

THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION
(incorporated by Royal Charter)

Patron: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Founder: The Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell, O.M.,
G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., LL.D.

Chief Scout: Bear Grylls

**SUNDERLAND DISTRICT
SCOUT ASSOCIATION**

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Annual Report **2012 - 2013**



For all Scouting uniforms and resources, visit the Sunderland District Scout Shop
Open every Thursday in term time 7 to 8 pm
In Kayll House basement



Chairman's Report

This year has been one of progress in a number of key areas. The training and development of leaders is well underway. Accreditation renewal continues and this is due to a revitalised Executive Committee which is starting to make things happen.

I can confirm that after many years of trying we have exchanged contracts on Goldenlands at Stanhope, realising a value way in excess of our expectations. The receipt guarantees the financial stability of the District and opens up opportunities to expand our role and activities. The sale has been driven through by our new Treasurer Keith Lowes.

We have put in place an annual maintenance/upkeep budget for Kayll House funded by the let of our car parking spaces at the rear of the building. I wish to thank Tom Hudson for assuming the role of Maintenance Manager. Our task still remains to get more use from the premises.

The future of Seaburn still remains unresolved but we are currently talking to GroundworksUK as a partner to bring back into use the building and compound and develop for scouting activities.

Our participation in the University Fresher's Day has pointed the way to a beneficial relationship with many students who wish to continue their scouting experience while studying in the City and we will develop those links.

Our major task in 2013 still remains the expansion of scouting in Sunderland.

I'd like to thank DC Maureen Dale for her work in leading the district over the last five years.

Balancing the demands of the current role with a full time job is a herculean task. I look forward to working with Maureen in her new role and the early appointment of a new DC.

Les Scott
Chairman

District Commissioner Report

Welcome to the Annual Report 2012-13 for Sunderland District Scout Association! We have had a successful year in Sunderland and the ADC reports give more detail about the achievements of our young people.

There have been some fluctuations in membership numbers this year between the Sections, but overall, our numbers are stable and showing a

slight increase. Our need for adult support, however, is unchanged and there is always room for adults to share their time and skills with our young people. Opportunities for adults are flexible as demonstrated in the national press by the Duchess of Cambridge who helps in a Cub Pack near her home. Appointments of our adult volunteers have been made this year under the guidance of Lesley Robinson who, in addition to her other roles in the District, has expertly chaired the District Appointments Committee. Part of this process is to make sure that our newly appointed adults know that they are well supported by the Scout Association, both nationally and locally.

Whilst our youngsters are awarded badges for achievements, our adults too are acknowledged. This year our Leaders have received long service awards to recognise their valuable contribution over the years. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Malcolm Drummond, our adult training is on track and Leaders have been supported by newly appointed Training Advisors, including those who have attained their Wood Badge, which demonstrates their leadership skills as validated by the Scout Association. Congratulations too to Dave Russell who was awarded the Bar to the Silver Acorn at the St Georges Day Awards in April at Windsor in recognition of the role he plays in Scouting at a County level. Well Done Dave!

I also want to give particular thanks to Mick Galley who has coordinated the Cross Country Run every year. His organisation has become more sophisticated over the years to cope with the increasing numbers of competitors and he continues to recruit members of his family and Group to provide him with support. Thanks to Mick, this is a firmly established event in the District calendar!

I have been District Commissioner for the last five years of the biggest District in the County and feel that it is time for a change. I have decided to step down as DC and take up the role of ADC (Development) for Sunderland. This will give me the opportunity to focus on the development of national and local initiatives and make the most of the exciting opportunities open to all members Sunderland District Scouts. This also means that my successor will be able to concentrate fully on the management of the District. Thanks to all of you for your support and encouragement over the last five years – I am looking forward to working with you in my new role.

Maureen Dale
District Commissioner

Beaver Scout Section Report

I am pleased to announce that just before Easter, 25th Sunderland (Castletown) resurrected their Beaver Scout section, expanding our options for the North Locality of the City of Sunderland. A big welcome to Jan and Katherine who are the new Beaver Leaders at Castletown.

The Beaver Scout section celebrated the Diamond Jubilee last year in June with several Colonies from District attending the Beaver Picnic (Big Day Out 2012) at Moor House. This was a joint event with the Cubs, with an Olympic theme, with lots of fun and activities organised by the Groups. Each Colony had to produce a banner with the Olympic theme and these were paraded around the top and bottom fields at Moor House, with a prize awarded to the best banner. As the Beavers ate their picnic lunch at Moor House with other Beaver Colonies they all received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Regional Challenge Beaver woggle (the challenge being to eat in the community or with the community).

