



County AGM 18th July 2024
County Lead Volunteer's Report

County Lead Volunteer's Report to the AGM



I would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone who could make our County AGM this year. It is great to see so many uniformed and non-uniformed members and distinguished guests. Thank you all for coming along this evening and joining in with our celebration of Scouting in Wiltshire over the past 12 months and being witness to our Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Well what a fantastic year this has been for Scouting in Wiltshire? You hear me say this at every AGM but each year gets better and better so forgive me for repeating myself. Incidentally, this is my ninth year in office and therefore, next year, will be my last but I am so looking forward to seeing through my role to its conclusion because so many exciting things are still to happen in this County over the next 12 months, and I can't wait to see how they develop and mature.

Our programme for delivering skills for life to our young people has never been better. You only have to type in the words "Wiltshire Scouts" on any of the many social media sites available to see what has been going on across the County, as many Groups now take advantage of these platforms to promote what they do and what Scouting in general has to offer our young people at the local level and beyond. The range of activities on offer and delivered by our amazing adult volunteer teams is mind-numbing, so to give you a



flavour, here are just a few examples of what has been going on in Wiltshire for our young people:

- World Scout Jamboree to South Korea - County
- Skiing expedition to Andorra – Salisbury & South Wiltshire District
- Austria National Jamboree – Alderbury ESU
- Recreational Visit to Switzerland – Swindon North Athena ESU
- Explorer Belt Expedition to the Netherlands – Phoenix Archer ESU
- Midwinter Expedition to Pineroft, North Yorkshire – County

More locally, the County has delivered an outdoor cooking competition for Scouts and the annual Cub Scouts Scrapheap Challenge, Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI), Wiltshire North East District have recently run their Beaver Babble for all the Beaver Scouts in the District and our Groups have continued to deliver quality programmes and activities that including: hiking, backwoodsmanship, archery, chess championship, air rifle shooting, pioneering, cooking and arts and crafts to name just a few.



Our Programme Team Lead, Kate May, has produced a report that is available further on in this report, however I would like to say a huge thank you to all the adult volunteers across our County who, week in, week out, give up their time to deliver knowledge, skills and experiences to our young people and help shape their lives for the future. Special thanks goes to my County Programme Team members Kate May, Tracy Jackson, Sharon Cottrell, Sue Dempsey and Michael Turner. And, I would also like to thank Jane and Graham Palmer for their support at our County events.

In support of our amazing programme, we are fortunate to have a County Events Scout Active Support Unit (SASU) who work tirelessly in the background planning, organising and running events for all Wiltshire members. In the past you will recall they have delivered on two highly successful Celebration events at Wiltshire Scout Centre and this year, they are busy organising our County Camp entitled 'Wiltshire Scouts Weekender', which is open to all of our Sections and will take place on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd September 2024. If you have not signed up for this yet, please do so, as it will be an amazing weekend of activities for all ages and lots of fun will be had. My thanks go to Mollie Nevill (County Youth Lead), Tom Roberts (County Communications Manager), Dan Bavister (Transformation Lead) and Tom Dobson (District Youth Lead) for Swindon North.



There are of course many expeditions and adventures still to come too, there are more international visits organised for this summer, for example, very shortly 1st Pewsey Scout Group will be visiting Kandersteg International Scout Centre, based in the heart of the Bernese Oberland in

Switzerland and of course Roverway 2024 will be taking place in Norway from the 22nd of this month. For those of you not familiar with Roverway, this is a European event for Explorer Scouts and Girl Guides aged between 16 and 22, which takes place every 3 to 6 years and runs along the same sort of lines as a World Scout Jamboree. Wiltshire Scouts has a Unit going and in addition, a small number of adult volunteers



will be going too as International Service Team (IST) members. We are fortunate and honoured to have with us this evening members from the Roverway 2024 Unit, who will present to us their journey and experiences so far before they very shortly embark on their amazing adventure to Norway.

