Scouts

South Craven

# Scout Council Annual Report

South Craven

2025 - 2026

#SkillsForLife

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## A message from the Chair of Trustees

*"This year has been another positive and successful one for South Craven District Scouts, and I want to extend my sincere thanks to all our volunteer leaders. Your commitment and enthusiasm ensure that young people across the District continue to enjoy high-quality Scouting experiences, from weekly programmes to camps and outdoor adventures.*

*My thanks also go to our District Lead for his continued guidance and support throughout the year.*

*Special thanks go to Gary and Netta for their significant contribution to the Malham project. Their hard work and persistence have moved us closer to creating a site that will benefit young people for many years to come. My thanks also to Julie, who has acted as our solicitor with professionalism, patience and generosity; her expertise has been invaluable.*

*Looking ahead, we have much to look forward to. The development of Malham remains a major focus, and as a District we are ready to rise to the challenge of preparing the site for camping, activities and wider use. This work represents an exciting*

*step forward for South Craven, offering new opportunities for young people to experience adventure within our own District. Our groups continue to do an excellent job of creating a welcoming environment for all. Looking ahead, I want us to hold firmly to our commitment that every leader, young person, parent and member of our community feels that South Craven District is a place where they truly belong."*

***Ruksana Mahmood***

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

Well another year done

Numbers remain stable though slightly down on last year

Firstly, again many thanks to all the Leaders, Trustees, helpers and supporters for all your dedication and hard work in sometimes difficult circumstances. We could not survive without you .

All groups have again been camping both inside and out which provides the young people with fantastic opportunities to learn and reaffirm skills which will stand them in good stead for later life.

There will be changes in District in the coming months which I will discuss with you all at the next leaders meeting all of which will help me in the job of running district. I intend to hold the meeting for all leaders in September when all will become clear.

I have to thank Netta, Edward, Harold and Ruksana for holding the fort during my most recent illness thank you all of you.

We now have the Keys for High Stables at Malham Tarn house along with the proposed camp site. Garry and Netta will explain further at the AGM.

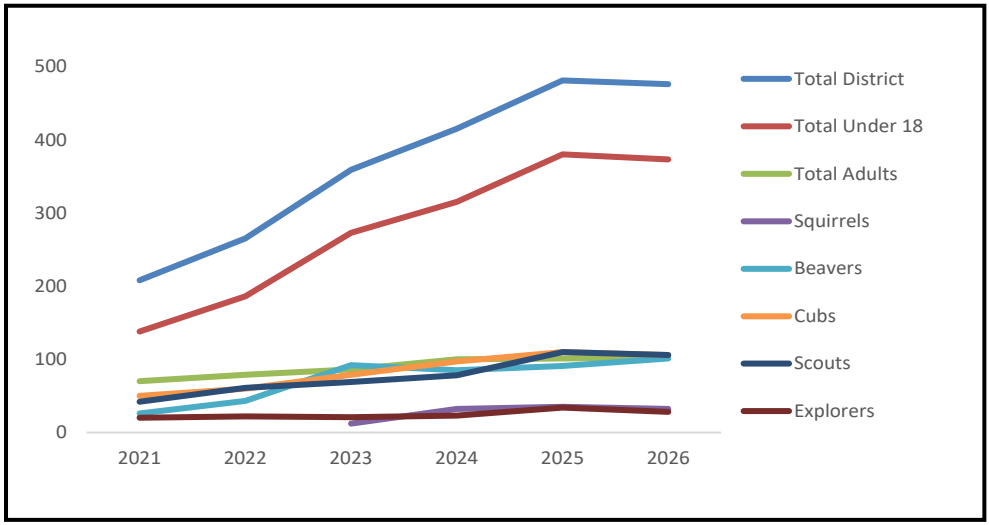
As a district we are mostly compliant with training, especially safety and safeguarding and there is more first aid training to follow.

The fallout from Great Orm continues and you will have all seen the Coroner's report and the SA response.

Thank you for all your risk assessments. I know they can be a pain, but a necessary pain.

