength, covering a wide variety of badges. In March they went on their first District Squirrel camp at Curly Hill where they particularly enjoyed the firelighting and games, and are looking forward to more camps in the future!



Learning about nature in Skipton Woods

This summer the Squirrels have been outdoors playing new games, learning basic navigation skills and going firelighting at Bog Wood. They have also had a visit from the hedgehog rescue and have learned about wildlife in Skipton Woods and at Cracoe School's beehives!

Beavers

Beavers meetings have included baking, knot tying and pioneering, whilst cardboard caving was a particular hit! They did community service by making Christmas cards and gifts for elderly people in the village. Beavers have particularly enjoyed all their outdoor activities which have included firelighting



Enjoying grass sledging at camp

and camp cooking, den building in the woods and going on a night hike around Embsay. They also loved going on the fire engine in Skipton fire station!

Beaver Camp in March was at Sconce. 11 Beavers pitched their own tents, lit fires and played wide games, as well as doing grass sledging and climbing. They had a brilliant time and can't wait for the next one!

Cubs

Cubs have also had a busy and rewarding year, getting outdoors at every opportunity. Their campfire cooking of flatbread, campfire stew and hot chocolate was a great success! They have also done a winter night hike and visited Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue.



Learning some navigation skills

Last summer the Cubs helped improve Skipton Station for visitors. Over the winter, Cubs decided to hold a chocolate bingo evening for the Fell Rescue which raised £366.



Thornthwaite Cub camp - just finished pitching their tents

They have just got back from Cub camp at Thornthwaite where pitching their own tents and cooking their own tea over the fire gave

them a great sense of achievement. Activities included axe throwing, archery and tree climbing, and of course they played loads of games and sang songs around the campfire.

Scouts

Our Scouts section is now a year old. Creative activities have included a circus skills workshop and a Samba drumming session, as well as a visit from a local artist, following which they produced their own watercolour landscapes, portraits and still life drawings. They also had a ready steady cook challenge where they were given ingredients and had to whip up a tasty treat! In the spring they all really enjoyed going to Skipton Men's Shed for an introduction to woodworking.



Learning woodworking skills at Skipton Men's Shed

Outdoors, firelighting and camp cooking remain the most popular activities. They also enjoyed a night hike over the winter, and this summer they have been out and about every week. They loved learning how to look after sheep at a local farm, and have been on several short hikes around Embsay to learn and practise navigation skills – and an incident hike!

On a recent trip to Reva Reservoir they had an amazing time canoeing and bellboating, which was voted a highlight of the term and they are looking forward to doing more water sports at their summer camp in the Lake District in July. This follows from the



Scouts doing their favourite thing - cooking over a campfire

Larkin International Jamboree last July, and their September "Back to Basics" overnight camp at Low Wood - focusing on pioneering and self-sufficiency where they built camp gadgets, cooked their own meals, and managed their own camp routines.

With numbers rising, 2025 promises even more exciting activities and the opportunity to deepen Scouting skills across the Group.