For those of you who were here last year, we were captivated by members of the World Scout Jamboree Unit, who also delivered a presentation of their journey and experiences so far and, as you know, at the time

were about to embark on a journey of a lifetime to South Korea. Well, that has happened and what an experience they had! The event was marred by many challenges and maybe it was not the experience they had anticipated, as they faced the many changes in the weather, problems with the infrastructure and readiness for the event from the home nation, but from the many stories I have overheard, our Unit still had a great, but different and memorable experience. There are a number of



members from our Wiltshire Unit here this evening, including members from the IST, so please do speak to them and prepare to be amazed by their stories.

Closer to home, an opportunity has arisen for our young people to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the wonderful work that Wiltshire Police are doing to ensure our communities are safe and secure, and provide insight into the work that the Police do on a day to day basis. Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police, Catherine Roper, recently reached out to me with a proposal, where her team would like to run an activity day at Wiltshire Police HQ in Devizes for our Scout aged young people. Those of you that know me would not be surprised that I jumped at this opportunity. The event, planned for up to 100 of our Scouts and approximately 30 of their Leaders will take place on the 6th October and am I pleased to announce that at the time of this report, we already have 100 young people signed up for the event and so far, 19 adult volunteers, so we have closed the book already having reached maximum numbers. To mark the event, the first of many hopefully, I have initiated a Scout Challenge Badge Competition and from what I have heard, Scouts are this very minute eagerly designing a badge in the hope that theirs will be the winning design, which will be chosen by Catherine and her team.



With all the exciting things going on in Wiltshire right now, there is no surprise that this has generated a lot of interest in Scouting, which is fantastic news to us as it ensures that, as a movement, we continue to grow in membership in both young people and adult volunteers. However, there are challenges in doing this and to help us, we have an amazing team in place dedicated to helping us grow, whether this is ensuring existing Groups and Sections retain capacity, opening up new Sections in order to take young people off our waiting lists, to supporting Groups and Sections recruit adult volunteers, and much more! This dedicated team comprises of Mel Woolley (Local Growth Officer, Catherine Riley, Anna Stephens (Local Growth Assistants), Stephanie Ovens, Local Growth Operations Manager and De Jones, County Growth Lead. For a full report on where we stand regarding growth, please see De Jones's Growth Report below.



The Team are with us this evening and have very kindly agreed to deliver a presentation on what they do, but before I hand over to them, I would very much like to say a huge thank you for what they are doing for Wiltshire Scouts. They have been magnificent in their achievements so far and there is more to come!

Programme Report – Kate May (Programme Team Lead)

Thank you to all the adults and Young Leaders delivering fantastic programmes across the County. This year we achieved 29 Acorns, 477 Bronze, 387 Silver, 182 Gold, 34 Platinum, 11 Diamond, 3 Queen Scout Awards and 12 Young Leader Belts, without your continuing commitment this would not have been possible.

It has been a busy year with lots of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from across the County attending JOTI at Wiltshire Scout Centre in November. There were lots of activities over the weekend all based on international and communication, with one of the bases starting a competition between groups of paper planes travelling the furthest around the world.

November was also busy with a weekend for lots of Young Leaders and Duke of Edinburgh participants doing their training and it also gave some the opportunity to complete all of their outstanding modules. During the weekend all modules of training were delivered with 84 young people attending, completing in all, 171 modules of training. With some places filling up fast and so we will be running this again in November this year. Some even carried on late into the night as they were given the opportunity to sleepover and swap ideas with others from all over the County.



For the Cubs Section, we ran the County Scrapheap Challenge which was won by 1st Lacock from Mid Wiltshire, working together as a team on the topic of our “Environment”.



At the same time, Scouts were taking part in the County Cooking Competition, where they were found busy cooking outside on alter fires, creating a two-course meal for the judges Steve and Jane to taste. The winners were 18th Swindon.

I had the pleasure of attending programme evenings, camps and open events during the year. I really enjoy spending time with the young people and discussing what they have been working on and telling me all about their badges and how they have worked towards them. I look forward to seeing more Squirrels in the next year starting with them taking part in the County Weekender camp in September.