Again, thanks to you all

# Membership




| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total District | 208 | 265 | 359 | 415 | 481 | 476 |
| Total Under 18 | 138 | 186 | 273 | 315 | 380 | 373 |
| Total Adults | 70 | 79 | 86 | 100 | 101 | 103 |
| Squirrels | 0 | 0 | 12 | 32 | 35 | 32 |
| Beavers | 26 | 43 | 92 | 85 | 91 | 101 |
| Cubs | 50 | 60 | 79 | 97 | 110 | 106 |
| Scouts | 42 | 61 | 69 | 78 | 110 | 106 |
| Explorers | 20 | 22 | 21 | 23 | 34 | 28 |

# St Georges Day at Skipton Castle



# Explorers Report - *Ed Randell & Jonathan Abbey*

Another busy 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 have increased with 35 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 23rd – Mon 25th May* - Spring Bank Camp, Sconce Scout Site
*Fri 20th – Sun 22nd June* - Survival Camp, Bog Wood
*Sat 28 June* - Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge Hike
*Sat 19th – Sat 26th July* - Summer Camp 2025, Branthwaite, Lake District
*Sat 18th October* - Bradford Media Museum
*Fri 13th – Sun 15th December* - Christmas Hut Camp, Robin Hole Guide Hostel




Summer Camp 2025 took us to a new site at Branthwaite on the edge of the Lake District.

18 Explorers and 8 Leaders attended, with activities including ghyll scrambling and paddle boarding at Keswick, a visit to the Beacon Museum, onsite pioneering and renewable energy challenges and a spectacular hike around to High Stile from Buttermere.



*Ghyll Scrambling*

Monday nights have seen the Explorers tackle several Activity Badges both new and familiar with the Science & Technology, Global, Naturalist, 1st Aid Levels 4 & 5, Survival Skills, Navigator Levels 4 & 5, and Chef badges all completed or underway by the Unit. We have also talked the new Money Skills and Space badges, with a range of activities culminating in a trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester. 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 continues throughout the year, with Explorers placed in sections across every Group in the District to help the Section Leaders and improve their own skills. We have awarded two more Explorer Scout Young Leader Belts for completion of the full scheme and all the Missions.

There have been no changes to the Leader Team in the last 12 months. Our newer members continue to gain experience and are working towards Wood



*Curry Night*

Badges and Nights Away Permits.

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



*Surviving*



***Pheasent***

## 1st Kildwick and Farnhill Report - *Richard Tillotson*

### *May 2025 - Group Sponsored Ramble*



On a very sunny day lots of members and parents took part in the ramble from our HQ to Lunds Tower and Wainman's Pinnacle into Cowling and back via Birks Bridge and Binns Lane. A total of £300 was raised for Group funds,

## *May 2025 - Cub Activity Weekend at Sconce, Baildon*

Twenty Cubs had a great weekend taking part in lots of fun activities including – grass sledging, crate stacking, fire lighting, soft archery and fencing. New skills learnt towards their Outdoor and Adventure Challenge Awards.



## *August 2025 - Scout Summer Camp, Giant's Seat Radcliffe*



We ventured to a new location for our annual summer camp with 16 Cubs, Scouts & Explorers who took part in lots of different on site challenges and activities included a trip on the East Lancs railway followed by a visit to the Bury Transport Museum. Our urban day hike explored the old railways and canals around the campsite to learn about the local industrial heritage of the area. On site activities were packed full of fun – pizza making, lino printing, pioneer a Giant's Seat, make char cloth before cooking pop corn on a tin can fire, make a leather pouch, make a table football game & complete the geocaching competition. The highlight of the week was a trip on a tram from

Radcliffe into Manchester – on the hottest day of the year – to visit the Media Museum.

## *November 2025 - 82nd Gang Show*



We once again took to the stage at Glusburn Institute to perform our 82nd Gang Show. Over 90 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders all worked together singing songs, performing dance acts and taking part in sketches in front a nearly full house on both nights. Highlights were Beavers Cha Cha Slide dance, Cubs signing to the song Happy, Scouts dance to Golden and Explorers sketch What a recital. And of course our Scout Band and sing "Crest of a Wave".