In March we had an Easter Egg Hunt at Silksworth HQ. Silksworth, St Andrew's and St Aidan's Beavers took part. The Beavers enjoyed looking for Cadbury's Crème Eggs and whilst outside it started to snow! Following the hunt and back into the warmth the Beavers did craft activities and an Easter Egg was awarded for the best Easter Egg design to each group and then there was a raffle for guess what? An Easter Egg. A big thank you to Silksworth Leaders for hosting this event.

This year's Handicraft Competition is being held on 19 May. It is a competition with a difference: a "Brick Building" Handicraft Competition. The theme

will be announced on the day and Beavers will use their imagination to design and build various constructions using Lego, Duplo, Stickle Bricks etc. Several Beavers from St Aidan's, St Andrew's, Grindon and Silksworth have earned their Chief Scout Bronze Awards and will be presented with their Certificates at the District AGM and Presentation evening in May.

Finally, a big thank you to all the Leaders and helpers for your valuable time and commitment every week which continues to help make the Beaver Scout section as successful as it is.

Julie Hannon
ADC (Beaver Scouts)

Cub Scout Section Report

The Cubs section continues to flourish and we have had another very busy year with the usual array of events and competitions.

The 35th Sunderland Cub Moot was due to take place in July, but boy do we have a knack of picking the worst weekends of the year weather-wise! As we got closer and closer to the weekend the weather forecasts got worse and worse with the met office advising that we were going to have downpours across the Durham area for that weekend. With memories of abandoned camps still in our minds from not that many years ago we decided to cut our losses and move our camp to September – you've guessed it, that turned out to be the second wettest weekend forecast of the year, we can't win, but we won't be beaten! Thanks to the quick thinking and co-operation of our leaders, within an hour of the decision being made that camping outdoors was not in the best interests of the Cubs we had secured a church hall, a coach to transport the Cubs to Moor House for their activities and a catering team to feed us all, job done! We had a great time with a giant sleepover at St Gabriel's Church Hall. The theme this year was "The Romans" so Maximus the Roman Soldier joined us to tell us all about his life and taught us Roman soldiers drills. The Cubs even got the chance to dress up as Roman soldiers and attack the leaders! We made Roman helmets and shields and then all piled in the coach and headed to Moor House for the afternoon to have a go at climbing and crate stacking, toboggans and archery. It was cold and blowing a gale but thankfully the rain held off long enough to let the Cubs have a great time. We even managed campfire in the Church grounds and snuck outside again on Sunday morning for the Cricket Competition and the box race. The Cubs all received their Local Knowledge Activity Badge and we proved that "Be Prepared" is definitely the motto for us! Ewesley Road were the winners of the Cricket Competition, we all shared the trophy for best dressed camp, while St Nicholas' Pack had the best decorated box and St Gabriel's the fastest! The Cubs had a different experience for camp this year but just as good a time as usual, and they really didn't miss out on anything. Thanks must go to everyone who helped make it a memorable experience and to all of the parents out there who happily accommodated the changes.

The Offerton Shield Competition was our first Competition of the autumn term, Cubs completed challenges based around the Cubs programme, keeping fit, arts and crafts, outdoor skills, the world around us, our community and our Scouting Promise. St Aidan's were the winners, St Nicholas' were second and Ewesley Road and Grindon shared third place. The theme for the Photography Competition this year was "Sport", it couldn't really be anything else in an Olympic year! Alexander Little from St Gabriel's submitted some fantastic pictures and his outstanding shot of Olympic cycling stood out ahead of the competition and bagged him first place while Lucas Duffy from St Aidan's and Matthew May from St Gabriel's shared second. All submitted entries were then entered in the FW Dunn County Photography Competition. The standards at County are always extremely high, attracting budding photographers from across Durham County so it was fantastic when it was announced that Alexander's cyclists stole the show and he was pronounced the County winner. Well done indeed, Alexander.

The Safety Competition took place in November and this year we covered the badge requirements

for the Personal Safety badge. Grindon were worthy winners closely followed by Ewesley Road in second and St Nicholas' in third.

The Christmas Campfire got us "Ho Ho Hoing" in the lead up to the Christmas break. The Cubs enjoyed campfire songs and Christmas Carols, Ken Routledge lead us in song and then we all warmed up with hot dogs and hot chocolate. We particularly liked the jokes Ken, you even had some new ones, which will quickly become classics I'm sure!!