During October I attended the HQ “Progfest” event in Manchester along with members from the UK Programme Team. There were lots of discussions about the Scout programme and how best it can be delivered to our young people, and I look forward to the updates in due course. “Progfest” included the release of Outdoor 24 initiative, which has been widely embraced by the County with activities ranging from, camps, hikes, litter picking and re-chalking of the Cherhill White Horse to name just a few.

The latest release has been the Earth Tribe Award, working on our environmental issues and how we can contribute on helping to resolve these issues, which is all about understanding how we can protect our world. I’m looking forward to seeing how this is being worked towards within our Sections.

We have also a new Programme Team member, Mike Turner, who delivered his first event, the County Cub Scrapheap Challenge, and he is so looking forward to working with all the Districts around the County.



Growth Report – De Jones (County Growth Lead)

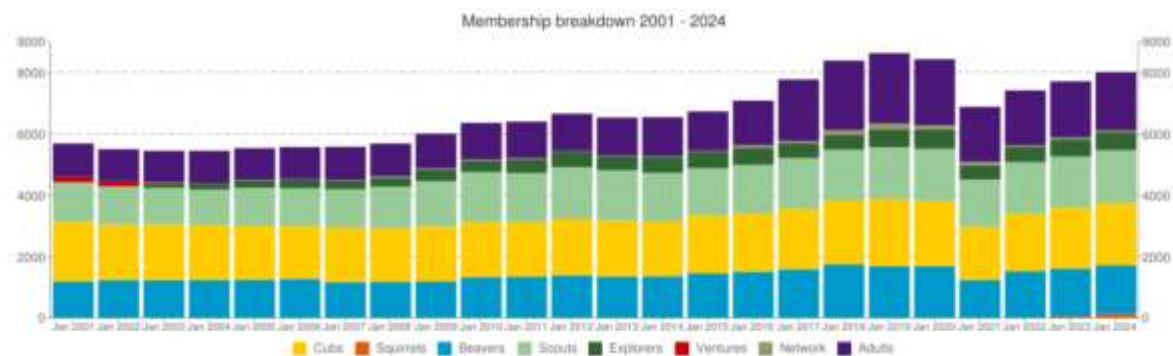
Achieving Growth in 2024

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of all our Volunteers, we achieved 4% growth this year bringing our total membership to 8,005. That's 6,101 young people supported by 1,904 adults across the County.

New sections have been opened and it's great to be able to report that there are now fourteen Squirrel Dreys open in the County with eight more Dreys opening later in the year.



Growth Trend:



Extending our Reach

In the last year we have provided support in conjunction with the Local Growth and Communities Team. We started the year with having two Local Growth Assistants Cathy and Mel who both did an amazing job supporting existing Sections and opening new Sections.

In July we made a successful bid to the Under Represented Fund for a full time Local Growth Officer. I am pleased to say that Mel was successful applicant for this position which allows us to extend our reach further into ethnic minority background communities and areas of deprivation across the County. This meant the search was on for another local Growth Assistant. In February we welcomed Anna to the team.

At this point I would like to also thank the members of our Steering Group for these projects Stephanie Ovens (Local Growth Operations Manager), Steve Barley (County Lead Volunteer), Justin Purkis (County Chair), Geoff Begg (District Lead Volunteer representative), Rhiannon Stevens (Young person representative) and Sue Rose (County Secretary) for taking all our minutes for us.

Growth Opportunities

As part of our strategic objective we must provide and maintain sufficient Dreys, Colonies, Packs, Troops, Units and Networks to meet local need and with 1,715 young people declared to be on waiting lists within the County, we must look at the opportunities we have to ensure more young people have the chance to experience Scouting in Wiltshire.

We are currently missing 7 Sections (Beaver to Explorer age range) to make every Group and District complete by opening these Sections at 24 per Section, this would give 168 new young people the opportunity to enjoy Scouting and with the opportunity to open an additional 64 Dreys this would allow the 542 young people on our Drey waiting lists the opportunity to enjoy Scouting in their formative years. At census there were 45 sections with fewer than 12 members, work has continued to help boost these numbers.

How are we going to achieve this?