## *March 2026 - Beavers Sleepover Sconce, Baildon*



Twenty Beavers enjoyed a fun packed weekend at Sconce, taking part in lots of different activities including grass sledging, soft archery, exploring Baildon Moor and singing around the campfire.

We took part in the District Swimming gala and won the age groups Beavers 6 – 7, Cubs 8- 9 & Scouts 13 -14. The Football Competition was an even better result as we won in all three

sections! 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 - *Catherine Walton-Brown*

We have had a busy year, membership numbers continue to increase, with members earning 674 badges over the last 12 months. This included 7 Chief Scout Bronze Awards, 3 Chief Scout Silver Awards and 5 Chief Scout Gold Awards. This would not be possible without the time, effort and support of our dedicated hard working leadership team, the young leaders from Explorers, our trustees, occasional helpers and parents.

In July 2025, we celebrated our 110 year anniversary with a family fun day at the Dump, past and present members, the wider district team and even a scout from Australia attended.

### *Highlights from the last 12 months include -*

- Night Hikes
- Troop camps
- District football and swimming gala
- Geocaching through Skipton Woods
- Orienteering and map reading
- Manchester monopoly run
- Developing cooking skills

- Remembrance Day and St George's Day parade
- Christmas Carol Service




***Gala procession - celebrating 110 years of Scouting at 5th Skipton***



***Donating surplus Eater Eggs to Skipton Food bank following Chocolate Bingo***
***Upper Wharfdale Fell Rescue***



*Beavers visit to the Fire Station*

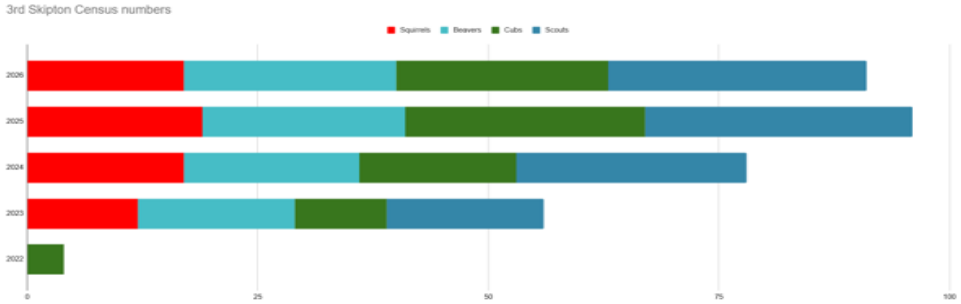


*Group Camp at Low Wood with everyone sleeping under canvas*

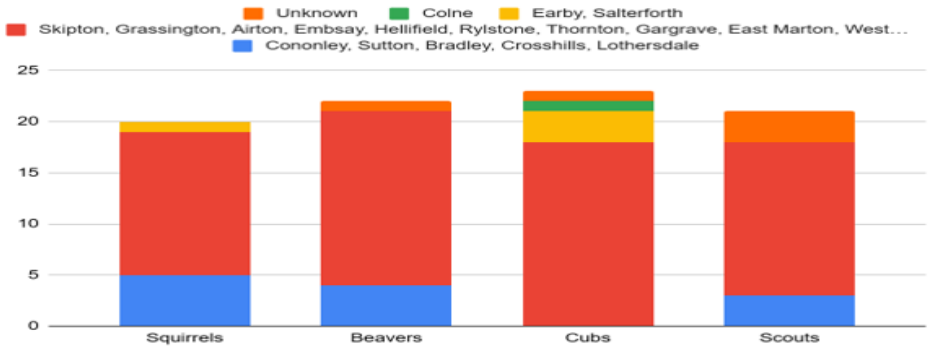
*Group Christmas Climbing evening at Bradford Climbing Hub*



# 3rd Skipton Report - *Netta Hollings*




## *Where do the children come from?*




## *Group/District Activities*

- April 2025 - District Football Tournament, St George's Day Parade
- May 2025 - Group Camp, Ravengill, Whitby
- June 2025 - Litter pick, Skipton Town FC, AGM and Family Day, Skipton Gala, Junior Warrior (Cubs and Scouts), Sheep Day
- October 2025 - Diwali Light Walk
- November 2025 - Remembrance Day Parade,
- December 2025 - Grassington and Skipton Christmas Markets, Skipton Santa Fun Run, District Carol Service
- February 2026 - District Swimming Gala
- March 2026 - District Football Tournament

## *Squirrels:*

- Squirrels is still popular with 19 children regularly attending, as well as many parents who are willing to stay and help out each session.