2013 started off with the General Knowledge Quiz. The Cubs were thoroughly tested on all aspects of general knowledge before St Aidan's B were declared the winners, with St Nicholas' in second place and St Gabriel's A and St Aidan's A in third. Thanks to Alan who kindly provides us with the quiz questions each year.

The Climbing Competition was as popular as ever, it is a great opportunity for first time climbers to have a go as well great fun for those who are experienced, we tried a new venue this year, venturing just across our District border into South Tyneside to the Simonside Centre, it was worth the trip, the venue was praised by all who attended and the Cubs had a great time. In the end last year's joint winner Archie Elwell from St Nicholas' triumphed again in first place, with Harry Stephenson and Felix Tomlinson, both from St John's coming in second and third places respectively. The County Climbing Competition was open to all comers this year and Archie and Harry were placed 2nd and 3rd respectively, no mean feat when you are up against the best climbers the County can throw at you! Well done to all who took part, and particularly to Archie and Harry.

The Alex McKenzie Shield, the Cub Moot badge design competition was held in March. There were over 80 entries from Cubs across the District based around the "Superheroes" theme. The winner this year was Alexander Noble from St Aidan's, 9 others were given highly commended awards. The theme for the Handicraft Competition this year was "Superhero Hideout". The Cubs spent a happy couple of hours making caves and contraptions from cereal boxes, egg cartons and yogurt pots. The winning model came from St Nicholas' A Pack, Ewesley Road were second and St Aidan's and St Nicholas' B team were placed joint third. Thanks to our judge, Mrs Joyce Galley for doing a great job again this year, it's no mean feat to decide on winners, the Cubs always put huge effort into both competitions and Joyce always has a very difficult task, but she must enjoy it because she comes back every year!

So we've come full circle with only the Indoor Games competition still to take place and another year has gone by in a flash. The Cubs have had a great time and seeing them going home with smiles on their faces or singing a campfire classic makes it all worthwhile. It would be great to see more Groups represented at these competitions and at our annual Cub Moot. Those who do attend have a great time and ensure that we can continue to provide a full programme of events for the Cub Section.

Sadly we have recently said goodbye to one of our own, Sheila Routledge was a Cub Leader at St Joseph's some years ago but had continued to support Cub Scouting along with her husband, Ken, our campfire leader. She passed away very recently and we will all miss her, she was a lovely lady who always had a smile on her face and the ability to light up a room.



Finally a big thank you to all the Leaders, Cubs and Parents who play their part in Cub Scouting in Sunderland each week. Without you all there would be nothing to write about!

Full competition results and photographs of some of our events can be found on the District website at www.sunderlandscouts.org.uk

Lesley Robinson
ADC (Cub Scouts)

Scout Section Report

It is always nice to see Sunderland District represented at County Competitions, and we did well with Abigail Robinson coming 3rd in the County climbing competition earlier in the year, after winning the District event.

St Nicholas, St Aidans and Ewesley Rd attended the recent indoor games competition with St Nicholas winning on the day. My thanks go to St Aidans who hosted and ran the event in my absence.

The scout section lacks somewhat in the competition stakes and I would look to you all for inspiration and to come up with some ideas for Scout section competitions our young people would like to see evolve within the district. This will only happen if we have support from our Leaders to organise and run these events.

I would also like to remind you of the Scout Entrepreneurship Badge and moneys available via district as a grant to any young person or group bid, where a project is undertaken either to make a cash return on the capital or a community benefit return instead. This is an opportunity not to be missed out on but for a little thought behind developing a project. e.g. Buying equipment to make jams etc or buying seeds to create plants to sell on! It doesn't have to be complex.

Please also discuss the opportunity with your Scouts of going to Confido later in the year, (Oct 12-14.) Some 50 activities on offer including Europes largest mobile Zipwire- further details are on the County Website.

My thanks to you all for the valuable time you give, to allow our young people to enjoy quality scouting.

Phil Atkinson
ADC Scouts

Explorer Report

The explorer section this year has started working hard on the young leader training with 30 explorers completing Module A in January. Below are a few dates when session are being run Please get in touch if you would like to attend or require a Module running.