Working closely with District Lead Volunteers and their teams we have a work bank of potential new provision taking us up to 2026 and beyond.

Having two Local Growth Assistants and a Local Growth Officer tasked with opening new provision and lowering our waiting lists this will help us provide more opportunities for more young people in the next year.

Focus will continue on opening more new Sections, recruiting and promoting Young Leaders our future adult members, as well as attracting more adults from across all our communities.

The past year has been a successful one thanks to our amazing volunteers' commitment to ensuring more young people have the opportunity to take part in the exciting, challenging fun filled adventure that is Scouting.

Adult Volunteer Learning Report – Kelvin King (County Training Manager)

Over the past year we have run several learning opportunities.

In November we ran the County Training weekend. This covers all the modules needed, except those online, to complete the Wood Badge. These weekends included the full First Response (First Aid Training) on both days. We also run supplementary modules in November and we ran module 36 Adjustments to Scouting. In all, 82 learners completed a total of 179 modules.

In January we ran the Managers and Supporters course 'Skills of Management'. We also ran alongside this with Module 25T Assessing Learning.

In March we ran the second Wood Badge course of the year, this time we added module 28 & 29 Facilitating and Presenting. On this particular course, 69 learners completed 129 modules.

In May we ran module 38 Skills for Residential Experiences. This was a great opportunity to gain the skill and knowledge needed to run a residential nights' away experience. Thank you to Graham Murrell and his team for leading on this event.

The First Response Team delivered a number of courses across the County and in most of the Districts, providing even more opportunities for 10a and 10b to be completed.

We also ran several online modules during the year and as a result, over the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, 107 Wood Badges have been awarded across the County.

Thank you to all the Training Team for all their work delivering much needed learning.

And finally...

I must be the most fortunate County Lead Volunteer in the UK. Why? Because I am surrounded and supported by amazing people. I have an amazing County Team and I have an amazing Board of Trustees, chaired by Justin Purkis. You will have read throughout this report that I have given thanks to everyone involved in Scouting, and I extend this thanks to our magnificent County Board of Trustees. I would just like to add that without you and every Leader, Assistant, Manager and Supporter, this County would not flourish. I am indebted to you all and my only ask is that you continue to do what you do, because you are doing it so well.

I would just like to end this report by sharing with you, this year we have experienced a record number of Adult Volunteers who have been rightly recognised for going above and beyond their role description, going that extra mile to ensure that Scouting for our young people is exciting as it can be. Taken from this year's Role of Honour, which includes those who received awards at our last AGM. They are:

Silver Wolf

Joan Davies
Steve Barley

Bar to the Silver Acorn

Stuart Leach

Bar to the Award for Merit

De Jones
David Robbins
Clive Green

Kate May
Kenneth Cowie
Sally-Anne Murray

Christine Clark
Andrew Munday

Award for Merit

Justin Purkis
James Baker
Nicholas McCormack
Matthew Mollart
Christopher Braham
Geoffrey Wheeler
Paul Butland
John Storey
Guy Livingston

Alexandra Kinsey
Kevin Hill
Stephen Powell
Barry Hedges
Diane Perrett
Marc Cox
Philip Rutland
Elizabeth King

Ben Kinsey
Philip Haskell
Helen Hollands
Charles Stone
Claire Tomaszewicz
Niketa Langdon
Julian Brown
Jennifer O'Farrell

Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service

Adrian Baker
Fiona Labdon
Marcus Shanley
Matthew Sutton
Michael Poole
George Amos
Samantha Easley
Nicholas Sheppard

Andrew Graham
Lisa Kynaston
Matt Harris
Thomas Robertson
Sarah Alborough-Tregear
David Mortimer
Joanne Cook

Daniel Bavister
Hannah Kelsall-Joel
Julian Kelsall-Joel
Holly Dowdell
Simon Francis
Helen Oliver
Karen Privett

I apologise if I have missed anyone from the lists above. If you have received an award but not listed here, I would like to say congratulations to you and a huge thank you for what you do.

This ends my report

Steve Barley - County Lead Volunteer - Wiltshire