*Getting ready for St George's Day Parade*

- We have had a busy year - taken a trip on the train to see the steam trains at Keighley station, explored the woods at Embsay and Skipton, visited the library and helped create a display for a book called "The Rainbow Fish" and of course celebrated the 4th Yorkshire Pudding Olympics in February.

- We have explored many different badges and had a look at 2 new badges this year "Earth Tribe" where we looked at habitats and also the "Youshape" badge where we put our heads together to come up with ideas for activities we would like to do for each badge.

## *Beavers:*

In Spring term, we had a visit to Bog Wood and completed the Emergency Aid level 2.

After the Winter Wonderland float in Skipton Gala, we harvested garlic and onions from the allotment. Jim's grandad showed us how to sow carrot seeds.

Autumn started with Potato Olympics, then Beulah led a meeting on endangered animals.

In the Spring Term we did junk modelling for the Builder Badge, went on a railway trip and learned a lot about Railway Safety. We had several outside activities including practicing our skills at the Rugby Club. Many thanks to Sam McCarthy-Jones, Amy Cranham, Erin Carter, Beth Townsend and Netta Hollings.




***Beavers waiting for the train back to Raven***

## *Cubs:*

Taking on the role of Cub leader has genuinely been a privilege. The profound sadness we all had following the loss of Andrew has not been diminished but with every meeting I feel his legacy continues. Focusing the team efforts on helping the boys and girls who join our group develop lifelong skills and create treasured memories. This year has illustrated how these principles resonate through the varied activities and experiences we have provided.

Three Chief Scout Awards were



***Cubs enjoying activities at Bradley Wood***

presented, recognising the hard work and dedication of our Cubs.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all our leaders, particularly Julie, Hema, and Adam, for their unwavering commitment and support. We also warmly welcome Amy, who has joined our team and is helping with administrative tasks and badge completion. Her experience and involvement have already made a difference to our group

## *Scouts:*

### *Bradley Wood Group camp*

We were able to run an air rifle range with our shiny new qualifications.

### *3rd Skipton Scouts @ Hag Dyke 2026*

In March of this year 3rd Scouts went back to Hag Dyke. It was quite an emotional camp as we said goodbye to a large number of our senior Scouts. The camp was a zombie apocalypse camp where the Scouts had to use team work to fight off a zombie horde.



*Scouts building a catapult at Hag Dyke*

# 1st Bradley Report - *Chris Mawer*

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

Youth membership remains steady at 39, comprising 9 Beavers, 14 Cubs, and 16 Scouts—comparable to last year's total of 42 at the 2025 AGM.

Our closed Facebook Group continues to be used to keep parents updated on upcoming events and the activities undertaken at our weekly meetings.

This year we have also introduced a parents WhatsApp group for the group and each of the sections which has proved a useful communication tool for notices as not all parents are on Facebook.

Following the success of our AGM last year which we paired with our art show and chocolate bingo we look forward to welcoming back lots of parents to this year's AGM in early June.

## *Beavers:*

We currently have 9 enthusiastic Beavers, enjoyed a fun-filled programme including lots of badge work, gardening, science, international badge, global issues money skills and the Scottish thistle award.

Lots of creative activities and games. In October we had a joint sleepover with



***Beaver sleepover at Climbing Hub***

the Cubs at the Climbing Hub which was enjoyed immensely.