Module B - Wednesday 8th May, 7pm, Kyall House
Module C - Wednesday 12th June, 7pm, Kyall House
Module D - Wednesday 10th July, 7pm, Kyall House
Also the young leaders worked with Seaham district in running a Badge day for Beavers and Cubs at the Winter gardens 12 explorers' successfully took part in this event and enabled them to work towards their Mission badges. The event saw Beavers and Cubs from all over the county attending along with the general public also taking part in the event.

The climbing competition was run at Simonside Community Centre where we saw Abigail from Vaux Own come 1st followed by a climb off for 2nd and third place with Adam from Vaux Own coming 2nd and Adam from St Andrews came 3rd. The County Competition was well attended by the explorers. The 1st and 2nd places were awarded to two Sunderland explorers who after their 5 climbs had exactly 447 points each so into the climb off they went and Abigail from Vaux Own came 1st and Adam from Vaux Own came 2nd.

Coming up this year we will have the opportunity to attend Geoffrey Gordon Cup (take 2), Confido in October, Midnight Madness run by DUSAG in December, Frostie in February, Climbing competition, Young Leaders Modules. Also please keep checking the Sunderland website for updates.

I would like to thank all the explorer leaders, explorers and parents for all their help over the last year and look forward to a good year of Explorer scouting.

Steven Whatt
District Explorer Scout Commissioner

Network Report

Hello all, firstly let me introduce myself. My name is Rob Sherrington and I am the Network leader for Sunderland District. Within the next 18 months I intend on having an active network movement within Sunderland and achieve at least three targets, these are 1) Network to undertake local community projects 2) to develop young peoples training and learning through the DofE and QSA 3)

to participate within activities within scouting such as camps and trips. My top priority would be to ensure that the Sunderland Network would also attend International Scouting events and to create a programme for young people within the network to follow and to extend their knowledge and skills both in scouting and within society. The Network is for young people aged 18-25 who would like to stay within the scouting movement and complete various awards as well as running/supporting another beaver, cub, scout, explorer scout group.

Activities Report

Over the last year groups within the District, have again taken part in a great number of events and competitions held at both district and county level, other ADC reports will highlight many of these.

The District Climbing Competition, for the Cub, Scout and Explorer sections had 55 young people taking part during the day at its new venue at the Simonside climbing centre. My thanks go to the centre Staff, Lesley Robinson and Steve Ramsay, along with all the other leaders and helper's for helping make this a great event for the young people taking part. The County Climbing Competition, held this year at the Sunderland Wall, changed its format this year; this allowed all groups to enter up to 3 people in each section. Abigail Robinson and Adam Fucile, Vaux Own Explorers were joint 1st in the Explorer competition at the end of the planned climbs, Abigail, after a timed 30m climb becoming the overall winner, well done to both. Jordan Carlson came 3rd in the Scout competition; placed 2nd and 3rd place in the cub competition were Archie Elwell and Harry Stevenson, a great result for Sunderland once again in this County event.

County events have changed; be it Beaver, Cub, Scout or Explorer sections, there something of all. Events are bigger, more exciting with new fun activities for all, look at what County events team have on offer this year <http://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/events/> and then let your young people be one of the 5000 people who enjoy new adventures on offer in Durham County each year.

Again this year the District had two places on Sail Training, these placed are funded by the Priestman Trust, Outward Bound courses were also available through Durham County to Explorers in the District, I am sure the explorers who attend these all will have a great time taking part in these opportunities.

International camps are organised each year around the UK, you will find details of some of these camps advertised on the International page on the District website. I know of one Group and a number of Leaders from the District that are attending a number of these events this year. Have your group thought of attending one? It is a great way of introducing International Scouting into your programme. There is still time to book one of these camps for this year.

Looking forward, the 23rd World Scout Jamboree is being held in Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan from Tuesday 28th July to Saturday, 8th August 2015. Durham Scout County has been awarded an allocation of two Patrols, which provides 18 young people (who will currently be older Scouts or younger Explorer Scouts born between 28th July 1997 and 27th July 2001) with the opportunity to attend a once in a lifetime Scouting adventure. The leadership is now in place and we are looking for the young people to make up the two patrols, when the information is available in the next few weeks, Please pass it onto Your young people and give them the chance of attend the Jamboree.

Leaders and helpers devote many hours of unseen work each year to Scouting activities, enabling our young people in all sections not only to take part in the "The Big Adventure", but also members of a World Wide Movement with over 30 million members in 161 Counties worldwide. Sunderland district would not be able to run the range of activities that are ran throughout the District on a weekly basis without this work. Therefore, I would like to thank all those who have once again given freely of their time over the last year.

Dave Russell
ADC Activities