This year we introduced half termly parent updates, offering parents the opportunity to attend the meeting 15 minutes early, where we can provide any important information notices, let them know what we have been up to in our weekly meeting and recognise the progress the Beavers are making awarding badges. These updates are well attended by parents and are proving a real success.



*"Camp fire" at Climbing Hub*

## Cubs:

We currently have 14 Cubs, 5 of which are currently transitioning to Scouts, and again we have had an action packed year.

Highlights included a sleepover at the Climbing Hub with the Beavers and of course 3 fun-filled days at NYS CubJam, again lots of badge work, including space badge, road safety and fire safety, and retaining our trophy at the district swimming gala.



*Cubjam 2026*

*Cubjam 2026*



## *Scouts:*

The Scouts numbers are currently at 16, but with 5 cubs in the process of transitioning. Last year we enjoyed a summer camp at Waddecar with plans to return again this year at the end of June. We retained our trophies at the district swimming gala and continue to offer a fun filled programme with lots of teamwork, games and a focus on scouting skills and values.

Other highlights including our annual walk up to Jubilee tower, our nerf wars evening and Christmas bowling night.



*Christmas bowling night*



*Scout camp at Waddecar*

# 1st Embsay and Eastby Report - *Laura Sobala*

Embsay have had a busy year in 2025-2026.

## *Squirrels*



***Firefighting***

Our Squirrels completed a multitude of Activity badges, including Brilliant Builder, Exciting Experiments, Go Wild, Local Superhero and Be Active. A variety of visits took place both in house and external; we visited our local library, held a Fathers Day fire lighting session at Bog Wood, and met at Cracoe Primary School to learn about how to be a Bee Keeper. We also organised sessions by Liz from Sing and Sign, Heather from Ready Steady Pedal, a visit from Prickly Pigs Hedgehog Sanctuary, as well as a visit from a Fire and Rescue team member



***Visit from Hedgehog rescue***

## *Beavers*

After Beavers enjoyed a successful May camp , they continued with a fun programme of outdoor activities with firelighting and hikes in Skipton woods. We welcomed a local Safety Officer to our meeting to talk about his role in our community. The Beavers also enjoyed a trip to Clip 'n' Climb in Ilkley, and completed their Canal and River Trust badge, visiting the canal in East Marton to do some nature spotting. They also celebrated Beavers' 40th birthday with a party at the Methodist Hall. They have completed several badges including Health and Fitness and Global Issues. In September several Beavers joined in a North Yorkshire Scouts activities day at Ellerton

Water, where they took part in bellboating, kayaking, bouldering and treasure hunts.



*Cubs learning bike maintenance*

## *Cubs*

Cubs have had a packed year. We held a camp at Thornthwaite in June, where the Cubs had a mixture of adventurous activities, wide games and even did some camp cooking. During our weekly programme we completed lots of badges, including the Disability Awareness, Navigator Stage 2 and Local Knowledge badges. Cubs enjoyed a visit to Keighley Buddhist Centre and also celebrated Dia de los Muertos as part of their World Challenge. A local photographer joined us for a meeting to teach the Cubs about composition and light and they took some great photographs. They also completed their Backwoods Cooking badge, cooking a variety of meals over campfires. Cubs also took part in hikes up Embsay Crag and wide games on Black Park. They also went to a North Yorkshire Scouts activity day at Ellerton Water which was a great success.



*Cub hike up Embsay Crag*

## *Scouts*

The Scouts are now into their second year, and the leadership team has grown significantly. The Scouts have had a varied programme, working on their Teamwork and Outdoor awards. They very much enjoyed an incident hike around Embsay, and playing wide games at Black Park. They loved having an evening with several Explorers where they took part in a Ready Steady Cook challenge. They completed their Air Activities badge and got to talk to a real pilot in their meetings. They also did a night hike and a circus skills workshop which they all enjoyed. The highlight of the year was going on the first Scouts group camp to Great Tower in the Lake District. The Scouts took part in a variety of watersports including canoeing, raft building and paddleboarding, went hiking and even completed two abseils at Cathedral Quarry – the biggest one was 42 metres!



***Scouts Summer Camp - Raft building and Abseiling***

